

LESSON 3 HOLY WEEK

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Loves Us and Gave His Life for Us

SCRIPTURE: John 12–13; 19

GOD'S BIG STORY: After God's people waited many years for Him to rescue them from sin, Jesus shows God's great love by dying on the cross. His death brings life.

Activity: Find the Hearts

Activity: Cross Craft

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Egg Roll

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!

Activity: Find the Hearts

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per every 2 kids, plus 1 extra), scissors (prep only)

Before kids arrive, cut several large hearts out of paper by folding each sheet in half and getting two hearts out of each sheet. Then place them around the room. Make sure you have enough for each kid to find at least one heart. Keep one heart for yourself.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! Today we are going to learn about someone who loves us very much! Hold up one of the hearts. **What shape is this? It's a heart! Hearts remind us that we're loved. There are hearts all around our room today! Can you go find a heart and bring it back to me?**

Help each toddler find a heart and have her bring it back to you.

You did a great job finding the hearts. Hearts remind us that people love us—like our friends and family! But there is someone who loves you even more than your parents ... it's Jesus! We'll learn today how Jesus shows His great love for us.

Activity: Cross Craft

SUPPLIES: marker, paper, scissors (prep only), tissue paper (various colors), glue stick (leader only)

Before kids arrive, use a marker to draw a simple cross outline on a sheet of paper for each kid and cut some colorful tissue paper into small squares.

Give each kid a paper and a few squares of tissue paper. Use a glue stick to cover the inside of each cross with glue and show the kids how to stick pieces of tissue paper on the glue.

Look at the beautiful crosses we made! Our crosses are beautiful, and they can remind us of what Jesus did for us to show His love: He died on the cross! We'll learn about it in our story today, and we'll remember it with our Wonder Truth for today.

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS LOVES US AND GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US.

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—Point Up.

LOVES US—Wrap arms around yourself in a hug.

AND GAVE HIS LIFE—Hold arms out on either side of your body.

FOR US.—Point to self.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Connected Easter Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we're learning that Jesus loves us and gave His life for us!

We'll learn in the God's big story how Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to die for us.

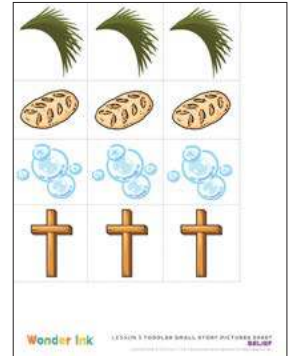
Play songs from the [Connected Easter Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), plastic eggs (4)

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

Print the Toddler Story Pictures and cut apart the pictures. Place each of the pictures inside a plastic egg. Number the eggs as follows: palm branch—#1; loaf of bread—#2; soap bubbles—#3; cross—#4.



Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about Jesus and something very important that happened to Him. 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.

Jesus came to Jerusalem, and a lot of people came to welcome Him as their king. Open the first egg and show the kids the picture of the palm branch. **They held palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna!"** (John 12:13). **That means "Save us, please!" Jesus came to save people, but it was not how they thought.**

Some people were very unhappy with Jesus. They wanted to put an end to Jesus! And Jesus knew He was going to die soon.

Open the second egg and show the kids the picture of the loaf of bread. **Jesus was eating with His followers. One of them was named Judas. Jesus loved His disciples. He knew He was going to leave His disciples soon.**

Open the third egg and show the kids the picture of the soap bubbles. **Jesus got up during the meal and washed their dirty feet. Jesus served them to show He loved them.**

At first, one disciple named Peter told Jesus not to wash his feet. But Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you can't share life with me" (John 13:8). **Jesus was not talking about washing dirt off a body. Jesus washed His followers' feet to show how He cleans hearts from sin.**

After they ate, Judas left to turn in Jesus to the people who hated Him. Those people arrested Jesus. They hurt Jesus and beat Him up.

Open the fourth egg and show the kids the picture of the cross. **They nailed Jesus to a cross. It hurt Him a lot, and He died. But Jesus was going to show that death does not get to win! He made the way for people to be saved from sin and beat death because Jesus loves us and gave His life for us.**

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to save us. Thank You for loving us. 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 know the deep, never-ending love of God—a love so great that Jesus gave His life for us. Now and always, may you live loved and free!**

Activity: Egg Roll

SUPPLIES: plastic egg

Gather kids together and have them sit on the floor in front of you. Hold up the plastic egg.

Look at this egg! We are going to play a rolling game with this egg. I will roll it to each of you and tell you something important. Then you can roll it back to me.

Roll the egg to each child while saying, "Jesus loves (child's name)!" Encourage the child to roll the egg back you.

Jesus loves all of you! He loves you so much that He was willing to give His life for you!