



**PRE-K
LARGE GROUP**

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

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: He is the Light, Take You at Your Word
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



Worship with Wonder Preschool Spotify playlist



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is with Us When We Worship

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 20

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 to form in me as a true belief. 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.



LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is with Us When We Worship

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 20

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 100:2

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

RESOURCES: Tac the Cat puppet

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hi, everyone! We have a lot we'll learn today, which means you'll have a lot of questions! And I know of a certain cat who always asks good questions. Everyone say, "Hi, Tac!" (Invite kids to say, "Hi Tac!")

Tac the Cat: (*trembling fearfully*) Oh dear! Oh no! Ooooooo!

Leader: What's the matter, Tac?

Tac the Cat: I am so, so scared right now!

Leader: Why?

Tac the Cat: I just saw a huge bug! Like ginormous! And it scuttled off before I could trap it and put it outside! That means it's somewhere in here. Watching. Waiting. (*Tac trembles again.*) I am so scared of bugs!

Leader: I'm sorry you're scared, Tac! But do you know that most bugs won't hurt us?

Tac the Cat: I know! still don't like them! How can I not be so scared of bugs?

Leader: Well, I always find that praying and talking to God helps me! But sometimes when I'm scared, there's something else I can do that helps me remember that God is with me.

Tac the Cat: What's that?

Leader: I worship! When I'm scared, I sing familiar songs of praise to God. Those songs remind me of who God is and how He's in control of everything.

Tac the Cat: You sing when you're scared?

Leader: Yeah, I worship! One song that really helps me is "Jesus Loves Me." It's simple, but it reminds me that even though I am weak, Jesus is strong, and He loves me. Knowing that calms my heart when I'm scared. We're going to learn in our story today about some people who were scared, and they worshiped God.

Tac the Cat: Wow, that sounds like a good story. I know the song "Jesus Loves Me." I'm going to go worship and see if that helps me feel less scared!

Leader: Awesome, Tac. Remember that God is with us when we worship! Bye.

Tac the Cat: Bye!

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: When was a time you were scared? Allow the kids to respond. **Did anything help calm you down?** Allow the kids to respond. **We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God loves you and is near you when you worship?**

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE WORSHIP**. We'll discover that when we worship, God is with us!

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.)

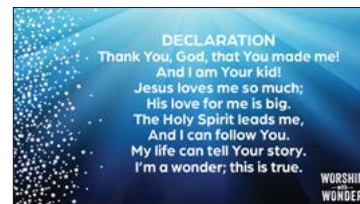
March in place like you're following the leader.

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 the prayer here or your own words: **God, we know that You are always near us, and we thank You that You are also near us when we worship You. When our hearts are scared, we can worship and remember who You are and what You can do. Speak to us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll learn that when we worship, God is with us. Let's sing together and worship God and thank Him being with us!

WORSHIP VIDEOS: He is the Light, Take You at Your Word

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of 2 Chronicles 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 2 Chronicles in the Bible.

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, percussion instruments (such as tambourines, maracas, or bowls with spoons; 1 per kid)

RESOURCES: a song from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Set the instruments to the side. **In the part of God's big story we're hearing today, you can use drums and instruments. I'll pass them out when we get to that part of the story.**

When King David ruled over God's people, the Israelites, they were a strong nation. Israel had many other kings after David. Then something bad happened. The nation split into two kingdoms. One was a northern kingdom called Israel. Let's point up and say "Israel." Israel. The other was a southern kingdom called Judah. Let's point down and say, "Judah." Judah. The king of Judah was named Jehoshaphat (Juh-HOSH-uh-fat). Let's all say, "Jehoshaphat!" Jehoshaphat. He loved God and taught people all about God. Jehoshaphat told them to worship God.

Some of Judah's enemies tried to gang up against Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat heard that a huge army was coming. He was scared! Let's all make scared faces. Pause to allow the kids to make scared faces. **Jehoshaphat needed help from God. He asked his people to pray with him, and they did. Jehoshaphat told God, "You are strong and powerful. No one can fight against you and win" (2 Chronicles 20:6). He remembered how God helped His people beat their enemies a long time ago so they could live in the great land God promised them. Jehoshaphat prayed, "We'll cry out to you when we're in trouble. Then you will hear us. You will save us" (2 Chronicles 20:9). Then he talked to God about the army coming to fight. Jehoshaphat asked God to help Judah.**

God heard Jehoshaphat's prayer. God told one of the men to say, "Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope because of this huge army. The battle is not yours. It is God's" (2 Chronicles 20:15). Then the man told them where to march the next day to find the enemy army. "You will not have to fight this battle," he told them. "The LORD will be with you" (2 Chronicles 20:17). Jehoshaphat and the people worshiped God. Put your hands up like the people may have done when they worshiped God. Pause to allow the kids to put their hands up.

The next morning, Jehoshaphat and his army left to find the enemy army. Jehoshaphat told some men to march in front of the army and sing praises to God. Let's all stand up and march in place. Invite the kids to stand up and march in place for a few seconds and then sit back down. **Jehoshaphat loved and trusted God. He knew that God is amazing. "Give thanks to the LORD," the men said, "His faithful love continues forever" (2 Chronicles 20:21). Then they sang and praised God. Judah's army was singing! Everyone think of the first song that comes to your mind and sing it quietly all at the same time until I hold my hand up—then you can freeze and stop singing.** Allow the kids to sing a few seconds of a song and then hold your hand up to cue them to stop singing.

That must have been a strange sight, to see scared soldiers marching and singing at the same time! Encourage kids to stand up. Pass out the percussion instruments. **I will sing a praise song. If you know the song, please join me! You can also hum, play your instrument, or clap your hands. Let's pretend to be Judah's army!**

March around the room while singing a simple worship song. Consider singing a song from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). Encourage kids to sing, hum, play their instruments, and

clap as they march along.

Leader Tip: If you have more kids than instruments, pause halfway and invite kids to pass their instruments to someone who hasn't gotten a turn yet.

Invite kids to sit back down.

Jehoshaphat's army praised God as they marched to meet their enemies. And what did God do? God fought the battle! The enemy army lost before Jehoshaphat even got there. God saved Judah's army from the battle! They did not even have to fight! They were filled with joy. They went back home and praised God. They played music and sang and danced to thank God.

Judah's singing army praised God because they knew God was with them. Judah trusted God. When we worship God, we can have joy. God is always close to the people who trust Him. God is with us when we worship.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

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

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE WORSHIP. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

God is with those who trust in Him. He goes before them and helps them, like He did for Jehoshaphat's army. Many years after Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Jesus came to earth as Immanuel, which means "God with us." Through faith in Jesus, we get to live life with God, and He gives us His Spirit to live within us. Through the Holy Spirit, God is always with us!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for being powerful, strong, and with us especially when we worship Him.

God, You are mighty, powerful, and always with us. Thank You for being with Your people. We can trust You will be with us now! 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 the Lord of heaven be with you. May the Lord of power and might put His hand over you. May your worship draw your heart near to Him.