

LESSON 2 UNITY

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Gives Us Joy

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4

GOD'S BIG STORY: While in prison, Paul writes a letter to Jesus-followers in Ephesus, urging them to put aside their differences and live in unity with the help and power of the Holy Spirit.

WORD OF WONDER: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. —Galatians 5:22–23 (ISV)

Object Lesson: Magnet Play

Activity: Same or Different?

Worship

God's Big Story

Snack

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Together and Apart

Object Lesson: Magnet Play

SUPPLIES: metal baking pan, large magnet, large metal objects that can attach to magnets (at least 5)
Place the large magnet and all objects into the baking pan. Be sure the objects you gather are big enough that they can't be swallowed.

Welcome! Have you ever played with magnets? Maybe you have some on your refrigerator at home. Invite the kids to explore what sticks to the magnet and what doesn't. **Isn't it exciting that some things stick to each other without us holding them together?** Allow the kids to respond.

Today we're going to talk about how we're part of God's family. When we are in God's family, we stick together kind of like magnets. He brings us together! We'll learn more about that today.

Let the kids play with the magnets.

Leader Tip: Supervise closely and make sure none of the magnets are small enough for the kids to put in their mouth and pose a choking hazard.

Activity: Same or Different?

SUPPLIES: toys or stuffed animals (variety of shapes and sizes)

Gather a variety of stuffed animals. Hold up one of the toys or stuffed animals and ask the kids whether it's the same or different from the others. Ask them to help you name what's the same (if anything) about it, and what's different. Repeat with other stuffed animals. If they can't name things on their own, you can help by asking about specific things and letting them answer yes or no. (for example, "This one has brown fur. Do any others have brown fur?" or "This one has a tail," etc.)

When we decide to follow Jesus, we become part of God's family. We're all His children. Are we all the same? No. We're all different. But each of us is special to Him, and we also need each other. We'll learn today how God brings us all together.

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD GIVES US JOY.

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.

GIVES US—Spread your arms out, pointing at everyone in the room with both hands.

JOY—Jump up and down waving your arms.

Worship

SUPPLIES: toy musical instruments (1 per kid)

RESOURCES: songs from the [Be Like Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we're learning that God brings us together. We'll learn in God's big story that when we follow Jesus, we're part of God's family. He loves us, and we can love others too. Let's sing a song to help us remember that we're the family of God.

Hand out instruments to the kids. Play songs from the Little Learners playlist. Invite the kids to play along to the music or dance and sing as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Gather kids to watch the God's Big Story Video, then circle up for a short review:

In today's Bible story, you will be reinforcing 4 main points from our story: God made us a family, we can love others, we can be kind, and God gives us joy.

Will you help me tell the story today?

Every time we hear the word family, point around to everyone.

Demonstrate open hand motion around the group.

Every time we hear the word love, give yourself a big hug.

Demonstrate crossing arms over chest.

Every time we hear the word kind, hold your hands out like you are sharing.

Demonstrate arms reaching outward.

Let's practice!

Family- Kids point around the group

Love - Kids hug themselves

Kind - Kids hold hands outward

Great job! Let's tell the story together.

Paul taught that everyone who follows Jesus is part of God's family. Kids point around the group

God made each person special and important.

Paul said we should show love to one another. Kids hug themselves

Paul said we should be kind and help one another. Kids hold hands outward

When we show love and are kind, we help others see Jesus

Repeat motions

God brings His family together. Kids point around the group

And being part of God’s family gives us joy.

Say this with me: God gives us joy. *God gives us joy*

Repeat all 4 again with motions

That’s right, friends! God made us a family, we can love others, we can be kind, and God gives us joy!

Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

Thank you for the world so sweet. kids repeat

Thank you for the food we eat. kids repeat

Thank you for the birds that sing. kids repeat

Thank you God for everything. kids repeat

Amen

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. —Galatians 5:22–23a (ISV)

Our Word of Wonder for the Be Like Jesus series is Galatians 5:22–23a. Let’s practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

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

- **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS**—Draw a large “S” into the air.
- **LOVE**,—Pat your hands on your heart.
- **JOY**,—Put your arms up as if celebrating.
- **PEACE**,—Place palms together by cheek and ear to indicate “sleep.”
- **PATIENCE**,—Point to a pretend watch on your wrist.
- **KINDNESS**,—Pretend to give someone a hug.
- **GOODNESS**,—Make a thumbs-up.

- **FAITHFULNESS**,—Make two fists and start with the right fist on top, hitting the left fist, then switch and pound the left fist on top of the right.
- **GENTLENESS**,—Pretend to gently rock a baby.
- **AND SELF-CONTROL**.—Point to yourself with your thumbs.
- **GALATIANS 5:22–23a**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. When I say, "together," put your hands together like this. Demonstrate to kids how to put the palms of their hands together like praying hands. **When I say, "family," you'll give yourself a hug just like your family hugs you.** Demonstrate hugging yourself.

God, thank You for loving us and bringing us together (hands together). We thank You that we're all part of Your family (hug yourself). 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 made each of us unique and special, but He brings us all together. May you always remember that God loves you just as you are, and He wants you to love others just as He does. He will love you always, no matter what.

Activity: Together and Apart

Today's story is about how we can have unity. Unity means we come together for God's purposes. We may be different, but we're all a part of God's family.

Let's play a game where we practice coming together in unity! I'll call out, "apart!" and you'll spread out across the room. Then I'll call out, "unity!" and you'll run together and stand as close to each other as you can in the middle of the room.

Call out "apart!" and "unity!" several times and encourage the toddlers to spread out and come together.

God wants us to come together in unity. God brings us together!