

LESSON 2
PEACE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

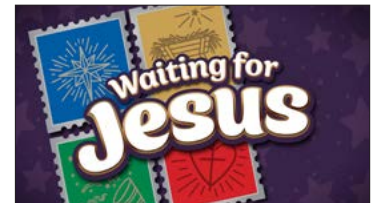
WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Our Peace**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 9; John 14**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Isaiah shares the promise that Jesus will come as a light to God's people, and this promise is fulfilled 700 years later when Jesus—the Prince of Peace—is born.**WORD OF WONDER:** Faith is being sure of what we hope for and sure of what we do not see.
—from Hebrews 11:1

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Go Tell It On The Mountain, Joy to the World
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing

[Waiting for Jesus Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



LESSON 2 **FOR LEADERS**

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Our Peace

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9; John 14

WORD OF WONDER: From Hebrews 11:1

I don't know how to manufacture peace, but I have taken notice of where I usually find it. The following list is an ode to some places where I feel peace, or the absence of anxiety, concern, conflict, or strife:

- Standing next to the ocean
- Walking through my garden
- Sitting on my porch in the morning

Where do you feel the most peace? How long does that last?

These are moments I remember feeling peace as a kid:

- Up high in a tree
- Riding my bike down a slight hill
- Swinging on a porch swing in the sun

These peaceful moments have some specific conditions. There are no other people around. Or cars. Or loud noises. Or interruptions. That means the peace I feel in these moments is temporary. Because people, cars, loud noises, and so many other peace-interrupting things are normal parts of life.

Read Isaiah 9:1–7 and John 14:25–27. Isaiah writes about a peace so powerful it can't be interrupted, and it never ends. He talks about a kingdom ruled by peace. John records Jesus' promise to give a kind of peace that can't be found anywhere else in the world. We can't make it happen, but Jesus is where peace is found. That's the crux of our Wonder Truth for this lesson: Jesus Is Our Peace.

What are some moments where you experience peace?

Have you felt that kind of peace Isaiah and John describe?

—**Matt Irvine**

Pastor and Editor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The people of Judah needed peace. They were afraid of being destroyed by surrounding nations and empires, yet they were not walking with God. The prophet Isaiah warned them of impending judgment and change through a coming leader called the Prince of Peace.

WHAT?

God promised King David that his descendant would rule as king, forever. But after a series of very bad kings, God's people waited for a heroic leader. Jesus came as a different sort of king, without political connections or visible power. His kingdom brings peace.

WHERE?

Isaiah prophesied that Galilee, a rural area north of Jerusalem and Judah, would be honored by a coming leader. Centuries later and after His ministry in Galilee, Jesus spoke to His disciples about God's peace, mere hours before He was crucified.

WHEN?

Isaiah's prophecy reminded God's people that the coming Messiah would continue the reign of David's dynasty as God had promised. About 700 years later, Jesus was born as the "son of David" who fulfills the role of an everlasting king.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

The images of walking in darkness or light are also in 1 John, which says "God is light" (1:5; emphasis added). Drawing close to God means telling the truth about our need for forgiveness and for God's Son to save us.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Our Peace

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9; John 14

WORD OF WONDER: From Hebrews 11:1

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

Leader: You may remember our friend, Tac. He's always asking questions. He has a question for you, now. Are you ready?

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! I'm kind of sleepy today ... I'm curious. I feel so tired and busy. Why do I feel like this? And how can I not feel like this?

Leader: Oh Tac, I'm sorry! This can be a busy time of year. What have you been doing lately? Have you been busy?

Tac the Cat: Well, I've been at school and church. And we had a Christmas musical and cat climbing competition. I also went to a family dinner. I had to get a gift for my family and wrap it. Then we decorated our cat house! There are so many people around, and I just feel so tired and overwhelmed! And I can't think of a present to get my dad for Christmas! So that makes my heart feel worried.

Leader: That's a lot, Tac. You are feeling a little stressed and overwhelmed. You know, God can help you feel peace.

Tac the Cat: What is peace? Is that like when two people stop fighting?

Leader: Kind of ... that's one part of peace! Peace is the calm feeling inside your heart. Peace is a deep feeling that everything will be OK, no matter what is happening around you or how busy you are.

Tac the Cat: That sounds amazing! How can God help me have peace?

Leader: If you trust in God and spend time with Him, He can give you peace deep in your heart. It may not change what's happening around you. You might still be busy. But your heart can feel calm. God can give you peace because He is peace.

Tac the Cat: He is? I think I need to pray and ask God to help me have peace!

Leader: We're going to learn about it today in our story—all about how God sent Jesus to bring peace to the world and how Jesus is our peace.

Tac the Cat: That sounds like a really important story. I want peace from Jesus!

Leader: We can all have Jesus' peace! He came to bring peace to all who trust in Him.

Tac the Cat: I'm going to spend some time with God today. But first, I'm going to go finish getting a gift for my dad and then wrap it. What should I get my dad? Kid, do you have any ideas? (Allow the kids to respond.) Those are great ideas. Thanks, kids! Maybe I'll start with a cat nap ... right now! Bye!

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What makes you feel tired, overwhelmed, or stressed—like Tac? Allow the kids to respond. **Do you feel overwhelmed this time of year? Why or why not?** Allow the kids to respond. **What can help you feel peace deep in your heart?** Allow the kids to respond. **We all hear people say things and do things that we wonder about. Did you know that God sent Jesus to bring peace to the world? We'll learn about that today.**

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS IS OUR PEACE**. Today we'll discover what it means that Jesus is our peace.

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

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.)

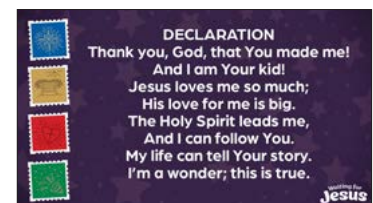
March in place like you're following the leader.

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 your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You for loving us and for sending Jesus to earth so we can have true peace. Help us hear from You today. If there is anything we're worried about, we ask Your Holy Spirit to give us calmness and fill us with peace right now. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll learn that Jesus brings peace. We can worship Him and thank Him for His peace. Let's sing and thank Him!

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Go Tell It On The Mountain, Joy to the World (Glory to the King).

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

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 reading part of God's big story from the books of Isaiah and the Gospel of John in the Bible. Isaiah is found in the Old Testament, and the Gospel of John is found in the New Testament.

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: paper, scissors (prep only), tape, paper (optional), roll of wrapping paper (optional)

RESOURCES: Timeline Images (from Lesson 1),

If you didn't already, print a set of the Timeline Images. These are the same images from Lesson 1. Cut out the people pictures. You can tape the papers together on a wall to make a long timeline. You can even add extra paper in between (where the "700 years" is on the timeline) to show a lot of time passing between Isaiah and Jesus. Another option is to use wrapping paper as the background to your timeline. Unroll the wrapping paper and tape it on a wall to make your long timeline. You will use this timeline for the first four lessons in this series and then add to it for the fifth lesson. Leave space at the end of the timeline to add on after the fourth lesson. In this lesson, you'll use images #8, 5, 9, 10, and 11 (in that order).



Choose a kid to tape the picture (or point to it if it's already there) on the timeline that says, "700 Years." **About 700 years before Jesus was born, God's people lived in the land of Judah. They did not follow God. They did not live the way God wanted. God's people were afraid of their enemies. It was like they lived in darkness.** Turn off the lights. **And God's people were afraid of the dark! They forgot that God is the light!** Turn the lights back on.

But God didn't forget His people. He never gives up. Hold up the Isaiah picture and choose a kid to put it on the timeline (or point to it if it's already there). **So, God sent a prophet named Isaiah to give them a special promise. A prophet is a person who speaks God's words to others.**

Isaiah shared this special message with God's people: "The people who are now living in darkness will see a great light. They are now living in a very dark land. But a light will shine on them" (Isaiah 9:2).

God promised that one day a light was going to shine. God would help His people. When the Light comes, people will not have to feel sad or scared. God's people would be close to Him again!

Isaiah told more about God's promise. He said, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given ... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6 NIV). Hold up the "God's Promise" picture and choose a kid to tape it onto the timeline next to Isaiah, or point to it if it's already there.

Isaiah said the promise, a light to God's people, was coming as a child. He would be the Prince of Peace. Peace is a deep feeling that everything will be OK. And His peace would never end!

The people of Judah were scared and sad, so this was great news! One day a Prince of Peace would come and rule forever!

Zoom forward about 700 years. Point to the "700 years" on the timeline. **At last, it was time for God to keep His promise. The promised child was born. He was the shining Light that Isaiah talked about. He was the Prince of Peace. And His name was Jesus.** Hold up the baby Jesus picture and invite a kid to tape the picture to the timeline.

Jesus grew up and started doing God's work. He shared God's messages. He told people the good

news of God's kingdom. Jesus told people that God is in charge. He told people that God was going to fix the parts of the world that were broken.

One day, Jesus ate a meal with His closest friends. Hold up the "Adult Jesus" picture and invite a kid to tape it to the timeline. He talked to them about peace. "I leave my peace with you," Jesus told them. "I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does ... do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

Jesus knew that after meal was over, He was going to be arrested. He was going to die on a cross. Jesus did not deserve it. It was going to hurt. It was sad. But Jesus gave His life anyway. Jesus trusted God in the hardest time. Jesus gave His friends real peace too. Invite a kid to tape the "Jesus' friends" picture to the timeline.

God gives real peace to people who follow Him. They do not need to worry because God is in control. All of God's kids can have His peace. When we follow Jesus, He gives us the same thing He gave His friends long ago. Jesus gives us the gift of His peace in our hearts. And His peace does not end. Jesus is our peace!

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 **JESUS IS OUR PEACE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God promised through Isaiah that a forever king would come as a child and be the Prince of Peace whose rule never ends. God's promises happened when Jesus, who is the forever King, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, was born.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish the activity, pray with them and thank God for being our peace.

God, thank You for sending Jesus to be the Prince of Peace. No matter what happens in our lives, we can trust in Jesus to bring peace to our hearts. Help us trust in You and celebrate You this week. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: Jesus loves you and invites you to experience Him as your Prince of Peace. Close your eyes and imagine His face as He speaks these words over you: "I leave My peace with you. I give My peace to you ... do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid." (John 14:27).