

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.

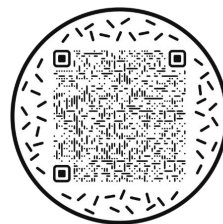
WORD OF WONDER: Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy. —Psalm 100:2

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
 - Interesting Instruments
 - Uncover It!
 - Jehoshaphat and the Singing Army Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Magnetic Worship
- God's Big Story/ Snack
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 100:2
- Circle Time: Army March
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Praising Feet
- Closing Game: Freeze March



[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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: percussion instruments such as tambourines, triangles, drums, and maracas; opaque cups (10); small objects to t under cups such as a crayon, pom-pom, table tennis ball, small toy (10); coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [Jehoshaphat and the Singing Army Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Interesting Instruments

Set-up: Lay out percussion instruments for kids to play with.

Play: Encourage kids to examine, pick up, and play the instruments. Tell them that playing music is a way to worship, and they'll learn about people in the Bible who worshiped God.

Play Station: Uncover It!

Set-up: Place 10 small objects on a table. Cover each object with a cup.

Play: Invite kids to guess what could be under each cup. Then encourage them to lift the cups and see what's underneath! Kids can switch the cups and objects around to see if they remember what's underneath. Remind kids that even when they can't see the object, it's still there underneath the cup.

Play Station: Jehoshaphat and the Singing Army Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of an instrument they want to play.

Curiosity Activity: Magnetic Worship

SUPPLIES: large magnet, paper clips (10–20), tape (optional)

Before kids arrive, lay the paper clips on the table and set the magnet nearby.

It's good to see you all today! I've got a bunch of paper clips I need to pick up. Begin to pick up paper clips one at a time. Exaggerate how difficult it is.

Whew! I wish I could pick these up all at once! Try to pick up all the paper clips in one fit, but make sure it doesn't work. Let the paper clips spill out of your hand. **Wow, I really need some help picking up these paper clips!**

Good thing I have a special tool with me today. I can try to pick up lots of paper clips at once with just one hand. Press your hand, palm open, on the top of the paper clips and lift up your hand. **The paper clips don't stay in my hand. But let me bring out my special tool—a magnet! If I use my magnet ... let's see what happens.** Hold the magnet in your hand (or you can tape it to your palm) and lift the paper clips. Test ahead of time to see how many paper clips your magnet can lift. The paper clips should rise with your hand. Invite kids to the front to take turns lifting the paper clips with the magnet.

When I use the magnet, the paper clips stay close to my hand. God is close to us when we worship! God is always near, and we can be certain that when we worship, He is with us. We'll learn more about that in our story today!



Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, ball (1 per 2 kids)

WORD OF WONDER

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

—Psalm 100:2

Invite the kids to find a partner, and give each pair a ball.

Let's learn our Word of Wonder together! In this game, you and your partner will say the Word of Wonder one word at a time. Each time you say a word, pass the ball to your partner. When you've said the whole Word of Wonder, both partners will take one step backwards and start again. See how many times you can say the verse and how far apart you can stand and still pass the ball!

Make It Inclusive! For kids with mobility issues, have their partner take two steps back between rounds.

Nice job, everyone! Let's keep learning our Word of Wonder through some motions!

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

- **WORSHIP THE LORD**—Put hands over your head in a “praise” motion.
- **WITH GLADNESS**.—Smile and point to your mouth.
- **COME TO HIM**—Move one arm toward your body, as if inviting someone to come with you.
- **WITH SONGS OF JOY**.—Place open palm in front of your mouth. Move it in circular motions away from your face.
- **PSALM 100:2**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What are some ways we can worship God with gladness and joy?** (Offer ideas, such as: singing from our hearts, dancing, praying, and thanking God.)
- **How can knowing God is with us help us when we're scared?** (Offer ideas such as: we can feel comforted and brave; we can feel better knowing we aren't alone.)

God's Big Story / Snack

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 hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 2 Chronicles in the Bible.

[Read 2 Chronicles 20:15–23, 29–30 from the Bible.](#)

Circle Time: Army March

SUPPLIES: music from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Invite kids to stand in a circle.

King Jehoshaphat and Judah's army were scared of their enemies. They knew they couldn't fight them on their own. They needed God! But God's instructions for them seemed a little odd—they were to march to a battle that they would not have to fight. Judah's army marched and sang praises to God. In this game, we'll pretend to be Judah's army by marching in a circle to praise music. When the music stops, whoever is standing in front of me gets to answer a question. If you need help to answer, ask the rest of your army! Ready? Let's march!

Play music from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#), stopping it periodically. Whenever you stop the music, ask a question to the kid who stopped in front of you. Invite other kids to help if needed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When Jehoshaphat told God about the enemy armies coming to fight them, what did the king ask God to do? (*help them*)
- God answered Jehoshaphat and said, “The battle is not yours; it is _____!” (God’s)
- What did the soldiers at the front of the army do while they marched? (*worshiped and sang to praise God*)
- How do you think Judah’s army felt as they marched and worshiped God all the way to fight their enemies?
- How could knowing that God is with us help us when we’re scared? (*We can be comforted and brave when we know God is with us.*)
- Share about a time when you were afraid, but you knew God was with you.

God is always with us, but sometimes our hearts forget that fact—especially when we’re scared! That’s why God invites us to worship Him. Worship turns our minds and hearts back to God. Worship helps us recognize that God is near. God is with us when we worship! Let’s talk to God now in prayer!

PRAYER TIME

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That’s OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for being with us when we worship.

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Responding in Worship: Praising Feet

SUPPLIES: Bible, markers, whiteboard, dry-erase marker

RESOURCES: [Praising Feet Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#), songs from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print one Praising Feet Sheet for each kid.

Jehoshaphat and his army were scared. They knew that without God they would be destroyed by their enemies. But Jehoshaphat also knew how God had helped His people in the past. That gave him courage to ask God to help Judah’s army now. And God responded! God’s instructions to march and not fight the battle might have seemed strange to a scared nation, but they obeyed anyway, and they saw God move in incredible ways!



Begin passing out the Praising Feet Sheets. **Judah’s army used their feet to march to the battle they weren’t going to fight. That’s why your paper shows the bottom of a shoe! Since the soldiers worshiped as they marched, I’m going to play some quiet praise music as we go through this activity.** Play some quiet worship music from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#).

I’m going to read a verse from the Bible. This verse, 2 Chronicles 20:6, is part of the prayer King Jehoshaphat prayed when he asked God for help. The first time I read the verse, just sit quietly, close your eyes, and listen for how Jehoshaphat describes God.

Read 2 Chronicles 20:6: **“LORD, you are the God of our people who lived long ago. You are the God who is in heaven. You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. You are strong and powerful. No one can fight against you and win.”**

This time as I read the verse, try and pick out one word or phrase that describes God.

“LORD, you are the God of our people who lived long ago. You are the God who is in heaven. You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. You are strong and powerful. No one can fight against you and win.”

Let’s share some words that describe God! Invite kids to raise their hands and share their responses. Answers could include: in heaven, rule, strong, powerful, etc. Write these on the whiteboard.

What wonderful answers! Now choose one of these answers and draw it or write it on your Praising Feet! Invite kids to take their sheets home to remind them of all the amazing things they can praise God for.

Closing Game: Freeze March

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

Judah’s army marched toward their enemy while singing and praising God! When you hear the music, march around the room. You can also sing along, clap, or wave your arms to pretend to be the marching, singing army! When the music stops, make sure you freeze! Ready? Let’s go!

Play music from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to march around the room. Stop the music periodically to have them freeze in place.

Remember to listen for new ways to move! Ready, set, go!

Start the music. As kids move across the room, call out a variety of movement styles from the list:

- walk
- hop
- skip
- tiptoe
- walk backwards
- pretend to be an airplane
- pretend to walk on a tightrope
- take really big steps
- take tiny steps

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- take really big steps
- take tiny steps

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to switch which partner is the “shadow” halfway through, or several times throughout the game.

Make It Inclusive! Some kids may have mobility issues that limit their ability to participate in this activity. Ask them to help by calling out ways for the others to move.

Gather kids back together. **We’ve all seen shadows outside when the sun is shining. Depending on the sun, our shadows may be tall or short, or really easy to see or hard to see. But one thing is certain; if there is any kind of light at all, your shadow is there. When we’re followers of Jesus, God is always with us. And God is so close when we worship Him. What an awesome God!**