

LESSON 4  
LOVE

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

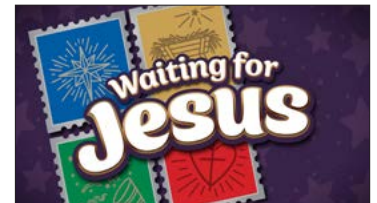
**WONDER TRUTH:** God Loved Us by Sending Jesus**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 11; John 1**GOD'S BIG STORY:** God loves His people and promised to send a Savior to rescue them. Jesus—God's Son—is the promised Savior. God sent Jesus because He loves us!**WORD OF WONDER:** Faith is being sure of what we hope for and sure of what we do not see.  
—from Hebrews 11:1

## CURIOSITY

## BELIEF

## FAITH

- Curiosity Activity: Stand Up If You Love...
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: **Go Tell It On The Mountain, Joy to the World**
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing

[Waiting for Jesus 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 Loved Us by Sending Jesus

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 11; John 1

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Hebrews 11:1

Pumpkin is a pale-orange cat who lives in our home as a beloved member of our family. Pumpkin was born a stray, and her first home was under our shed. Shortly after Pumpkin's birth, her mother left her to fend for herself. My son and daughter were very worried about the kitten and wanted to adopt her immediately. Pumpkin was shy and wouldn't let anyone near her. Most days my kids would go outside after school and drop food for Pumpkin, who would wait until they left to nibble it. My kids made toys for Pumpkin. She would play with the toys after the kids went back inside. All my kids wanted was what was best for this kitten, who couldn't decide if she could trust them or not. After a few months, Pumpkin allowed my kids to get close enough to pet her. Then one day, she walked into the middle of our whole family while we were outside and decided she was one of us.

In their consistent, patient, kind way, my kids showed me a rich picture of how God loves us. No matter what we've been through, or how lost or untrusting we might be, He gets into our world and demonstrates His love for us. This is how Jesus came into the world. Read Isaiah 11:1–2 and John 1:1–14. God loved us by sending Jesus.

*How has trust been an important part of learning God's love?*

*How have you experienced the consistent, patient, kind love of God?*

—Matt Irvine

Pastor and Editor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

God called Isaiah to preach a message of renewal. He prophesied that a “branch” growing from the root of Jesse’s family tree would restore the nation. This is a reference to King David’s line, from the tribe of Judah. Jesus is the promised Savior!

**WHAT?**

All things were created through Jesus, who is the Word. When humans disobeyed God, He continued to love them. God promised to send a Savior to rescue them so they could be with Him again. Jesus—the Word—is the promised Savior who came at Christmas and will return again.

**WHERE?**

In Isaiah 11, the prophet addresses the tribe of Judah who was living in the southern kingdom of Judah. Isaiah envisions a future when the divided kingdoms are reunited, and people will come from every nation, under the leadership of the promised Savior.

**WHEN?**

God’s rescue plan was always to send Jesus. Jesus has always existed, even before the creation of time. Isaiah sees a set of promises from God that can only be fulfilled in and through Jesus, more than 700 years after Isaiah lived.

**CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY:**

God loves us and wants to be in relationship with us, but sin separates us from Him. Jesus—who has no sin—is the only One who can pay the price for our sin so our relationship with God can be restored. God loved us by sending Jesus!

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

**LESSON AT A GLANCE**

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Loved Us by Sending Jesus

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 11; John 1

**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.

**Curiosity Activity: Stand Up If You Love ...**

Gather all the kids and tell them to sit down. **Today we're going to talk about love. What does it mean to love someone or something?** Allow the kids to respond. **You might love pizza or candy or love your parents. Those are different kinds of love! Let's do an activity where you'll stand up if you love the things I call out. After each round, everyone will sit back down. Only stand up if you love what I say.**

Say the following things, and invite the kids to stand up each time if they love what you say (or add your own ideas that are customized for your group):

- Ice cream
- Sports (name a local favorite team if you have one)
- Playing outside
- Swimming
- Animals
- Your family
- Reading
- Drawing
- Pickles
- Your stuffed animal or favorite toy
- Music or singing
- Dancing

- The color blue
- Chicken nuggets
- Sleep
- Running
- Friends

**We didn't all love the same things! We might love those things in different ways, and we might all show love differently. Did you know that there is Someone who loves us more than any of those? It's God! He showed His love for us in a big way! We'll learn about that in God's big story today.**

## Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

**RESOURCES:** Tac the Cat puppet

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

**Tac the Cat:** Hi, kids! I'm so excited because my friend is going to get me the best gift ever! It's a special cat ball that goes by itself so I can chase it.

**Leader:** Hi, Tac. That sounds awesome! It sounds like your friend really knows you and loves you.

**Tac the Cat:** That's for sure! My friend really does love me. And I love him too. What should I get him? Does anyone have any ideas?

**Leader:** I think we can help you. What does your friend like?

**Tac the Cat:** He likes cat treats ... maybe I could get him some yummy treats that he likes.

**Leader:** That's a great idea! You know, giving gifts is a nice way to show you love someone. I'm sure you care a lot about your friend.

**Tac the Cat:** Oh, yes! I do love this friend. We've been friends for our entire lives. I just want this friend to know how much I care and how thankful I am. The gift isn't the most important thing; it's how we care for each other.

**Leader:** That's right, Tac! Presents and gifts aren't the most important thing. They are one way we can show love and care for others. It reminds me of God and our story for today.

**Tac the Cat:** Did God get someone some treats too?

**Leader:** No, Tac. God sent the best gift ever to all of us to show how much He loves us. It's Jesus, and God sent Jesus to show that He loves us so much.

**Tac the Cat:** What is love? What does it mean?

**Leader:** Love is an action. Love is who God is. And sending Jesus is the greatest gift and action of love.

**Tac the Cat:** That sounds amazing! Jesus is even better than a ball that goes by itself!

**Leader:** Yes, Jesus is the best gift we could get! Even better than a ball or cat treats. We'll learn more about it in our story today. We'll learn that God loves us so much.

**Tac the Cat:** I can't wait! Now I'm going to go start looking for those cat treats for my friend and get ready to wrap them.

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: How do you show others that you love them? Allow the kids to respond. Who do you love? How do you show that person or those people you love them? Allow the kids to respond. How do you think God shows us His love for us? Today we're going to learn from God's big story that God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to earth for us.

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD LOVED US BY SENDING JESUS**. Today, we'll discover what it means that God loved us by sending Jesus.

## 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.)

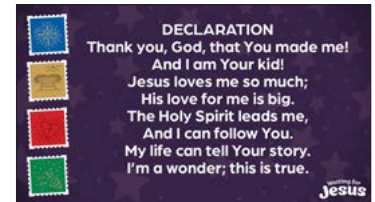
March in place like you're following the leader.

**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 showing us Your love by sending Jesus. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who loves and guides us. As we listen to Your Word today, help us experience Your amazing love for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

Today we'll learn about how God showed His love for us. Let's sing about our loving God 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

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Bible Story Picture (optional)

### 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 John in the Bible. Isaiah is in the Old Testament, and John is in the New Testament.**

**VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY**

# GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, paper, scissors (prep only), tape, paper (optional), roll of wrapping paper (optional)  
**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Timeline Images

If you didn't already, print the Timeline Images and cut out the people pictures. These are the same images from Lesson 1. 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 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 #10, 13, 14, 3, 5, 8, 9, and 15 (in that order).



**We're using a timeline to help us understand God's big story and help us see that it's one big story of God loving us. Before God created anything, Jesus was with God.** Hold up the adult Jesus picture and invite a child to tape the Jesus picture at the very beginning of the timeline near the "In the Beginning" image.. **Jesus is God. Nothing in the universe was created without Jesus. He made stars and planets, oceans and forests, animals and insects. Jesus made everything! God created humans in His own image.** Invite a child to tape the humans picture at the beginning of the timeline. **That means people are made to show what God is like. Humans were in charge of God's creation. They were close with God. But something got in the way. Humans disobeyed God. This is called sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is not what God wants. Sin messed everything up. People were not close with God anymore.**

**But God did not stop loving the people He created. God had a rescue plan to save people from sin. God planned to send a Savior named Jesus.** Point to the Jesus at the beginning. **Jesus chose to die for all sin even though He never did anything wrong. Then people could be with God again.**

**Many years went by, but God never forgot His promise. God's rescue plan included a man named Abraham.** Choose a child to tape the Abraham to the timeline. **God promised that one day the Savior would be born through a part of Abraham's family called the tribe of Judah.** Point to the tribe of Judah on the timeline or have a kid tape it to the timeline if it's not already there.

**But things were not good for the people of Judah. Their enemies were getting close. The people were scared and sad. But God was still with them. God did not forget His promise to save His people.**

**God spoke a promise to His people through a prophet named Isaiah.** Point to the Isaiah picture on the timeline or have a child tape it to the timeline if it's not already there. **Prophets are people who spoke God's words to others. God promised that the Savior would come from the family of Jesse. Jesse was from the tribe of Judah. Isaiah called the promised Savior a "Branch" that was going to grow from the root of Jesse's family tree. Even if the whole tree was cut down, this Branch could grow again. God promised that the Savior was going to fix everything that was messed up by sin.**

Point to the 700 years on the timeline. Emphasize the time in between Isaiah and the promise happening. **About 700 years after God gave these words to Isaiah, a baby was born—the many-many-great-grandson of Jesse. This baby was not like any other. He was the Branch in Judah's**

**family tree that Isaiah talked about. He was the promised Savior from God! This baby was Jesus.** Point to the Baby Jesus picture on the timeline or have a child tape it up if it's not already there.

**And in the little town called Bethlehem, Jesus came to earth as a human. Jesus was with God from the beginning. But God loved His people—He loves us—so much that He left heaven to make His home with us. Jesus is God. And Jesus came so that people could be saved and forgiven.**

**God's people had to wait for Jesus for a very, very long time. But God made a promise to save His people. God always keeps His promises. God showed His love for all people by sending Jesus that first Christmas day ... all because God loves us.** Invite a kid to tape the heart picture onto the timeline near the baby Jesus picture.

**God loved us by sending Jesus.**

## 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 GOD LOVED US BY SENDING JESUS. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**God loves us and wants to be with us, but sin separates us from Him. Sin is the wrong things we say and do. Jesus—who never sinned—is the only One who could pay the price for our sins so we can have a relationship with God. God loved us by sending Jesus!**

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish the activity, pray with them and thank God for speaking to us.

Show the kids how to fold their hands in prayer. Ask the kids to pretend like they are rocking a baby each time you say the word "baby" and make praying hands each time you say, "hope." **Let's talk to God.**

**God, thank You for sending baby (rocking baby) Jesus to earth to give us hope (praying hands). Thank You for sending baby (rocking baby) Jesus to be our hope (praying hands). 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:** God showed His love for us by sending Jesus! May God's love surround you everywhere you go. May His promises give you hope and peace. The love of God never ends; His love for you lasts forever!