



## LESSON 3

# JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Loves Us

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 10

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Jesus welcomes little children, taking them in His arms and blessing them. He teaches that His kingdom belongs to those who are like little children.

**WORD OF WONDER:** 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

## CURIOSITY

## BELIEF

## FAITH

- PRE-SERVICE:
  - Interactive Game: Action-Packed Red Light, Green Light
  - STEM Activity: Magnetic Quest
- Welcome Question: Who is one person you like to hang out with? Why do you like being with that person?
- SMALL GROUP
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Goodbye Yesterday, You Are
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Gratitude
- Blessing Your Kids



### INVITATION

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Loves Us

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 10

**WORD OF WONDER:** John 3:16–17

I remember as a kid being scared at night and wanting to go knock on my parents' door. Like many kids, I was afraid that if I bothered them, they might be upset. Funny thing is that the moment I worked up the courage to knock, I would hear these words: "Come in." My parents simply wanted me to seek them, and when I did, they were more than willing to let me in.

It's amazing to think Jesus wants us to come to Him. We are His kids, and Jesus quite simply wants us to come to Him because He loves us.

Read Mark 10:13–16 and see how Jesus takes His children in His arms and blesses them. That's the Jesus who loves you.

So don't let anybody block you or hold you back or get you thinking otherwise. Jesus loves you, and because of His love, you can hang out with Him. And because you are learning to hang out with Him, the kids in your ministry will get an opportunity to meet the wonderful God who loves them.

So today as you prepare, set aside distractions and spend time with Jesus. It's the most important thing you can do to help kids hang out with Him too!

—**Andrae Jones**

Nextgen Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

During the time of Jesus, children entered adulthood around age 12. Girls would plan for marriage, and boys would either continue studying the Torah (Jewish Scriptures) or enter into their father's trade. The children who came to Jesus would probably have been fairly young.

**WHAT?**

The disciples were likely trying to protect Jesus' time so He could teach and heal those who they deemed important. But Jesus makes it clear that people must accept the kingdom of God like little children, who realize it is a gift from God, not something that can be gained through worldly knowledge or wisdom.

**WHERE?**

Jesus was in southern Israel and across the Jordan River. He was surrounded by crowds, including some of the Pharisees, who were constantly testing Jesus because they were suspicious of His teachings. He wasn't necessarily in friendly territory—His teachings and actions were being closely watched.

**WHEN?**

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem for the final time—it is there He would eventually face His death. After welcoming the children, Jesus continued to teach about the kingdom of God and how it operates in ways opposite the world.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:**

Shortly before Jesus blessed the children in Mark 10, He took a child in His arms and taught that welcoming little children in His name is the same as welcoming Him (see Mark 9:33–37). Multiple times during His ministry, Jesus cared for children, noticing, healing, and blessing them.

### Large Group

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

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Loves Us  
**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 10  
**WORD OF WONDER:** John 3:16–17

### 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. Be extra intentional about introducing yourself to new parents and kids.

#### SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

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

## OPTION 1-- Interactive Game: Action-Packed Red Light, Green Light

**SUPPLIES:** construction paper (red and green, 1 sheet of each color)

Display the Red Light, Green Light Slide and gather the kids. Have kids stand side by side at one end of the room. Stand facing them at the opposite end. **Let's play Action-Packed Red Light, Green Light! As usual, you will move forward when you see green paper and stop when you see red paper. However, you may only move forward by doing the actions I call out.**



Stand at least 10 feet away from the kids and hold the red and green sheets behind your back. Instruct kids to move toward you when you raise the green sheet and to continue moving until you raise the red sheet. The first kid to reach you wins! Play several rounds, and at the start of each round, instruct the kids to use one of the actions listed below. Change the action each round.

Make the game more dynamic by raising the red sheet frequently in the beginning rounds, creating an exaggeratedly slow pace for the kids to move forward! In the final round, don't raise the red sheet at all, making it easy for kids to come toward you.

## Actions

Jump

Walk backward

Crawl like a bear

Waddle like a penguin

Walk on your knees

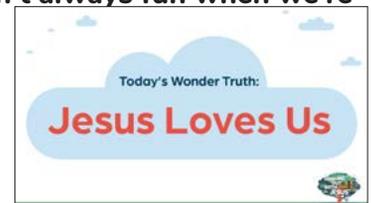
Dance like a ballerina

Walk on your heels

Choose your own movement

**Leader Tip:** Consider kids' clothing when calling out actions. For example, if there are girls in dresses, you might have kids walk on two legs like an angry grizzly bear rather than crawl.

Gather kids back together. **Wow! There are lots of ways to move, but it isn't always fun when we're told to stop. The good news is—unlike our game where we had to stop frequently—when we move toward Jesus, we never have to wait or stop. In fact, the opposite happens. Display the Children Wonder Truth Slide. When we move toward Jesus, He will move toward us. Jesus welcomes us into His arms because, like today's Wonder Truth states, JESUS LOVES US.**



**Make It Inclusive:** Invite kids with limited mobility to help you by calling out the actions for each round.

## OPTION 2-- STEM Activity: Magnetic Quest

**SUPPLIES:** magnets (1 per 2–4 kids), paper, writing utensils (1 per 2–4 kids), various magnetic objects (optional)

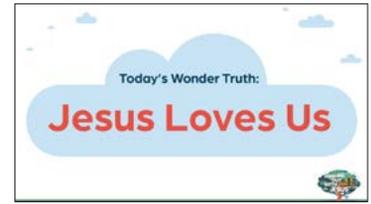
Ahead of time, gather magnets (one for every 2–4 kids). The activity works best with wand magnets or other magnets designed for science lessons, though simple kitchen magnets will also work. Kids will be using their magnets to discover as many magnetic objects in the room as they can find. Your space probably already includes multiple magnetic options, such as a whiteboard, metal doorknob/doorframe, metal table legs, etc. However, consider placing additional magnetic objects throughout the space, such as paper clips in an open container, kid-safe scissors, stapler, mic stand, keys, metal water bottle, etc.

Display the Magnetic Quest Slide and gather the kids. Help kids form groups of 2–4 and give each group a magnet, blank sheet of paper, and writing utensil. **Let's go on a Magnetic Quest to discover how many objects in this room are magnetic! As a team, your job is to find as many objects as you can that are attracted to your magnet. List each magnetic object you find on our paper, and whichever team has discovered the most magnetic objects when the countdown video hits zero, wins!** When you say, "Go," start the [2-Minute](#) or [5-Minute Countdown Video](#). (Choose the video that best fits your timeframe.)



When the countdown video hits zero, have kids put their writing utensils down and collect their magnets. Invite each group to count how many magnetic items they found and to share a couple of their favorite discoveries. Congratulate the team who found the most items!

**Wow! You all did an amazing job finding items that are magnetic! Magnets have an invisible, natural force called magnetism. Magnetism pulls on things made of certain metals, like iron or nickel. These magnetic objects are drawn toward magnets.** Display the Children Wonder Truth Slide. **Today in God's big story we'll hear about a different type of force that draws Jesus to kids just like us—His love! Today's Wonder Truth is JESUS LOVES US.**



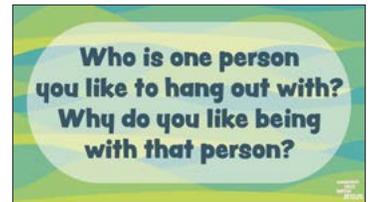
## Welcome Question

**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.

**It's fun to hang out with friends and family members! Today we'll hear a story from the Bible about a time when some kids, just like you, got to hang out with Jesus!**



## 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.

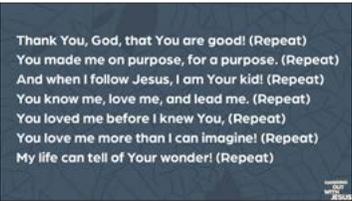
### VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

**"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

Display the Children Declaration Slide. 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.)  
**You loved me before I knew You,** (Kids repeat.)  
**You love me more than I can imagine!** (Kids repeat.)  
**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)



Thank You, God, that You are good! (Repeat)  
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Repeat)  
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Repeat)  
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Repeat)  
You loved me before I knew You, (Repeat)  
You love me more than I can imagine! (Repeat)  
My life can tell of Your wonder! (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: **God, thank You for bringing each of us here to worship You today. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to understand how much You love us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

In God's big story today, we'll hear about a time when Jesus showed His love and care for little children. Let's praise Him now for His amazing love!

**WORSHIP VIDEOS: Goodbye Yesterday, You Are**

## God's Big Story

Display the Children Title Slide. Explain to the kids that today's story comes from the New Testament, which is the second part of the Bible.

**Today we are learning about how much Jesus loves children and wants everyone to come to Him. Pay attention to how Jesus welcomes kids, blesses them, and shows that trusting God with a childlike heart is the way to His kingdom. As you watch, think about how you can trust Jesus and come close to Him too.**

**VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY**



## LESSON 3 JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

### EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

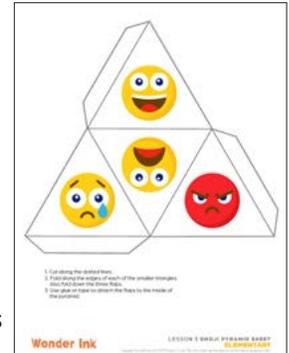
**SUPPLIES:** tape or glue, scissors (prep only) or kid-safe scissors, writing utensils (optional), drawing utensils (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Emoji Sheet \(1 per 2-3 kids\)](#)

Ahead of time, print the Emoji Sheet, cut out emojis, and prepare in ziploc baggies. For this Bible storytelling, kids will pair up in groups of 2-3 and think about what emotions different people in the passage may have felt and choose the emoji from their pyramid that matches.

Instruct SG leaders to pass out the prepared emoji bags to groups of 2-3 kids and have kids lay out the faces in front of them so they can see all at once.

Note that you will pause at various times during the storytelling for kids to discuss the story. After each question, invite kids to answer by choosing an emoji and holding it up with that face showing. Then call on a couple kids to explain why they think the people in the story felt that way.



**As you listen to today's part of God's big story, I invite you to pay attention to the people in the story and to think about how they might have been feeling. I will pause at different points to ask you questions and for you to use your Emoji Pyramids to show what emotions different people may have felt. So, listen carefully!**

Jesus' days were filled with teaching, traveling, and healing as He showed people what God's kingdom is like—that God is in charge and the broken parts of the world are being fixed. Yet Jesus always made Himself available to the people around Him. People came from all over just to see and hear Jesus.

- **How do you think the people in the crowds may have felt when they saw Jesus? Why do you think they felt that way?** Pause and have kids show their answer by selecting one of the Emojis.
- **How do you think the disciples may have felt when crowds of people followed Jesus everywhere He went? Why do you think they felt this way?** Pause and have kids show their answer by selecting one of the Emojis.

Many of the people who gathered around Jesus became His disciples, or dedicated followers, but some others didn't listen, and their hearts didn't receive the good news that Jesus offered. Some, like the religious leaders called Pharisees, didn't like that Jesus was becoming so popular among the Jews, but that didn't stop Jesus from teaching and healing.

Jesus would heal people who were deaf, blind, unable to speak, sick, and paralyzed. People would follow Him because they knew He could heal them.

- **How do you think people may have felt when Jesus healed them? Why do you think they felt this way?** Pause and have kids show their answer by selecting one of the Emojis.
- **How do you think many of the Pharisees may have felt when they saw Jesus healing people? Why do you think they felt this way?** Pause and have kids show their answer by selecting one of the Emojis.

Even when Jesus was tired, He would have compassion for the people and heal them. Jesus loved every person, even those who didn't follow Him, and there was no one Jesus couldn't heal. He did other miracles too, like feeding more than 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish, walking on water, and calming storms! It's easy to see why Jesus was becoming a very big deal.

One day as Jesus was teaching, some parents brought their children to Him so He could bless them by speaking God's love and favor over them.

- **How do you think Jesus' disciples may have felt as parents brought their children to Jesus? Why do you think they felt that way?** Pause and have kids show their answer by selecting one of the Emojis.

His disciples were irritated and told the parents to leave Jesus alone and send the children away. Jesus was a big deal, after all! How could He have time to spend with a bunch of little kids?

- **How do you think Jesus may have felt when the disciples told the parents and children to leave Jesus alone? Why do you think He felt that way?** Pause and have kids show their answer by selecting one of the Emojis.

When Jesus saw what His disciples were doing, He was angry with them. He told them, "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. God's kingdom belongs to people like them" (Mark 10:14). Jesus explained that everyone who wants to receive the kingdom of God must be like these little children, or they will never enter it.

Then Jesus took the children in His arms and blessed them.

- **How do you think the children may have felt as Jesus took them in His arms and blessed them? Why do you think they felt this way?** Pause and have kids show their answer by selecting one of the Emojis.
- **How would you have felt if you had been one of those children that day? Why?** Pause and have kids show their answer by selecting one of the Emojis.

Jesus is powerful and does amazing things! He can do even more than we can imagine. And sometimes we might begin to think that maybe Jesus is too busy or too important for us. Or maybe we think that Jesus only has time for our big problems and not the simple everyday stuff. But Jesus is always available to you and to me. He wants us to come to Him like little children. And He is always waiting with open arms ... because Jesus loves us.

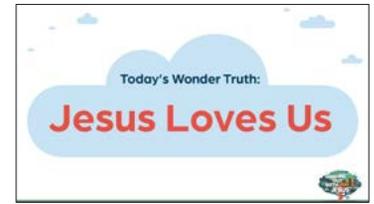
- **Jesus loves you! How does this make you feel? Why?** Pause and have kids show their answer by selecting one of the Emojis.

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Children Wonder Truth Slide.

Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS LOVES US**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

This story was not the only time when Jesus spent time with kids. Shortly before this part of God's big story, Jesus took another a child in His arms and taught His disciples that welcoming little children in His name is the same as welcoming Him (see Mark 9:33–37). Multiple times during His ministry, Jesus cared for children—He noticed, healed, and blessed them.



## In Awe of God's Wonder

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

What was your favorite thing about God's big story today? Allow kids to respond freely.

If Jesus was sitting in our group right now, what would you ask Him? Give kids time to reflect and ask their questions.

**Leader Tip:** Kids might share some difficult questions they would like to ask Jesus. Simply listen to and support kids where they are. You don't need to answer their questions. Allow space for curiosity and trust that the Holy Spirit is working through this time.

## 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: GRATITUDE

## 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 remember Jesus is always with you wherever you go. He loves you always, no matter what! May every step you take in life move you closer to Him, and may your lives show others how much Jesus loves them!