

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.

Object Lesson: Double the Fun

Activity: Time to Go

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Hide, Hide, Find

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Object Lesson: Double the Fun

SUPPLIES: plastic shatterproof mirrors (3–4)

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. Place the shatterproof mirrors on a table or the floor.

Welcome! I am so glad you all are here! Today we're going to hear a story about Jesus. We will learn how Jesus shows us what God is like. Let's start by having some fun seeing what we look like in these mirrors.

Invite the kids to look into the mirrors. Ask them who they see. Encourage them to move their faces in silly ways, and allow them to touch and move the mirrors.

Activity: Time to Go

SUPPLIES: toy cars and trucks (1 per kid)

In our story about Jesus, we're going to hear that Jesus and His family went on a very special trip. Let's pretend these cars are going on a trip and they have to get from here to there. Determine a "there" location and show the kids where to drive their cars. Invite them to make car noises and experiment with pushing their cars slow and fast. Also invite them to experiment with going over and under various pieces of furniture.

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS SHOWS US WHAT GOD IS LIKE.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—Open arms out to sides, one at a time.

SHOWS US—Point to chest with both thumbs.

WHAT GOD IS LIKE.—Cross arms over chest in a hug.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Who Is Jesus? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today in God's big story, we're learning that Jesus shows us what God is like. Jesus shows us that God is good and full of love. Let's sing together and thank God for His love!

Play songs from the [Who Is Jesus? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesus Picture, [God's Big Story Video](#)

Ahead of time, print the Jesus Picture.

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about Jesus!

Encourage the kids to say, "Jesus." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Jesus!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided.

When Jesus was 12 years old, He traveled to Jerusalem with His family for a celebration. Let's pretend we are going with Jesus and His family on this trip.

Hold up the Jesus Picture and show the kids as you walk. **We'll start here and then walk all the way over there.** Point to the other side of the room. Ask the children to line up behind you and explain that they should follow you on the journey. Walk to another area of the room and sit down with the kids. Hide the Jesus Picture when the kids aren't paying attention (or get someone else to hide it).

We finally made it. Jesus and His family made it too. After the celebration, Jesus' parents left to go home. But there was a problem: Jesus was missing! Yikes! Where could He be? Encourage the kids to pretend to search all around the room for the Jesus Picture. **Well, Jesus' family searched everywhere, and after three days they found Him in the temple.** Walk with the kids back to the spot in the room where you hid the Jesus Picture. **Jesus' family was so worried, but Jesus said, "Why were you looking for me? ... Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"** (Luke 2:49). **Wow! That was a great thing to say. Jesus understood that He needed to be near God, His Father.**

After Jesus' parents found Him at the temple, Jesus went back home with His parents. OK, that means we're going too! Ask the children to line up behind you and walk back to where you were first sitting. **And after that, Jesus grew wiser and stronger. He was getting ready for His giant part in God's story. Many people were going to be amazed by Jesus. He was going to show people how much God loves them. Jesus shows us what God is like.**



Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

God, thank You for Jesus! Thank You that Jesus shows us Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you walk with Jesus today and always. And may you learn more and more about God's love.

Activity: Hide, Hide, Find

SUPPLIES: toys from the room (2)

In our story today, Jesus' family was so worried when they couldn't find Him, but Jesus was right where He was supposed to be—in His Father's house. Let's play a game of Hide and Seek but with toys instead of people. Explain that you are going to hide two toys in the room. Show the kids the toys before you hide them. Ask them to face one direction and close their eyes while you hide the toys on the other side of the room. Then bring everyone together and invite two kids to go and find the two toys (one each). Celebrate after they find the toys, then ask them to hide the toys in new places and continue letting other kids take turns being the finders.