



**PRE-K
LARGE GROUP**

LESSON 1

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Gives Us Life

SCRIPTURE: John 6

GOD'S BIG STORY: After feeding a large crowd with five loaves and two fish, Jesus tells the people that He is the bread of life, promising eternal life to all who trust in Him.

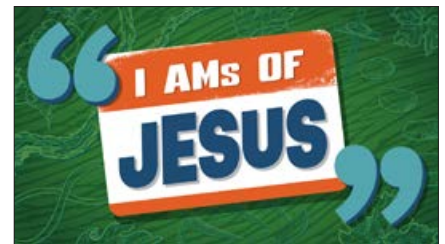
WORD OF WONDER: Jesus is the light of the world. —from John 8:12

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: All I Wanna Do, What a Friend
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[I Ams of Jesus Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Gives Us Life

SCRIPTURE: John 6

WORD OF WONDER: From John 8:12

There we were—out of water and feeling famished. We were above the tree line and could see the summit of Pikes Peak. All we could talk about was guzzling gallons of water and eating a dozen of the doughnuts they sell at the Summit House.

When we reached the top of Pikes Peak, we did get bottles of water and a dozen doughnuts. I wish I could say they were as satisfying as we had envisioned, but they were not. In fact, they made the car trip down the mountain very uncomfortable. My hunger wasn't satisfied. Instead, I felt sick.

Read John 6:10–14, 25–35. John 6 tells us that Jesus has come to satisfy hunger—the deepest pangs of hunger within us all. Those pangs that go beyond something that bread can satisfy—emotional, psychological, social, and spiritual pangs.

What's more, Jesus also tells the crowd they are looking in the wrong places to satisfy their hunger—much like eating doughnuts after climbing a 14,000+ foot mountain. It's something we all do. In verse 27, Jesus calls this “food that spoils” (NIV).

What are your deepest places of hunger, desire, or need? When have you tried to satisfy that hunger or desire by looking in the wrong places?

Jesus is health. He is life. He is the very bread of life.

—Jeff Stone

Associate Pastor and Professional Counselor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The crowd was composed of people who were following Jesus around because of His signs—especially healing of the sick. Based on their dialogue with Jesus, the crowd was predominantly or entirely Jewish. They are distinct from Jesus' disciples, who were His students and traveling companions.

WHAT?

After miraculously feeding a large crowd, Jesus is followed to Capernaum by people expecting Him to provide more manna—bread from heaven—as a new Moses. Jesus explains that He Himself is the living bread who gives life to the world. Those who believe will live forever.

WHERE?

Jesus fed the crowd somewhere in the mountainous area known today as the Golan Heights, along the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus then crossed to Capernaum, which is on the northwestern part of the Sea of Galilee.

WHEN?

According to John 6:4, this story takes place near the time of the Jewish Passover Feast, when the people remembered how God delivered their ancestors from Egypt. This may have resulted in a heightened expectation among the crowd for God to provide a new deliverer.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God provided manna in the wilderness to meet the Israelites' immediate physical needs. Yet they eventually died. Jesus, the bread of life, is a greater provision. He defeated death on the cross and will raise His people to imperishable life on the last day.



LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Gives Us Life

SCRIPTURE: John 6

WORD OF WONDER: From John 8:12

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

SUPPLIES: crackers (2)

Leader: Hi, Tac! How are you?

Tac the Cat: I'm great!

Leader: What do you have there in your paws?

Tac the Cat: Just a little snack. The best snack. The most delicious snack. The snack I couldn't live without!

Leader: Wow! Sounds like you really love this snack. What is it?

Tac the Cat: I have some special flavored crackers. Guess what flavor they are!

Leader: Hmm. Are they cheese flavored?

Tac the Cat: Nope! Guess again!

Leader: I know! They are milk flavored! Everyone knows cats love milk!

Tac the Cat: Nope! Wrong again! I'll tell you! They are sh flavored crackers! Aren't they the best? Smell them!

Leader: (Sniff the crackers in Tac's paw and scrunch up face as if the crackers smell stinky.) Ugh. I don't know about those! But I guess if you like them, and you think they are delicious, you can eat them!

Tac the Cat: Oh, I couldn't live without them!

Leader: Really? Well, that reminds me of today's part of God's big story that we're going to learn about. Jesus talks about food too. Jesus was teaching everyone something about who He is.

Tac the Cat: What food did Jesus talk about?

Leader: Jesus talked about bread! We'll learn more about it in today's story!

Tac the Cat: Well, I do like bread. That sounds like a great story, and I'm curious about what Jesus said about bread! While I eat my fish crackers, I'll be listening to hear that story. I'll see you all later.

Leader: Bye, Tac!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What is your favorite food? Allow the kids to respond. What happens to food when it sits out for too long or gets too old? Allow the kids to respond. Sometimes that food gets moldy or gross. It doesn't last forever! We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God gives us life through Jesus?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS GIVES US LIFE**. Today, we'll discover how Jesus gives us life!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

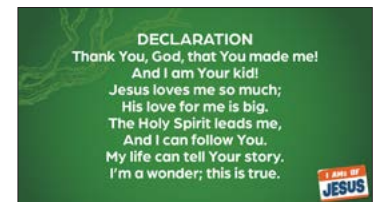
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **Dear God, thank You for being with us today. Please lead us to better understand how You love us and give us life! Help us hear from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how Jesus is the bread of life and gives us the best gift of life! Let's sing together about Jesus giving us life!"

WORSHIP SONGS: All I Wanna Do, What a Friend

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of John in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of John in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only))

RESOURCES: Story Sandwich Sheet, Bread Slices Sheet (2 copies)

Before the activity begins, print and cut apart the Story Sandwich Sheet pictures. Place each picture between two slices of regular white bread to create a “Story Sandwich” which will be used to help tell the story. Instead of using real bread, you can print two copies of the Bread Slices Sheet and cut apart the bread pictures to be the outer pieces of bread for each Story Sandwich.

“When Jesus started God’s work on earth, He taught people about God’s kingdom and how they could live with God forever. Jesus also did many amazing things called miracles that showed how powerful He is.

One day, Jesus was sitting with His followers by the sea. A large crowd of people showed up because they had seen Jesus healing sick people. There were about 5,000 men plus women and children. That’s a lot of people!

Allow a child to open Story Sandwich #1 and hold up the picture of the crowd of people. **The people were hungry because it was getting late and they hadn’t eaten. Jesus decided to feed the crowd, but there was not enough food. A boy there had five small loaves of bread and two small fish. The boy offered to share his food. But how could that small amount feed so many people?**

Allow a child to open Story Sandwich #2 and hold up the picture of the five loaves of bread and two fish.

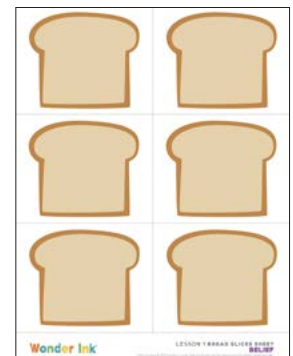
Jesus had everyone sit down. He took the loaves of bread and fish. Jesus thanked God for them. Then He did something amazing. Jesus started handing out food to everyone. Jesus kept giving food. The people kept eating. The food never ran out. There were even leftovers! It was a miracle!

Allow a child to open Story Sandwich #3 and hold up the picture of the baskets of bread.

The next day Jesus and His disciples were in a town on the other side of the sea. The crowd came looking for Jesus. They didn’t understand who He was or why He was there. They just wanted more food! Jesus told them, “Do not work for food that spoils. Work for food that lasts forever. That is the food the Son of Man will give you” (John 6:27). What did Jesus mean? Allow the kids to respond.

The people asked Jesus, “What does God want from us? What works does he want us to do?” (John 6:28). Jesus answered, “God’s work is to believe in the one he has sent” (John 6:29). Allow a child to open Story Sandwich #4 and hold up the picture of question marks.

But the people weren’t ready to believe in Jesus just yet. They asked Jesus for another way to know, even though they already saw Him heal the sick and feed the crowd. The people said that many years before, God gave His people, the Israelites, special sweet bread called manna to eat in the desert. Allow a child to open Story Sandwich #5 and hold up the picture of manna.



The people wanted more food. But what they really needed was Jesus. Jesus told them, “The bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven. He gives life to the world” (John 6:33). They said to Jesus, “Always give us this bread” (John 6:34). Then Jesus told them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry. And whoever believes in me will never be thirsty” (John 6:35).

Jesus wanted them to know that He is the One who gives life to the whole world. He is greater and better than the manna the Israelites ate in the desert. Hold up the picture of manna from Story Sandwich #5 again. The people who ate manna in the desert had still died. What Jesus came to give was different. “I am the living bread that came down from heaven,” Jesus said, “Everyone who eats some of this bread will live forever. This bread is my body. I will give it for the life of the world” (John 6:51).

Jesus did not come just to give out free meals. He came to beat death and make the way for people to live forever with God. Allow a child to open Story Sandwich #6 and hold up the picture of a cross. That day, Jesus helped people understand that “everyone who believes [in Jesus] has life forever” (John 6:47). Jesus gives us life."

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS GIVES US LIFE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God sent manna, or bread, in the wilderness when His people were hungry. Jesus, the bread of life, came so we can have a relationship with God and live forever. That’s even better than food! He beat death on the cross so we can be forgiven and saved!"

Prayer and Blessing

To close your time, pray with them, thanking God for giving us life. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Dear God, thank You for all that You have given us. Thank You for providing for our needs and giving us life through Jesus. We praise You for Your power and 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. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: This week, wherever you go and whatever you do—even eat—remember that Jesus is the true bread of life who beat death on the cross so we can live forever with God! May God bless you as you seek His Son, Jesus, who gives us eternal life.