

## LESSON 5

## THE SECOND ADVENT

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Will Return**SCRIPTURE:** John 14; 1 Thessalonians 4**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Like God's people long ago, we wait for the arrival of Jesus. However, we wait for Jesus' second coming and have the Holy Spirit with us as we wait. Jesus will return, and one day we will see Him face to face!**WORD OF WONDER:** Faith is being sure of what we hope for and sure of what we do not see.

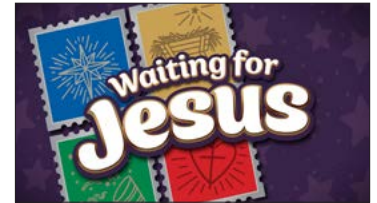
—from Hebrews 11:1

## 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**
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing

[Waiting for Jesus Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



## LESSON 5 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Will Return

**SCRIPTURE:** John 14; 1 Thessalonians 4

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

My family almost left me at an amusement park when I was a boy. A miscommunication about where I should meet my dad led to me wandering around crying. Meanwhile, my dad got all the way to the parking lot before realizing I wasn't with my mom. After my initial panic, a deep hope welled up inside me as I was looking for my family. I remembered the exact spot where my dad and I parted ways. And something told me that my dad would never really leave me, and eventually he would return to that specific spot. So, I made my way back and stood in that spot ... and waited. After what felt like days, I felt a familiar bear-paw-sized hand on my shoulder. Instant relief.

My dad loves me. He knew the way back to where I was. He would really never leave me. He came back. And when he came back, all my fear melted. Everything was alright again.

Read John 14:1–3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18. It was quite the journey to wait for Jesus to come as Messiah the first time. Now, after witnessing all that Jesus said and did, we wait again for Him.

This time we wait with the certainty that Jesus has kept every promise and is powerful over even sin and death! We wait, remembering that Jesus loves us and has held nothing back to be with us. We wait, knowing that Jesus *will* return, and when He does, everything will be alright, forever.

—Matt Irvine

Pastor and Editor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Since the very beginning, Jesus has been with God; Jesus is God! Jesus was God's answer to redeem the broken world. Jesus came as a human to show us what God is like and to die for our sins. And Jesus the King is coming back to take us to be with Him.

**WHAT?**

Jesus is preparing a place for us; He will return and take us to be with Him. This is called the second advent (or second appearance). God is with us now through the Holy Spirit, and one day, we will be with Jesus physically.

**WHERE?**

Heaven is God's dwelling space where He exercises complete authority and is in all and over all. When Jesus returns, God's people will dwell with Him in the renewed creation where all of God's people will enjoy His presence without shadow or fear (Revelation 21:22–26).

**WHEN?**

The fulfillment of God's plan is the advent of Jesus and the renewal of all things. We don't know the day or the hour, but we do know that Jesus will come down and take all His followers to be with God forever.

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

In Scripture, we see the triune God active in the creation of the world. God is three persons but still one God: Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit. We have the Holy Spirit with us as we wait for the physical return of Jesus who will take us to be with the Father.

## LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Will Return

**SCRIPTURE:** John 14; 1 Thessalonians 4

**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

For this section, you can use the cat picture provided, or a stuffed animal cat, or a cat hand puppet. Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

**Tac the Cat:** Hi, kids. I'm always curious. I have something I've been curious about ... do you want to guess what it is? It makes a loud and pretty noise!

**Leader:** Is it an animal?

**Tac the Cat:** No ... it's not alive. People use it to make a noise.

**Leader:** Is it an instrument?

**Tac the Cat:** Yes, you're right! Can you guess what kind? It's one that someone blows into to make the music.

**Leader:** A flute?

**Tac the Cat:** No, not a flute. Kids, can you think of any musical instruments that you blow into? (Allow kids to shout out answers. It's OK if the kids guess a trumpet as the answer.) Listen, I think I hear it playing now! (Play the Trumpet Sound Effect.)

**Leader:** Oh, I know—a trumpet!

**Tac the Cat:** Yes, that's what I'm curious about! A trumpet! I love the sound. Has anyone ever heard a trumpet in real life? Has anyone ever tried to play a trumpet, or have you heard a family member play one? Why are trumpets played?

**Leader:** You're right, Tac. It does make a beautiful sound. Trumpets are often used in celebrations, parades, concerts, and the beginning of a sports game or play. There is a trumpet sound that has been played for many, many years called a fanfare. A fanfare introduces important people arriving, such as a military, a special leader, or a royal person (like a king or queen).

**Tac the Cat:** Really? Trumpets are used to introduce important people who arrive?

**Leader:** Yes! In fact, it reminds me of something we're learning in God's big story today. Did you know that trumpets are in the Bible?

**Tac the Cat:** I did not know that! How interesting.

**Leader:** We'll learn in God's big story today about Jesus coming back someday and how the trumpet is one of the sounds that we will hear when Jesus returns! We'll also hear voice of angels! It will be a wonderful celebration. We'll learn about it today.

**Tac the Cat:** That sounds amazing! I love hearing great sounds for celebration! Well, I'm going to go practice playing some instruments so I can make beautiful music too.

**Leader Tip:** If you have someone in the church who plays a trumpet or a family member of one of the kids, you could ask in advance if that person would be willing to come in to play a song.

**Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think. What sound are you curious about?** Allow the kids to respond. **What instruments or style of music do you enjoy listening to?** Allow the kids to respond. **We all see and hear things that make us curious. What sounds might we hear when a king or queen or someone important is coming? What do you think we will hear to let us know Jesus is coming?** Don't rush through these questions. Give plenty of time for kids to talk and think about different sounds. You could also play various sound effects and let the kids guess each sound.

### **SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS WILL RETURN**. Today, we'll discover that someday Jesus will return to earth!

## **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 the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for showing us Your love by sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us hear and understand Your Word today as we learn about Jesus' return. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen!**

## Worship

Today we'll learn that someday, Jesus will return to earth. It will be a wonderful celebration for His followers! As we wait for Jesus, we can praise Him and celebrate Him.

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

## God's Big Story

### 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.)

Today we are learning about one of the most powerful promises Jesus ever made. He told His friends that He was going to prepare a place for them and that He would come back for them. As you watch, listen for what Jesus promises about the future and think about how that promise brings hope and courage right now.

**VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY**

# GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** white papers or wrapping paper, scissors, tape, markers

**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. In this lesson, you'll use images #9, 3, 10, 11, and 16 (in that order).



For this lesson, add white papers or wrapping paper to the end of the timeline, making it as long as you can. You can even wrap it along the entire room, to show lots of time passing between Jesus coming to earth for the first time as a baby and His return someday.

**We've been 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. The space you see here** (point to the blank space after Jesus' birth to the end of the timeline) **shows time passing after Jesus came to earth for the first time as a baby. It has been over 2,000 years since He came. But the timeline really hasn't ended because the story isn't over yet! Let's see what happens next.**

**Advent is a word you may hear around Christmastime. But what does it mean?**

**Advent means an important person is coming. Each year, we celebrate Christmas and when the most important person ever came to earth. That person is Jesus.** Point to the picture of Baby Jesus on the timeline.

**For hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God's people, the Israelites, waited for their Savior.** Point to the picture of God's people from the tribe of Judah on the timeline. **God promised to send a forever king to rescue His people. The people waited and waited. Then on that first Christmas, the wait was over. The King arrived. The promised baby was born.** Point to the picture of Baby Jesus on the timeline again. **This baby would grow up to save people from their sins—the wrong things they do. That was the first advent of Jesus: He came to earth as a baby.**

**But that isn't the end of the story. Jesus grew up.** Point to the picture of the adult Jesus. **Before Jesus left earth and went back to heaven, He promised to come back to earth one day. This will be the second advent of Jesus.**

**When Jesus told His friends He was leaving them, His friends were upset.** Point to the picture of Jesus' friends, or disciples, on the timeline. **But Jesus told them, "Don't be troubled. You trust in God; trust also in me. I am going to prepare a place for you where my Father lives. I will come back, and I will take you to be with me. Then you will be where I am" (from John 14:1–3). Jesus said that the Father's house has many rooms.**

**Jesus said He was going to come back. When He comes back, Jesus will take His friends to be with Him. When we follow Jesus, we are also His friends. And one day we will be with Jesus physically too. We will be able to see and touch Jesus!**



A Jesus-follower named Paul wrote more about the day Jesus will come back: “The Lord himself will come down from heaven. When He does, we will hear a blast from God’s trumpet ... And we will be with Him forever!” We will hear the voice of the angels. Jesus will take His people in the clouds. Hold up the picture of Jesus in the clouds and invite a child to tape it to the timeline at the end.

So now, like the Israelites waited for the promised Savior, we wait for Jesus to come back to earth. But we don’t have to wait alone. God gives His own Spirit—the Holy Spirit—to every person who follows Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit, God can be with us right now. Give a few kids some markers and invite them to draw themselves at the end of the timeline (or all the kids, if you have space on the timeline). The timeline really isn’t over because the story is still going, and we don’t know when Jesus will come back.

Waiting can be hard. Life can be hard! We might get sad or feel lonely. But we can trust God and believe His promise that Jesus will return.

When Jesus comes back in the second advent, we will have joy that the wait is over. For now, we have hope. Jesus is coming again. And when Jesus returns, we will see Him face to face. We will get to walk with Him, talk with Him, and even hug Him. Jesus is going to return, and we will be with Him forever!

## 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 WILL RETURN**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God is three persons but still one true God: Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit. We call this the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all active in creating the world. Now we have the Holy Spirit with us as we wait for the physical return of Jesus who will take us to be with the God the Father.

## Prayer and Blessing

Pray with kids and thank God for Jesus. Use your own word. Here is an example:

**God, thank You for Jesus coming to earth the first time. Thank You that He is going to come back again someday. Help us to wait patiently and with hope. Help us be ready for Him. 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. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**Blessing:** God loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth and promises Jesus will return. May you be filled with hope, for one day you will see Jesus face to face and live with Him forever!