

### 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. He gave His one and only Son. —from John 3:16

**Activity: Heart Mirrors**

**Activity: Decorate a Heart**

**Worship**

**God's Big Story**

**Word of Wonder**

**Prayer and Blessing**

**Activity: Jesus Loves Me!**

**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: Heart Mirrors

**SUPPLIES:** shatter-proof handheld mirrors (3–4), dry-erase marker

Ahead of time, use a dry-erase marker to draw a big heart on the mirror so the kids can see their own faces inside the heart when they look in the mirror. As the kids arrive, greet them warmly and welcome them to church.

**Welcome! Today we're going to talk about when Jesus spent time with children and told everyone something very important! Can you see yourself in the mirror? What do you see?**

Have each kid look at her reflection in the mirror. Let them make funny faces at themselves or spot other things behind them. Ask each kid what she sees.

Point the mirror at different things or people in the room and ask the kids to shout out what they see in the mirror. If the mirror reflects a person, have the kids shout, "Jesus loves <person's name>!"

## Activity: Decorate a Heart

**SUPPLIES:** coloring utensils, stickers

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Heart Sheet (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print enough copies of the Heart Sheet for each kid to have one. Let the kids use coloring utensils or stickers to decorate the hearts.

**In God's big story today, Jesus spends time with kids. He lets everybody know that kids have a special place in His heart! Let's create a colorful heart to remind us of Jesus' love!**

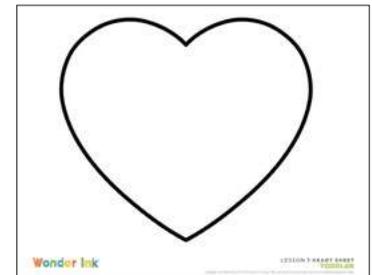
**These hearts look amazing! Let's talk more about who Jesus loves a lot ... Our Wonder Truth today is: **JESUS LOVES US**. It's us! He loves you so much. We'll learn about it today.**

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.

**JESUS**—Hands out to your sides (a cross).

**LOVES**—Hands over your hearts.

**US**—Point to yourself.



## Worship

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Hanging Out with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

**Today we'll learn about how Jesus loves us so much. Let's sing and thank Him for His love!**

Play songs from the [Hanging Out with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

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

**Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about when Jesus spent time with children. 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 use the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction of the story as it's being told.

**One day, some parents wanted to bring their children to Jesus to meet Him. Jesus was with His friends—the disciples. Can you say, “disciples”? Encourage the kids to say the word. Disciples are the people who were close with Jesus.**

**When the parents arrived with their children to meet with Jesus, the disciples told them to go away! Point to the door. They thought Jesus was too busy and wouldn't want to spend time with a bunch of little kids!**

**When Jesus heard what His disciples did, He was so upset! Throw your hands in the air, as if you're really upset. Jesus told the parents to bring their children to Him. He didn't want anyone telling them to go away!**

**He opened His arms and welcomed the children. Give a big air hug. He blessed them and told everyone He loves kids! There is a special place for kids in the kingdom of God. Kids are so important to Him.**

**Jesus loves you, and Jesus loves me! Always remember that.**

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

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

### WORD OF WONDER

God so loved the world. He gave His one and only Son.

—from John 3:16

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Hanging Out with Jesus series is from John 3:16. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

- **GOD**—Point up to God.
- **SO LOVED**—Hands on heart.
- **THE WORLD**.—Hands in a big circle over your head.
- **HE GAVE HIS ONE**—Point up with one finger.
- **AND ONLY SON**.—Hold your hands out on either side (like a cross).
- **FROM JOHN 3:16**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

## Prayer and Blessing

**Let's talk to God. While I pray, put your hands on your heart to remember how much God loves you.** Invite the kids to put their hands on their hearts.

**God, we thank You for loving us so much. Thank You for wanting to know us and spend time with us. Help us always remember how much You love us. We love You. 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:** **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!**

## Activity: Jesus Loves Me!

**SUPPLIES:** paper, scissors (prep only)

Ahead of time, cut out a paper heart and place it on the floor. Tell the kids to sit on the other side of the room and show them the heart on the floor. Take turns calling out each kid's name and encouraging them to pop up when they hear their name. When you call their name, they can go to the heart, jump or step on it, and say, "Jesus loves me!" then go back to sit down.

**Jesus cares about you so much. He cares when you're happy, sad, or upset. He blessed the children in the story today, and that means He reminded them how much He loves them. Today we learned that Jesus will always make time for kids, and He knows you're very special. Remember, Jesus loves you!**