

LESSON 4

JEHOSHAPHAT AND THE SINGING ARMY

LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Is with Us When We Worship

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Chronicles 20

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** With a huge army coming to attack, King Jehoshaphat gathers the people of Judah to pray. The army worships God on their way to meet the enemy, and God answers their prayer, defeating the enemy for them.

**WORD OF WONDER:** Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy. —Psalm 100:2

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: Who is the most important person in your life? If you could do anything with that person today, what would it be?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 100:2
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Worship Bracelets



Worship with Wonder Spotify playlist

### INVITATION

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

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**WORD OF WONDER:** Psalm 100:2

When you are going through a tough time personally, in your family, or in your community, what is your first response? Is it to begin to plan and strategize how you can get through whatever you are facing? The truth is, not everything we face can be overcome by our strategy.

We see in 2 Chronicles 20:3–4 that when armies waged war against Jehoshaphat, he and God’s people went first to the Lord.

Maybe this is hard for you, for many reasons. When I was a kid, I went through a few tough situations, and learning to truly believe that God was with me and cared took time. I still don’t always get it right. That’s the beauty of the accounts in Scripture. Like this passage, it reminds us that God is with us when we worship. He is faithful, so we can turn to Him first.

Read 2 Chronicles 20:15–23, 29–30.

Jehoshaphat prioritized worship, and as his army worshiped, God Himself defeated the enemy. God was with them!

When have you worshiped even though it felt like everything was against you? Are you in one of those seasons now? Take a moment to shift your focus to the Lord as the one who will make a way, knowing He is with you as you worship.

—**David Ruybalid**

Worship Leader, Recording Artist, and Discipleship Pastor  
Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 4 **FOR LEADERS**  
**JEHOSHAPHAT AND THE SINGING ARMY**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Jehoshaphat was a king of Judah during the time when Israel was divided into two kingdoms. He was the son of Asa. He is known for building up Judah's defenses, opposing idolatry in the land, and having the people instructed in God's law.

**WHAT?**

Hearing that a huge army was coming to attack, Jehoshaphat gathered the people of Judah to pray. God answered their prayer, promising to fight the battle for them. The army worshiped God on the way to meet the enemy, who they found already defeated.

**WHERE?**

Jehoshaphat set out from Jerusalem. The enemy army was using the Pass of Ziz, located on the western side of the Dead Sea. The army was found slain in the desert of Jeruel, between Jerusalem to the north and En Gedi to the south.

**WHEN?**

This story takes place during the time of Israel's divided kingdom, after the rule of King Asa. The following verses talk about the end of Jehoshaphat's reign, giving the impression that the story of the singing army happened near the end of his rule.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

God is with those who trust in Him, fighting on their behalf. Jesus came as Immanuel—God with us. Through faith in Jesus, we have fellowship with God and His Spirit living within us, meaning God is always with us, no matter what we face.

Large Group or Small Group

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

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### Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

**RESOURCES:** [Coloring Page](#), whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group. *Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.*

#### As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

**"Who is the most important person in your life? If you could do anything with that person today, what would it be?"** Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

#### While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following "I'm curious" questions. Say "I'm curious..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **Who would you want beside you in a hard or scary situation? Why that person?**
- **If you had to choose, would you rather sing a song or take a hike?**

### Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

## WORD OF WONDER

Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy.

—Psalm 100:2 (NirV)

### Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

**Our Word of Wonder today is Psalm 100:2. Today we're discovering God is with us when we worship, and worship is a time to be glad. Let's read the Word of Wonder together!**

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 100:2 so they can read it aloud with you. Tell kids that in this passage we see that coming to God in worship is a joyful experience, so they're to read aloud while wearing their happiest faces. Encourage them to grin from ear to ear as they read through the verse twice.

Gather kids to talk about these questions:

- **Why does worshipping God make you glad?**
- **What's a joyful song that you like to sing when you worship God?**

### Word of Wonder Activity

**SUPPLIES:** whiteboards (1 per small group), erasers or clean socks (for erasing) (1 per small group)

Display the Word of Wonder Slide. Write the Word of Wonder, Psalm 100:2, on a whiteboard. Explain that kids will read the verse aloud together twice and then take turns erasing one word from the board. (Don't have enough erasers for every small group? Clean socks also work!) Each time a word is erased, kids will again repeat the verse, filling in the missing words as they go. Keep repeating the process until kids are reciting the Word of Wonder with few or no words left on the whiteboard.

Stay mindful that while memorizing the verse is great, understanding and embracing the truth of God's Word is even better. If kids miss words or stumble in reciting the passage, that's OK. Encourage them—and remind them that worship is a joyful experience!

**Leader Tip:** For this activity, small lap-size whiteboards work great for small groups!

## Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid); Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find 2 Chronicles 20. As kids find the passage, explain that this part of the Bible tells a true story about a king named Jehoshaphat. God's people were in trouble because a big army was coming to fight them. But instead of being afraid, the king and the people prayed to God for help. God told them not to worry—and something amazing happened! Let's read and see how God helped His people in a powerful way.

**Read 2 Chronicles 20:15–23; 29–30 aloud. Then discuss the following:**

- **Today in God's big story, why was King Jehoshaphat (juh-HOSH-uh-fat) afraid?** (A huge army was coming to attack Judah.)
- **How did King Jehoshaphat get God's advice for dealing with the enemy army?** (He and the people prayed to God; then the king listened as God answered through the words of a man named Jahaziel.)
- **Why did Judah's singing army praise God?** (Because they knew God was with them and that "His faithful love continues forever" [2 Chronicles 20:21].)
- **When you're afraid, how helpful is it for you to pray? Why?**
- **How do you hear God's answers to your prayers?**
- **What part of worshiping God makes you most glad? Why?**

**King Jehoshaphat knew that God heard his prayers and that God was with him when he worshiped. God hears our prayers too, and He is with us when we worship Him. In fact, one way to worship God is to pray. So, let's go to God in prayer now.**

**Leader Tip:** Help kids understand that God can speak to us in many different ways. In the Bible, we see God speaking to His people through His Word (Bible verses and stories), through people's thoughts and imaginations, through other Jesus-followers, through dreams and special pictures from God called visions, and even out loud through His voice. God speaks to us in some of these ways too!

## Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Ask kids to share their prayer requests with the group. Prompt responses by suggesting they share requests for family, friends, people who are sick or lonely, your church and pastor, leaders, people experiencing loss, etc. Then say, "In Jesus' name, Amen," explaining that God heard all that was said because as Jesus-followers, He's with us when we worship Him.

## Small Group Discussion: Older Kids

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid), **Bible Story Picture (1/SG)**

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Psalm 145. Psalm 145 is a song written by King David to praise God. David had been through many hard and happy times, and he wanted to remind people that God is always good, kind, and near to those who call on Him. This psalm was written around 1000 B.C. and is full of worship and truth about who God is. As we read it, think about how David describes God's greatness and how we can praise Him too.

**Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.**

**Invite kids to follow along as you read 2 Chronicles 20:15–23 out loud. Then select a confident reader to read verses 29–30. Then discuss the following:**

- **Today in God's big story, why was King Jehoshaphat (*juh-HOSH-uh-fat*) frightened?** (A huge army was coming to attack Judah.)
- **How did King Jehoshaphat get God's advice for dealing with the enemy army?** (He and the people prayed to God; then the king listened as God answered through the words of a man named Jahaziel.)
- **Why did Judah's army sing worship songs as they went into battle?** (Because they knew God was with them and that "His faithful love continues forever" [2 Chronicles 20:21].)
- **Judah's army was confident that God was with them and would help them. How confident do you feel that God is with you and will help you? Why?**
- **How do you hear God's answers to your prayers? When have you seen God answer your prayer? What is a prayer you haven't seen God answer (at least not yet)?**
- **In what ways do you worship God as you go through a typical day?**

**King Jehoshaphat knew God was with him when he worshiped God and that God heard his prayers. God hears our prayers too, and He is with us when we worship Him. In fact, one way to worship God is to pray. So let's go to God in prayer now.**

**Leader Tip:** Help kids understand that God can speak to us in many different ways. In the Bible, we see God speaking to His people through His Word (Bible verses and stories), through people's thoughts and imaginations, through other Jesus-followers, through dreams and special pictures from God called visions, and even out loud through His voice. God speaks to us in some of these ways too!

## Prayer Time: Older Kids

Ask kids to share their prayer requests with the group. Prompt responses by suggesting they share requests for family, friends, people they know who are sick or lonely, your church and pastor, leaders, people experiencing loss, etc. Then say, "In Jesus' name, Amen." Explain that God heard all that was said because as followers of Jesus, He's with us when we worship Him!

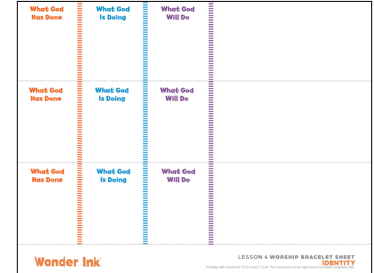
## PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

### Responding in Worship: Worship Bracelets

**SUPPLIES:** markers or colored pencils, clear tape (several rolls), scissors (prep only), cardstock (optional), kid-safe scissors (optional), stickers (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Worship Bracelet Sheet \(1 per every 3 kids\)](#), [Worship with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, make copies of the Worship Bracelet Sheet for all the kids, on cardstock if possible, and cut out the bracelets. (Don't have time to cut out all the bracelets? Have older kids cut out their own during the activity.)



**Make It Inclusive!** Have a variety of stickers available for kids who might struggle to write or draw. They can decorate their bracelets with stickers that remind them of what God has done, is doing, and will do in their lives!

**Leader Tip:** For Older Kids. If you have a lot of older kids in your group, consider providing bracelet-making supplies—such as elastic bracelet string, pony beads, and letter beads—so they can create their own unique bracelets. Encourage them to choose beads or other decorations that will help them remember that God is with them.

**When King Jehoshaphat** (juh-HOSH-uh-fat) **gathered God's people together, they were in the courtyard of God's temple in Jerusalem—the place where God's presence dwelled. God was with them in that moment! There Jehoshaphat praised God for what He had done, what He was doing, and what He was going to do. Like Jehoshaphat, let's worship God for all three of these! And let's celebrate that God is with us when we worship.**

Invite kids to share some things God has done for them in the past, is doing now, and will do in the future. Consider sharing some examples to get them started, such as “God created me in a special way,” “God is with me when I'm scared,” and “One day I will live with God forever in heaven because of Jesus.” If your group is large, encourage kids to share their ideas with a neighbor first.

After several kids have shared, distribute pre-cut worship bracelets (or Worship Bracelet Sheets and scissors) and markers or colored pencils. Ask kids to decorate their bracelets by showing what God has done for them, what He's doing for them, and what He will do for them in the future. They can write words or draw symbols, emojis, or sketches in each box. If you have stickers, set them out for kids to put on their bracelets. Consider playing music from the [Worship with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlists](#) as kids work.

When kids have finished decorating their bracelets, older kids or adults can help the kids wrap their bracelets around their wrists by starting with the blank space and then wrapping the remainder of the bracelet over the blank area. Secure the bracelet with tape. If a kid has thin wrists, a leader can trim off some of the excess blank space with kid-safe scissors before wrapping it around the kid's wrist and applying tape. Invite kids to show their bracelets to a neighbor, explaining the meaning of what they drew or wrote.

**We have lots of reasons to worship God, and one of those is that He's with us when we worship. God is with us now through the Holy Spirit, so let's pause to worship Him together.**

Invite kids to lift their bracelets over their heads by raising their hands. Then pray **God, we worship You for all You've done in the past. You created the universe and set the stars in motion, yet You still know every detail of our lives. We worship You, God!**

Next invite kids to stretch their arms out to their sides as wide as possible. Then pray **God, You are with us right now as we worship You together. We give You our love and invite You to direct our lives. We are Yours!**

Now invite kids to cup their hands in front of them as you pray **God, we're ready to receive all You have for us in the future. May Your Holy Spirit guide us closer and closer to You, and may we see You as You work in and through us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage kids to wear their bracelets home and show them to their families.

**Leader Tip:** Playing worship music softly as kids work creates an environment that helps kids concentrate. When it's time to move on, slowly fade the music and say, "One more minute until we wrap up."