



## ELEMENTARY LARGE GROUP

### LESSON 1

## JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Shows Us What God Is Like

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** After visiting Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, 12-year-old Jesus stays behind at the temple while His family travels home. He talks with the Jewish teachers and amazes many with His insights.

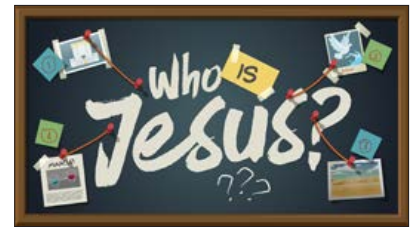
**WORD OF WONDER:** The Son is the exact likeness of God, who can't be seen. The Son is first, and he is over all creation. —Colossians 1:15

### CURIOSITY

### BELIEF

### FAITH

- Interactive Game: Kinda Sorta Looks Like
- Welcome Question: Which animal reminds you most of yourself: a dog, a cat, or a mouse? Why?
- Prayer of Invitation
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Worship: My Help, What a Friend
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship: Famous For
- Blessing Your Kids



[Who is Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Shows Us What God Is Like

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2

**WORD OF WONDER:** Colossians 1:15

I'll never forget that day.

A friend and I had taken our kids to a children's museum. We were standing near the elevator debating which exhibit to visit next when I realized I didn't see Will, my three-year-old. We began to search, working our way up to the enormous lobby. Frantically scanning the crowds, I spotted Will slipping out the front doors. I dashed to him, scooped him up, and burst into tears. He was perfectly calm. I most definitely was not.

Take a moment to read Luke 2:41–52. Most parents have a story like mine. They instantly connect to Joseph's dismay, to Mary's fear. Do you ever wonder what they made of Jesus' response? His calmness in the face of their worry?

Jesus did not share Mary and Joseph's fear; His connection to His Heavenly Father was secure. He knew where He belonged.

What about you? Do you get swept up in the anxieties that surround you? Even as a child, Jesus shows us what God is like: a haven where we can grow and mature and learn, no matter how old we are.

Mary herself seems to make the shift from anxiety (v. 48) to wonder (v. 51). She learned more about her Father by watching her Son.

May we do the same.

—Lise Caldwell

Children's Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

The Jewish teachers were religious experts who instructed pupils in the temple courts. The teachers in Luke 2 were likely rabbis, which means “my teacher” or “my master” in Hebrew. Rabbis would have taught apprentices, who sat at their feet, using a question-and-answer format.

**WHAT?**

Every year Jewish families made the trip to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. When Jesus’ family left to go home, Jesus stayed behind in His Father’s house, listening to the teachers and asking questions. The 12-year-old Jesus amazed the rabbis at the temple with His wisdom and understanding.

**WHERE?**

Jerusalem was about 40 miles from Jesus’ home in Nazareth. It typically took about three days to get from one city to the other. The temple in Jerusalem included buildings and courtyards used for both sacrifice and instruction. Jewish teachers may have taught here or in other areas of the temple.

**WHEN?**

At this point in God’s big story, King Herod had died, and his son Archelaus reigned over Jerusalem. Caesar Augustus was likely nearing the end of his reign as Roman emperor. Passover happened in late March or early April.

**CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY**

This account bridges Jesus’ infancy and adulthood. It depicts Jesus growing strong and wise, living in step with the Father as He prepared for His kingdom work. It shows that Jesus understood His special relationship with God the Father, a relationship God would confirm years later at Jesus’ baptism.

### Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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**WORD OF WONDER:** Colossians 1:15

### As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding to what they say.

**SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP**

**VIDEO: COUNTDOWN** (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

### Interactive Game: Kinda Sorta Looks Like **7-10 MINUTES PRE-SERVICE**

**SUPPLIES:** paper (1 sheet per kid), markers or pens (1 per kid), clipboards (1 per kid, optional), craft sticks (1 per kid, optional), opaque container (optional), timer (optional)

Consider preparing a fun way to pair kids up with partners: Ahead of time, color the ends of craft sticks, two sticks per color, and place them colored side down in an opaque container. Then at the start of the activity, invite each kid to pick a stick and find their partner with the matching stick. (Be sure there is the same number of sticks as there are kids and that every stick has a match.)

**SLIDE: Kinda Sorta Looks Like**

Pair kids up, using the craft stick method if possible. Give each kid a sheet of paper (on a clipboard, if available) and a marker or pen. Instruct pairs to sit back-to-back, with one partner facing the screen and the other looking directly away from the screen. (If using the Shapes Sheet instead of the slides, the placement of kids in relationship to the screen isn't important.)

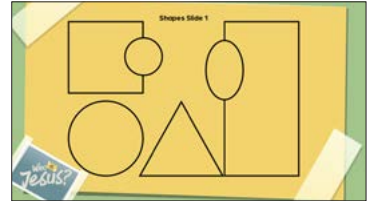


Explain to kids that you'll show a slide of simple shapes—triangles, circles, squares, ovals—or that you'll give one partner in each pair a sheet of paper with these shapes on it. Kids who can see the shapes will describe the arrangement of the shapes so their partners can reproduce what is shown.

Kids giving descriptions can't trace shapes on their partners' papers or offer corrections once something's been drawn. Kids drawing the shapes can't peek over their shoulders! After about 60 seconds, all kids can look at the shapes so pairs can compare what they drew to what's on the screen (or the sheet). Kids in pairs will then switch places and repeat the activity, viewing the second slide (or the other side of the sheet).

**Leader Tip:** For Younger Kids. Consider having a leader describe the shapes as younger kids try drawing them.

**Make It Inclusive!** Invite kids with visual impairments and those who are nonverbal or who struggle with verbal communication to be all-time drawers!



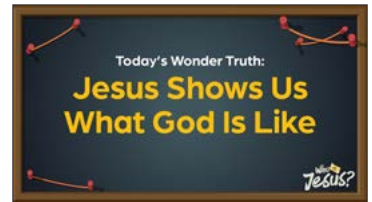
**Display the first Shapes Slide** When it's time for kids to switch places with their partners, advance to the second slide or have the second partner flip the sheet over to side 2.

Finally, gather kids together and display the Temple Wonder Truth slide.

**It's hard to get a clear idea of how something—or someone—looks just by hearing a description. The good news for us is that we can get a clear picture of what God is like by looking at Jesus.**

**SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS SHOWS US WHAT GOD IS LIKE**. That means the more we know and love Jesus, the more we know and love God!



## Welcome Question

**SUPPLIES:** paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

**SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION**

**At service start time,** draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question: "Which animal reminds you most of yourself: a dog, a cat, or a mouse? Why?" Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.



**"Thanks for sharing how you see yourself! Today we're going to discover how sometimes when we see someone, that person shows us something about someone else. Confusing? It won't be when we discover how Jesus shows us what God is like. But, first, it's time for small group."**

## Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

## Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

**VIDEO: COUNTDOWN**

**"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"**

## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for letting us know You through Jesus. We ask Your Holy Spirit to help us see You clearly, love You deeply, and follow You always. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Declaring God's Wonder

### SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

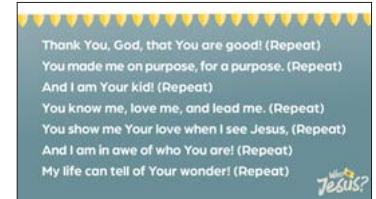
**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**You show me Your love when I see Jesus,** (Kids repeat.)

**And I am in awe of who You are!** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)



## Worship

**\*\*NEW SONGS!!** Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

**"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"**

**WORSHIP VIDEOS: My Help, What a Friend**

## God's Big Story

### SLIDE: TITLE

Explain that the book of Luke was written so readers (like them!) could know about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The book introduces us to the most important person we'll ever meet!

**"Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will experience more of the story!"**



**VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY**

## LESSON 1 JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

### EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** butcher or kraft paper (1 sheet per 3–5 kids), markers, tape, Bible, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase markers (optional), coloring utensils (optional)

Ahead of time, create Story Paths from the butcher or kraft paper (one for every 3–5 kids). Cut the paper into sheets that are 40"–50" in length. Write "Home/Nazareth" at the bottom of each path (in portrait orientation). Write "Temple/Jerusalem" at the top of each path. Draw a curvy, winding path between the two locations. Make an extra Story Path for the leader to use on stage, and tape it to a flat, vertical surface, such as a wall or whiteboard (or draw a Story Path on a whiteboard for the leader to use).

Arrange each Story Path face-down on the floor or on tables with markers at each paper. Help kids form small groups, and invite each group to gather around one of the papers.



**"Hey, everyone! Do you think you can help me tell today's part of God's big story?"** Pause for kids to answer. **Great! There are many places Jesus and His family travel to in this story, and we're going to keep track of them all. Go ahead and flip our papers over.** Reveal your own Story Path on stage. **What do you see?** Kids respond. **Yes, a path! Together as a group** (or individually, if each child has her own paper) **we'll work to draw pictures to match the different parts of the story. Let's begin!**

**The day Jesus was born—before He ever took a step or spoke a word—He was already showing people what God is like. Jesus' birth showed that God keeps His promises. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God had promised to send the Messiah—the everlasting King. Jesus is that King!**

**Mary and Joseph were Jesus' parents. They loved God and obeyed His commands. When God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, He commanded that every firstborn boy be dedicated to God in a special way. So when Jesus was still a baby, His parents took Him to Jerusalem** (point to the phrase "Jerusalem/Temple" on your Story Path) **to present Him at the temple. The temple was the place where people put God first.**

**Let's draw the temple in Jerusalem at the top of our Story Path. The temple was kind of a rectangular building with columns all around ... and some stairs ...** Draw the temple on your own Story Path. (It can be very simple!) Allow time for kids to draw temples near "Jerusalem" at the top of their Story Paths. Remind kids to put their markers down before you continue with the story.

**"Joseph and Mary did everything the Law of the Lord required"** (Luke 2:39). **They dedicated Jesus to God at the temple and offered a humble sacrifice. Then they went home to Nazareth** (point to the phrase "Nazareth/Home" on your Story Path), **where Jesus grew strong and wise. God's grace was with Him.**



**Let's draw a small house down here in Nazareth to show where Jesus and His family lived.** Draw a simple house on your own Story Path. (It can look modern with a sloped roof or more ancient with a flat roof.) Allow time for kids to draw houses as well. Remind kids to put their markers down before you continue.

**Father's house?" (Luke 2:49). What an incredible thing to say! Even at 12, Jesus understood that He had a special relationship with God. Who is Jesus the Son of? Allow kids to respond. Yes, God! And Jesus needed to be near God, His Father, doing what God wanted Him to do.**

**Let's draw a big G around the whole temple to help us remember why Jesus stayed at the temple: to be near His Father, God.** Draw a large G around the temple and stick figures. Allow time for kids to draw their own. Remind them to put their markers down before continuing.

**After Jesus' parents found Him at the temple, He went back home with them and obeyed them. Let's draw a picture of Jesus and Mary and Joseph back at their home in Nazareth.** Draw a stick figure family outside the house at the bottom of the page. Allow time for kids to draw. Remind them to put their markers away.

**Jesus grew wiser and stronger, pleasing to both God and people. He was getting ready—ready for His gigantic part in God's big story. Many others would be amazed by Jesus as He revealed the wisdom and love of God to a broken world. Jesus shows us what God is like.**

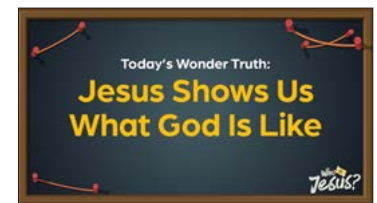
Gather the Story Paths. Then if possible, set them out again at the end of the lesson so kids can show them to their families during pick-up time.

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

**"Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS SHOWS US WHAT GOD IS LIKE. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story?"** Allow kids to answer freely.



**When Jesus was 12 years old, He already understood His special relationship with God the Father. Years later when Jesus was about 30, God would confirm that special relationship at Jesus' baptism. Jesus is God's Son, and He shows us what God is like!"**think before answering. That silence is the sound of kids learning and the Holy Spirit working!



## Responding in Worship

### SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

\*\*\*Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



### WORSHIP VIDEO: Famous For

## Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**Blessing:** May our unseen God fill our heart with love for Him, for others, and for yourself as you desire to know, love, and follow His ways. And may you walk with Jesus today and always.

0:07.01

WJU theme loop.mp4

0:35.27

2who\_is\_jesus\_\_30-second\_countdown...

00:28

2:06.33

3who\_is\_jesus\_\_2-minute\_countdown (1...

01:58

4

Kind a Sorts Looks Like Slide.png

Kinda Sorta Looks Like

5

Shapes Slide 01.png

6

Shapes Slide 02.png

7

Temple Wonder Truth Slide.png

Today's Wonder Truth:  
Jesus Shows Us  
What God Is Like

8

Temple Welcome Question Slide.png

Which animal reminds you most of yourself: a dog, a cat, or a mouse? Why?

9

who\_is\_jesus\_\_5-minute\_countdown (1...

5:08.43

04:58

10

Temple Declaration Slide V2.png

Thank You, God, that You are good!  
You made me on purpose, for a purpose.  
And I am Your kid!  
You know me, love me, and lead me.  
You show me Your love when I see Jesus.  
And I am the one of who You are!  
My life can tell of Your wonder!

11

4:26.77

my\_help\_-\_motions.mp4

12

5:04.68

What a Friend Motions.mp4

13

Who is Jesus 1920x1080.png

14

Temple Title Slide.png

In God's Big Story:  
Jesus at  
the Temple  
Luke 2

15

5:36.38

WJU Elem Gods Big Story L1.mp4

16

Who is Jesus 1920x1080.png

17

Responding in Worship.png

Responding in Worship

18

3:58.00

famous\_for\_-\_lyrics (1080p).mp4

Shout Praises Kids

19

0:07.01

WJU theme loop.mp4