

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:** You are majestic and holy. Your glory fills me with wonder. You do amazing things.  
—Exodus 15:11b

**CURIOSITY**

**BELIEF**

**FAITH**

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| • Interactive Game: Find the One  | 8–10 min |
| • Welcome Question: What is one way you show others that you love them? | 1–2 min  |
| • SMALL GROUP   | 25 min   |
| • Declaring God's Wonder  | 1–2 min  |
| • Prayer of Invitation  | 1–2 min  |
| • Worship: That's Who I Praise, Praise                                  | 8–10 min |
| • God's Big Story   | 5–6 min  |
| • Connecting the Wonder Truth   | 1–2 min  |
| • In Awe of God's Wonder  | 1–2 min  |
| • Responding in Worship: I Could Sing of Your Love Forever              | 3–4 min  |
| • Prayer and Blessing   | 1–2 min  |
| • SMALL GROUP: Responding in Worship Activity                           | 5–10 min |



### 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 15:11b

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 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 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

### Large Group

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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**WORD OF WONDER:** Exodus 15:11b

### As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding

#### **SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP**

**VIDEO: COUNTDOWN** (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

## Elementary Interactive Game: Find the One

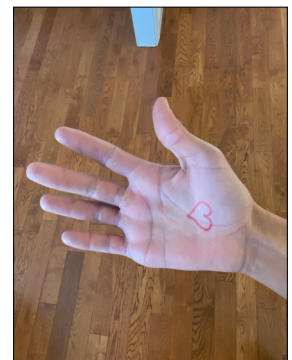
**SUPPLIES:** red marker, hand wipes

Before you begin, pick a kid (if your group is large, pick 2–3 kids) and draw a small heart on her palm with a red marker. Tell her to be sure not to show it to anyone before the game begins! Also designate a corner of the room where kids will sit and wait once they have discovered the person with a heart on her palm.



**Leader Tip:** While washable markers might be the easiest to clean off skin, they also tend to smudge and spread onto other items. Consider using a permanent red marker for this activity. Consider allowing kids to wash their hands with soap and water at the end of the activity.

Display the *Find the One Slide* and gather kids together. **OK, everyone! We have a mystery to solve today. Would you like to help?** Let the kids respond. **Great! To start, let's make our hands into fists, like this.** Demonstrate by making both hands into fists. **For now, keep your hands in fists.**



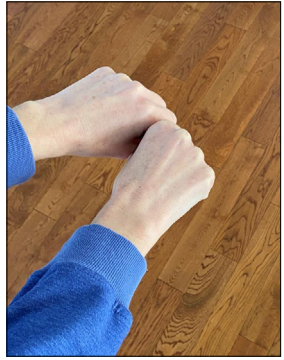
**Make It Inclusive:** Provide a peer partner to any kids who may need assistance with following multi-step directions.

**Here's the mystery: One kid has a heart drawn on the palm of his or her hand.** Show your palm to demonstrate. **Your job is to figure out where the heart is.** **What do hearts usually represent?** Let the kids respond. **That's right. Love!**

**In just a moment, you are going to start your search. You will look for the heart by walking up to someone and tapping that kid on the hand. That kid will then open the hand you tapped and show you his palm. You can only look at one hand on that kid before moving on to someone else.**

**If you find the heart, walk away from that kid and silently count to ten. Then, because you saw the heart, shout, "I am loved!" and go wait in this area.** Show the kids the designated corner where they should wait once they have found the heart. **Let's practice.** Ask the kids to shout, "I am loved!"

**Remember, when you see the heart, be sure to walk away and count to ten, so you don't give away who has the heart!** Begin the game and play until all the kids have found the heart. Have the kid with the heart on her hand use a hand wipe to wash it off. If time allows, play several rounds with the heart on someone new each time.

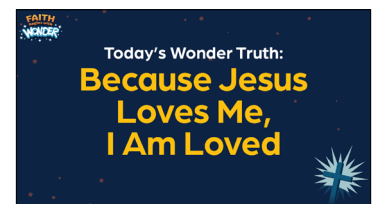


**Leader Tip:** To draw a heart on one kid's palm without the other kids knowing, go up to several kids and pretend to draw a heart on each—but actually draw a heart on only one. Or invite other leaders to do the same. Together, pretend to draw hearts on all the kids except the one with the actual heart.

**In this game, you had to go looking to find "love." Lots of people in this world are looking for love. They are lonely. They wonder if anyone cares about them. Some of you may even feel that way sometimes. But I have great news.**

**SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

**You are all loved! Today's Wonder Truth is BECAUSE JESUS LOVES ME, I AM LOVED.**



## Welcome Question

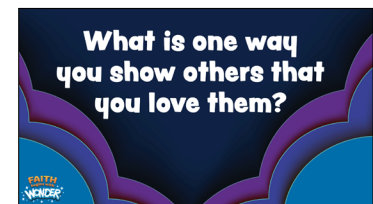
**SUPPLIES:** paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

**SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION**

**At service start time,** draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question.

Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

**Wow! I learned so many new things about all of you today! It's great to get to know you better. Today we're going to talk about how God created us and knows us. But first, it's time for small group!**



## Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

## Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

### VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

## Declaring God's Wonder

### SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

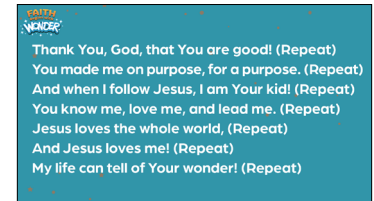
**And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**Jesus loves the whole world,** (Kids repeat.)

**And Jesus loves me!** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)



## Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story. Use your own words.

Here is an example: **We thank You, Father, for sending Jesus to the world. Help us understand today what it means that Jesus loves us and help us to be changed by that knowledge. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

Today we'll learn that because Jesus loves us, we are loved. Let's thank God for His love by worshipping Him now!

**WORSHIP SONGS: That's Who I Praise, Praise**

## God's Big Story

### SLIDE: TITLE

Today we are reading about how powerful and loving Jesus is, and how He came to save the world. Now we're going to watch a video that shows part of God's rescue story in action. As you watch, think about how Jesus shows both His power and His love. Try to notice how this story connects with what we read about who Jesus is and what He came to do for us.



### VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

# LESSON 2 JESUS LOVES THE WORLD

## EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** table, Bible, cardstock (6 sheets), ball of string or yarn, scissors (prep only), masking or painter’s tape, laminator (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Timeline Images Sheets](#)(from Lesson 1), [Half Page Extra Sin Sheet](#) (8–10 copies), [Jesus Is God Sheet](#), [Heart Cross Sheet](#) (3 copies),

### PREP

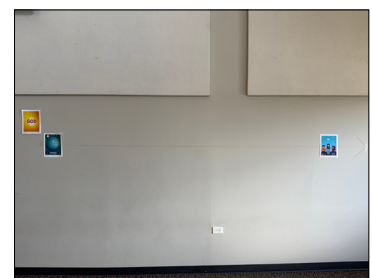
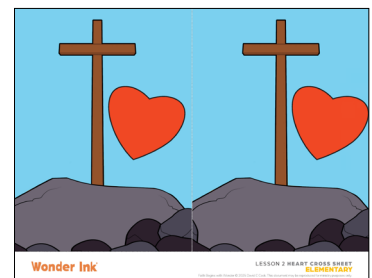
Prep your resources: Ahead of time, print the Timeline Images Sheets onto cardstock and cut along the dotted lines, if you don’t already have the images prepared from Lesson 1. (If your space is large, consider printing the Timeline Images Full Page Version instead.) If you are able, laminate the images to make them more durable for future use. These 12 images will be placed on a timeline that is utilized in all four Faith Begins with Wonder lessons. For this lesson, you will be using images 1–3, 6, and 7. For a diagram of the completed timeline, print the Timeline Images Placement Diagram Sheet.

Print about 8–10 copies of the Half Page Extra Sin Sheet on cardstock and cut along the dotted lines. Do not laminate the Extra Sin Sheets (you will be ripping them). Print one copy of the Jesus Is God Sheet on cardstock. (Use the image that matches the size of your Timeline Images.) Print three copies of the Heart Cross Sheet on cardstock and cut along the dotted lines.

If you built the timeline for Lesson 1 and were able to leave it up, great! You don’t need to do much prep. If you are building the timeline for the first time, or need to rebuild it, you will want to build it *ahead of time* for this lesson.

Gather your materials: a ball of string or yarn, tape, scissors, and the Timeline Images 1–3. (Leave the David Image off the timeline.) Pick a wall in your staging area where the timeline can go. If you have the space, get a thick, chunky yarn in a vibrant color that will stand out against your wall. The timeline needs to be placed high enough on the wall so that it’s visible to all seated kids. Tape the yarn and place the God Image, Creation Image, and Us Image according to the Timeline Images Placement Diagram Sheet provided. Be sure to include an arrow (assembled with cut pieces of string) at the far-right end of the timeline to show that God’s big story isn’t over yet. The God Image should be the only image not sitting directly on the timeline but should be above and to the left of the timeline (as He’s “outside” of history).

Set the stage: Make sure the timeline is already built and ready to go with images 1–3 in their proper places. Set a table to the side of your staging area (near the timeline) where you can easily grab your props. On the table set the images 5–7 (Sin Image, Jesus is born! Image, and Jesus dies and rises again! Image) with small tape rolls on the backs of them so they are ready to be placed on the timeline.



Set the stack of images from the Half Page Extra Sin Sheet on the table so they are ready to go. You could go ahead and place small tape rolls on the backs of each Sin image as well, so they are ready to be placed on the wall. Likewise, set the small stack of six images from the Heart Cross Sheet on the table, each with a small tape roll on the back. Set a Bible on the table (bookmarked to John 3 and Colossians 1). Lastly, tape or glue the Jesus Is God Sheet to the back of the God Image that sits above your timeline. At one point you will flip it over to show that Jesus is God, so for now, attach it to the wall above the timeline using two small pieces of tape on the top corners with the God Image facing out.

**Make It Inclusive:** Consider providing an adult or peer helper to provide clarification or redirection for any kids who may have difficulty with listening comprehension or attention.

Gather kids and begin: **Imagine this line shows all of time: from the very beginning** (point to the Creation Image) **when God created the world, through thousands of years** (run your hand along the line from left to right, showing the chronological progression of time), **all the way to us today** (point to the Us Image)! **The arrow** (point to it) **shows that time isn't over yet—God has promised there is more to come, events that haven't happened yet.**

Step back and look at the timeline. **This is God's big story. It's the story of all of time. And although God is in and around and through the whole story, He's not a part of this line. Why? Because God is not limited by time. When He created the world** (point again to the Creation Image), **He created time! That's why the line starts here** (point to the beginning).

**From the beginning, God created people to follow His ways, care for His creation, and enjoy His company. From the first man and woman to the billions of people after ...** (run your hand along the timeline from the first image to the last image) **He made and knows each one. That includes you and me!** Point to the Us Image and look at the kids. **He made us, and He knows us!**

**But** (hold up the Sin Image) **starting with the first man and woman, sin and evil began to push** (forcefully place the Sin Image on the timeline, immediately to the right of the Creation Image) **their way into God's big story.** Look sadly at the Sin Image. **People disobeyed God and tried to do things their own way.**

**What exactly is sin?** As you explain, place some Extra Sin images onto the timeline, touching (but not fully covering) everything on the line—near the Creation Image, Us Image, and at random points on the line. **Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God and goes against His perfect plan. And sin swept over creation like a tidal wave, busting up everything in its path and bringing death to humanity.**

Place a row of Extra Sin Images in an arc to create a dividing wall between the God Image and the timeline (see picture for reference). **Creation got muddled, and** (step back to look at the timeline) **people were separated from God.**



**But God** (point to the God Image) **loves the world. Always. His love has the power to make all things right—to make the world new again, and us too! And nowhere is God's love seen more clearly than in a man named Jesus.** Show kids the Jesus is born! Image. Invite a volunteer to hold it and

to stand at the very middle of the timeline. **Every Christmas we celebrate and remember that more than 2,000 years ago, a man named Jesus was born. Why? Because Jesus is so much more than just a man.**

Open the Bible to John 3. **God's big story, written for us in the Bible, tells us who Jesus is. The Bible says** (read John 3:16–17): **“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”.** Look up at the kids. **Jesus is God's Son. He's the One God sent to rescue the world by defeating death and breaking the power of sin, so we can live forever as part of God's family. He's the One who loves us.** Invite the volunteer holding the Jesus is born! Image to tape it to the middle of the timeline before returning to his seat.

**But here is the most amazing thing about Jesus ... are you ready for this? Allow kids to respond. When we look at Jesus, we are looking at God** (point to the God Image) **because ... Jesus is God.** Remove the God Image and flip it to reveal the Jesus Image on the back; re-tape it in place so that it says “Jesus.”

Open the Bible to Colossians 1. **The apostle Paul, one of Jesus' first followers, writes** (read Colossians 1:15a): **“The Son is the exact likeness of God, who can't be seen.”** Look up at the kids. **Jesus shows us who God is because everything God is lives in Jesus. Because Jesus is God, nobody created Him. As Paul says,** (read Colossians 1:15b) **“The Son is first, and he is over all creation.”** Point to the Creation Image. Look at the kids. **Jesus not only made the heavens and the earth; He also keeps creation going. The rising of the sun, the changing of the seasons, the breath of life moving in and out of our lungs** (take one deep breath in and out; invite the kids to do the same)—**Jesus makes it all happen. Jesus is God.** Flip the image to make it say “God” again.

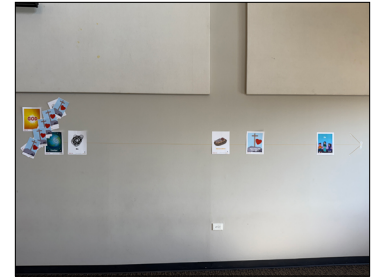
**And Jesus was also a man.** Point to the Jesus is born! Image. **It's so wonderful ... the God who created time** (make a big swooping motion, pointing from the God Image down to the Jesus is born! Image) **came and lived just like one of us: He was born as a baby, He took his first breath** (take one deep breath in and out), **and He grew up.**

**Jesus loves the world with the kind of love that gives itself away for the good of others. That's what Jesus did on the cross.** Show kids the Jesus dies and rises again! Image. Invite a volunteer to tape it to the timeline just to the right of the Jesus is born! Image. **Jesus died to break the power of sin** (take one of the Extra Sin images separating the God Image from the timeline and rip it in half) **and gather all the broken parts of creation back to God, including us.** Invite several kids up to help you rip the other Extra Sin Images in half, leaving the main Sin Image (on the timeline by the Creation Image) in place. The ripped pieces can litter the floor. Thank your volunteers and invite them to sit.

Pick up the Bible. **Paul writes** (read Colossians 1:20b): **“God made peace through Christ's blood, by his death on the cross.”** As you read the rest of this paragraph, place the five Heart Cross Images in an arc, where the wall of Extra Sin images used to be. **That means Jesus' sacrifice mended the broken relationship we had with God because of sin. Nobody has to live separated from God anymore. We can draw near to God as He draws near to us. Jesus makes us holy in God's eyes, without any flaw and free from the blame of sin** (Colossians 1:22).

**Sin brought death into the world. But Jesus defeated death when He died and then rose from the grave. “He is the first to be raised from the dead”** (Colossians 1:18b). **The first, but not the last. The**

love of Jesus means that death won't get the last word on any person. Jesus gets the last word, and for followers of Jesus, that word is *life*. **Life—abundantly, here and now** (place another Heart Cross Image onto the Us Image, partially covering it)! **And more life—forever with God** (point to the God Image above the timeline). Look at the kids. **Because of Jesus, we get to live forever with God.**



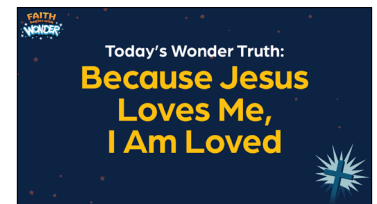
Jesus loves you. He knows you and loves you. This good news is worth holding onto and trusting in, both now and forever. It's also worth sharing! Followers of Jesus can live securely in God's love, always remembering that because Jesus loves them, they are loved.

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them 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 in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.



Through Jesus' death and resurrection, the same God who created all things defeated death and broke the power of sin. Because of Jesus, one day there will be a new heaven and a new earth. **At that time, God will fix everything that is broken by sin once and for all!**

## In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

**What did you discover about God through His big story today?** Allow time for kids to answer.

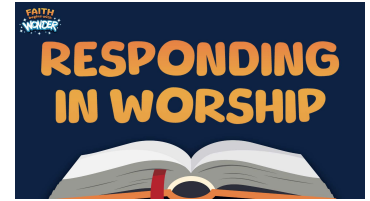
**What makes Jesus' love good news for you and me?** Invite kids to share their thoughts.

## Responding in Worship

### SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

\*\*\*Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



### WORSHIP VIDEO: I Could Sing of Your Love Forever

## Blessing Your Kids

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 draw near to God and always remember His great love for you. Always and no matter what ... because Jesus loves you, you are loved.