



**PRE-K
LARGE GROUP**

LESSON 2 JESUS LOVES THE WORLD

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because Jesus Loves Me, I Am Loved

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1; John 3

GOD'S BIG STORY: Though sin damaged God's good creation and separated people from God, God loved the world so much that He sent His Son, Jesus. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, followers of Jesus can live securely in God's love.

WORD OF WONDER: Your glory fills me with wonder. You do amazing things. —Exodus 15:11c

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Praise, This Little Light of Mine
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Faith Begins with Wonder Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because Jesus Loves Me, I Am Loved

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1; John 3

WORD OF WONDER: Exodus 15:11c

Read Colossians 1:15–23 and John 3:16–17. Sometimes I have trouble believing Jesus really loves me, even though His love is all over the pages of Scripture. Instead of remembering His love, I remember ways I’ve disobeyed God or gone against His perfect plan. Then I start thinking that maybe God is mad at me. Or that God doesn’t like me. Or wondering how God could love someone who’s done what I’ve done. Do you ever feel that way?

The voice of accusation is loud and unrelenting, whether it comes from our own hearts or the devil himself. Regularly, I pray, “God, help me hear Your voice above the voice of the accuser.” Amen, right?

I need to hear God’s big story, over and over again. I need to hear about Jesus, the rescuer who came to break the power of sin and gather the broken parts of creation back to God. Even me. And even you! He presents us to God without blemish and free from accusation. He loves us!

Because Jesus loves me, I am loved. God’s big story says so, and God’s big story is true. Will you hold onto His love today? Will you share it with the kids you serve this week? After all, they need to hear the story too. Again and again. Jesus loves us! Amen, right?

—**Michael Rade**

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher
Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus is the divine Son of God, uncreated and eternal. He is the exact likeness of God, perfectly revealing who God is because He is Himself God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is Savior of the world and Lord of creation.

WHAT?

Jesus came to save the world, bringing life to those who believe. Jesus loved the world, and by dying on the cross, He made the way to reconcile all things to God. Through Jesus' death, God made peace with people, bringing them back to Himself.

WHERE?

Paul wrote Colossians as a letter to the church in Colossae. Colossae was located in the Roman province of Phrygia in the territory of Asia Minor. The Gospel of John may have been written in Ephesus, which was about 100 miles east of Colossae.

WHEN?

These passages discuss who the Son of God is and has been from all eternity, before the beginning of creation. They also discuss what happened when the eternal Son took on flesh and became a man, dying on the cross in approximately AD 30.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus' death and resurrection is the central event of history. Through Jesus' death on the cross, the same God who created all things redeemed all things—defeating death and breaking the power of sin, making way for a new heaven and a new earth.



LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because Jesus Loves Me, I Am Loved

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1; John 3

WORD OF WONDER: Exodus 15:11c

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, Tac! How are you today?

Tac the Cat: OK, I guess. (Tac acts sad.)

Leader: Are you feeling sad today?

Tac the Cat: Yeah, because I made a big mistake.

Leader: What did you do?

Tac the Cat: I was mean to my cousin Mac.

Leader: Oh dear! Do you want to tell me about it?

Tac the Cat: Well, I really wanted some time to myself, so I climbed onto the couch and curled up for a nice nap. But Mac followed me up! I was so mad, so I yelled at him and pushed him off.

Leader: Did Mac get hurt?

Tac the Cat: (sniffs) Yeah, a little bit. I feel awful.

Leader: Do you feel sorry for hurting Mac?

Tac the Cat: Yes, I do!

Leader: And do you think Mac still loves you?

Tac the Cat: I think so.

Leader: If you say, “I’m sorry” to Mac and ask him to forgive you, I think he’s going to forgive you.

Tac the Cat: What’s he going to give me?

Leader: Ha ha, no—forgive. That means he will choose to stop being mad at you, because he loves you. He’ll give you another chance. In our story today, we’re going to learn about how Jesus loves and forgives the whole world! We’ve all done wrong things, and if we ask, Jesus will forgive us too. That’s what we’re going to learn about.

Tac the Cat: Wow, that’s great news! I’m going to go say sorry to Mac right now!

Leader: That sounds like a great idea. Bye, Tac!

Have you ever been curious about something? Let’s take a moment and think: Who loves you the most in the whole world? How do you know that person loves you? Allow the kids to respond. **Our story today teaches us that God is the One who loves us most of all. How can we tell that God loves us?** Allow the kids to respond. **We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how our loving God can possibly love every person in the whole world?**

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today’s Wonder Truth is **BECAUSE JESUS LOVES ME, I AM LOVED**. Today we’ll discover how much Jesus loves 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 and then 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 above, making a path in front of you.

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

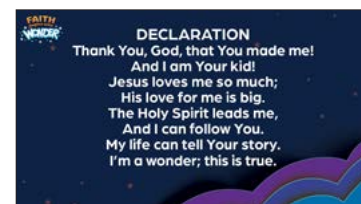
March in place like you’re following the leader.

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, shake your fingers, and celebrate (“praise hands”).



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use own words. Here is an example: **God, You love us and do wonderful things for us! Holy Spirit, please fill us with wonder at how amazing You are. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll learn about how much Jesus loves us. Let's sing about His amazing love!

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Praise, This Little Light of Mine

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from two books of the Bible: Colossians and John. Open a Bible and show them where one of the passages 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 start by watching part of God's big story from the Bible books of Colossians and John.

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: cardstock (5 sheets)

RESOURCES: Timeline Images (1 set/LG)

Ahead of time, print the Timeline Images onto cardstock.

Leader Tip: This story shares the gospel very clearly in a way little ones can understand. Take time to learn this script well so you can share it with as much excitement and clarity as possible.

I have some mystery pictures to show you today. The pictures will tell us God's big story! Are you ready to see the first mystery picture?

Show the Creation image. **God's big story starts at the very beginning. In the beginning God created people. He created people to obey Him and take care of His creation. God also created people to know Him. He knows us! Wow!** Encourage the kids to say "Wow" with you.

Show the Heart image. **Why do you think I'm holding up this picture?** Pause and allow the kids to guess. **God loved His people and all of His creation. God loves the whole world! But—oh, no!—something bad happened.**

Show the Sin image. **Oh, no! The first man and woman did not obey God, so sin came into the world. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is not what God wants. Sin messed up God's perfect creation. When people chose not to obey God, they could not be close to Him.** Encourage the kids to say "Oh, no" with you.

Show the Heart image again. **But God loves the world. Always. Wow!** Encourage kids to say "Wow" with you. **His love has the power to make all things right. God's love can make all things new too. God loves people so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to the world.**

Show the Jesus Dies and Rises Again image. **The Bible says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him"** (John 3:16–17). **Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to save all people who trust in Him!** Encourage the kids to say "Wow" with you. **Jesus beat death and came back to life. Jesus is more powerful than sin. When we trust Jesus to save us, God forgives our sins. Then we can live forever as part of God's family. That is how much God loves us.** Encourage the kids to say "Thank You, God" with you.

Show the Jesus As King image. **Jesus shows us what God is like because Jesus is God. Paul, one of Jesus' first followers, writes, "The Son is the exact likeness of God, who can't be seen"** (Colossians 1:15). **Jesus shows us God. Point to the picture and emphasize the next line: Jesus is God, so Jesus was always there. Paul says, "The Son is first, and he is over all creation"** (Colossians 1:15). **Jesus made the heavens and the earth. He is King over everything.** Encourage the kids to say "Wow" with you.

Show the Heart image again. **Jesus loves the world with a big love! How big do you think His love is?** Hold your hands out to your side and move them farther apart each time you ask one of the following questions or say the following statements. Also, make your voice louder every time: **Is Jesus'**



love this big? How about this big? Maybe it's this big! Wow, Jesus loves the world! Let's say that with our big voices! Encourage the kids to say, "Jesus loves the world!" with you.

Show the Jesus Dies and Rises Again image again. **His love is so big that Jesus even died for us. That's what Jesus did on the cross. He died to beat sin so we can be close to God again. Jesus died on the cross so God can forgive our sins.** Encourage the kids to say, "Thank You, God!" with you. **When we trust in Jesus to save us, we can live forever with God someday in heaven. Sin does not win. Jesus wins! God can forgive us and make us new.**

Show the Heart image again. **Jesus loves you so much.** Point to the kids. **He knows you and loves you. Trust and remember this good news. Share this good news. All who trust Jesus can trust in God's love and remember this wonderful truth: Because Jesus loves me, I am loved.**

Keep the Timeline Images nearby to use in a game later in the lesson.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

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

Our Wonder Truth today is **BECAUSE JESUS LOVES ME, I AM LOVED. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

Jesus died and came back to life. The same God who created all things beat death and sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that isn't what God wants. Sin keeps us far from God. But with Jesus, we can be close to God and can be forgiven. God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to earth so we can be forgiven.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for His love. Use your own words. Here is an example:

God, thank You for loving us with Your big love! Holy Spirit, help us really know deep down inside what it means to be loved by You. 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: May you feel the love of God this week. May you know deep down inside how much Jesus loves you.