

### 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

**Activity: Baby Jesus**

**Activity: Showing Love**

**Worship**

**God's Big Story**

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**Prayer and Blessing**

**Activity: Follow the Hearts**

## Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

## Activity: Baby Jesus

**SUPPLIES:** baby doll

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

**Hello! Welcome to church! Today we're going to talk about how a baby showed great love. What do you love?** Allow the kids to respond. **God sent a very special baby long ago to show us how much He loves us. Let's hold the baby doll and show loving actions.** Let the kids take turns holding the baby. Call out various loving things for them to do with the baby doll such as: give the baby a hug, rock the baby, play with the baby, play "Peek-a-boo" with the baby, sing a song to the baby, comfort the baby, hold the baby's hand.

**Who in your life loves you? How does that person show love to you?** Allow the kids to respond.

**How do you show love?** Allow the kids to respond. **We'll learn today from God's big story how God showed love for us by sending Jesus.**

## Activity: Showing Love

**Today we're talking about how God shows His love for us. Let's do different actions that show love. When I call out an action, you can find someone else and do the action I call out.**

Encourage kids to find a friend and do the following actions:

- Give a high five
- Give a pat on the back
- Shake hands
- Help someone up
- Give a fist bump
- Say something nice to someone else

**Leader Tip:** Not all kids want to be touched or close to another child. Assure them it's OK to do to the actions to a pretend friend or even a baby doll (or stuffed animal).

**That was a good way to think about different ways we show love to people. God also has ways He shows us He loves us. The greatest gift God has given us is Jesus.**

**Our Wonder Truth today is GOD LOVED US BY SENDING JESUS.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**GOD**—Point up.

**LOVED US**—Hands on heart.

**BY SENDING**—Hold your hands out in front of you, as if giving a gift.

**JESUS**—Pretend to rock a baby.

## Worship

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Waiting for Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

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

Play songs from the [Waiting for Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, paper heart (optional), baby doll (male, if possible; optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Love God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

**Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a how God showed His love for us by sending Jesus.** Encourage the kids to say, "Jesus." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened.**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

**Whenever you hear me say, "love" during the story, put your hands on your heart.** You can also hold up a paper heart or invite the kids to take turns holding it up. If you have a baby doll, put it nearby to use when you tell about baby Jesus.

**Before there was an earth or a heaven, Jesus was with God. Jesus is God. Jesus has always be there. God made the stars and planets, oceans and forests, animals and insects. He made everything! Even humans. He loved (hands on heart) everything He made.**

**But something got in the way. People did wrong things that led to people being separated from God. That's called sin. We have all made wrong choices. But God did not stop loving (hands on heart) His people, even when they sinned.**

**God had a plan to save people from sin and help us. God promised to send a Savior who would forgive people for the things they do. For a long, long, long time, people waited for the one God promised. After all that waiting, God finally sent Jesus to earth to be born. Hold up the baby doll, if you have one.**

**This baby was not like any other baby ever born. This baby was Jesus. Jesus was born a long time ago.**

**God loves (hands on heart) His people (that's us!) so much that in Jesus, God left heaven to make His home with us. God sent the gift of Jesus at Christmas to show us how much He loves (hands on heart) us.**

**God showed His love (hands on heart) for the world by sending Jesus to be born that first Christmas day. And Jesus promised to return again ... all because God loves (hands on heart) us.**

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

### WORD OF WONDER

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and sure of what we do not see.

—from Hebrews 11:1

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Waiting for Jesus series is from Hebrews 11:1. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

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

- **FAITH**—Make prayer hands.
- **IS BEING SURE**—Make a fist with one hand and put it down on your other hand (open palm).
- **OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR**—Put your fist down onto your open palm once for each word (what, hope).
- **AND SURE**—Hands on your hips.
- **OF WHAT WE DO NOT**—Hold one finger up and shake it back and forth (“No, No”).
- **SEE**.—Put your hands by your eyes like binoculars.
- **FROM HEBREWS 11:1**—Hands open like a book.

## Prayer and Blessing

**Let's pray and talk to God. God, we thank You for the gift of Jesus. Thank You that we can be forgiven for the wrong things we do. Help us always remember that Jesus loves us! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands 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 knows you and loves you more than you can imagine! May He fill you with hope today and always! And may the hope of Jesus shine in you so that others may see the love of God in you!

## Activity: Follow the Hearts

**SUPPLIES:** paper hearts (1 per kid), scissors (prep only), tape, baby doll (male, if possible; optional)

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

Ahead of time, cut paper hearts for each kid. If using the Bible Story Picture, display or print it and tape it a wall. Tape a paper heart for each kid on the floor in a path leading to a baby doll or the Bible Story Picture.

**We're going to follow the path of hearts that will lead us to the greatest gift and the best way God can ever love us. Let's walk on the hearts and see what it is!**

Invite each kid to stand on a heart. Tell them to go from heart to heart around the room until they get to the baby doll or Bible Story Picture.

**Today we learned about that God loved us by sending Jesus. What an incredible gift! Never forget—no matter what—God will always love you so much!**