

LESSON 4

GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God's Love Is Faithful**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 103; 136**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Psalms 103 and 136 express deep gratitude to God for His faithful love—His compassion, grace, patience, and presence. These songs help God's people remember who God is and that His faithful love goes on forever!**WORD OF WONDER:** How God made me is amazing and wonderful. —from Psalm 139:14

- Play Stations:
 - Ring Toss
 - Praise Pictures
 - God's Love Endures Forever Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Hoops of Praise
- Word of Wonder: From Psalm 139:14
- Craft: Praise Plates
- Circle Time: Never-Ending Circle Review
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: All of Me, Be a Light
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing
- Closing Game: Hoop Toss
- Responding in Worship: Play Dough Praise





LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God's Love Is Faithful

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103; 136

WORD OF WONDER: From Psalm 139:14

With the deployment of the James Webb Space Telescope, humans have seen farther into the past than ever before. In unmatched clarity, we observe glimpses of galaxies and star clusters more ancient and numerous than our minds had grasped. The early images are simply dripping with distant galaxies, each one containing untold billions of stars, and many of these points of light show a corner of the universe so distant that it has taken longer than we can fathom for the photons to even reach our instruments.

This spectrum of radiation traversed incomprehensible reaches to meet ... us.

If alive today, the writer of Psalm 136 would observe this and say that the Lord prepared a universe of unfathomed enormity, that His faithful love continues forever.

The God who coils galaxies is not too important to love and care for people. As the psalmist also claims, God redeemed Israel from slavery and gave Israel a new story. I invite you to read Psalm 136, and perhaps you can think of how God did this for you. How has God's mighty hand and powerful arm reshaped your story? Consider finding an image of God's creation, one which leaves you awestruck, as you pray.

In my prayers, I ask, "Could the God who created a universe remain patient with me?" The created universe proclaims, "God has shown limitless patience, limitless vision, and limitless attention." "And," I ask, "will God be faithful to me in the challenges ahead?" The psalmist answers, "Always. Always. Always."

—Jason Hitchcock

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LESSON 4 **FOR LEADERS**
GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Psalm 103 is attributed to David, but Psalm 136 doesn't list an author. Yet the main "who" of both of these psalms is God—He is praised and extolled for His great works throughout these praise songs.

WHAT?

Psalms 103 and 136 spend the majority of the song poems praising God for His goodness, faithfulness, and compassion. Psalm 136 is likely a praise song with a worship leader reciting truths about God and the congregation responding with "His love endures forever!"

WHERE?

Both Psalms 103 and 136 talk about the exodus from Egypt, where God's people were enslaved by the pharaoh. God stepped in and rescued His people from their slavery, sending signs and wonders and parting the Red Sea!

WHEN?

Psalm 136 is the final psalm in the "song of ascents" or the "Great Hallel." People likely sang them as they walked up to Jerusalem during the great yearly feasts of Tabernacles, Passover, and Pentecost. These psalms would remind them of God's faithfulness.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

God is always faithful. He doesn't treat us as our sins deserve—He forgives us and keeps His promises. Long after the psalms were written, God showed His faithful love by sending Jesus. As Paul writes, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God's Love Is Faithful

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103; 136

WORD OF WONDER: From Psalm 139:14

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: rings or hoops for ring toss, something to toss the rings onto (such as cones, tall cups, or toys), whiteboards (or chalkboards), dry-erase markers (or chalk), coloring utensils, heart-shaped stickers (optional)

RESOURCES: [God's Love Endures Forever Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Ring Toss

Set up: Set out rings or hoops and something for the kids to toss them onto (such as cones, tall cups, or toys).

Play: Invite the kids to toss the rings or hoops onto the ring toss items. As they play, talk with them about how gravity always pulls the rings or hoops down when they are tossed up—we can count on it every time. This reminds us of how we can trust and count on God's love. The hoops have no beginning or end, just like God's love.

Play Station: Praise Pictures

Set up: Set out whiteboards and dry-erase markers (or chalkboards and chalk).

Play: Encourage the kids to draw pictures either of themselves praising God or the reasons they can praise God.

Play Station: God's Love Endures Forever Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print a copy of the coloring sheet for each kid and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheets over and draw hearts or put heart-shaped stickers on the back.

Curiosity Activity: Hoops of Praise

SUPPLIES: piece of rope or string (any length), large plastic hoop

Hold up the rope or string and the hoop. **Can you find the beginning and end of the string?** Allow the kids to point to the two ends of the string. **Can you find the beginning and end of the hoop?** Allow the kids to look at the hoop; prompt them to recognize that there is no beginning or end.

There is no beginning or end to this hoop! It goes on and on, which can remind us of God's love. The Bible says God's faithful love endures forever! It doesn't stop, no matter what. We can praise God because His love is faithful, and His love lasts forever. Let's play a game with this hoop to help us get curious about God's faithful love.

Let the kids take turns rolling the hoop on its side to see who can roll it the farthest. You can let them take turns rolling it to the other side of the room or holding it still for another kid to run through. Each time they roll the hoop, encourage them all to shout, "God's faithful love endures forever!"

Make It Inclusive: Some kids may not be able to roll the hoop. If they can't, you can let them take turns climbing through it or tossing it (like a frisbee) across the room. If you allow kids to toss the hoop, just make sure to designate how and where to toss it, so no one gets hurt.

This hoop reminds us that God's love never stops. God's love is faithful. We can always count on God's love! We can praise God today for His love! Today we'll learn more about how God's faithful love endures forever.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, play dough (1 lump per kid), paper (optional, 1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils (optional)

WORD OF WONDER

How God made me is amazing and wonderful.

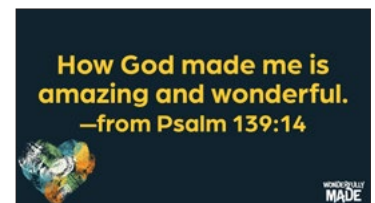
—from Psalm 139:14

Our Word of Wonder for the Wonderfully Made series is from Psalm 139:14. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together. Practice the verse with the kids.

We're learning today about God's faithful love that goes on forever. One way He shows His love is by what He created. God made the world and everything in it—including us! He loves you so much with His forever love. We're going to create a person out of play dough.

Give each kid a piece of play dough and encourage them to make a person. As they work, repeat the verse several times, inviting the kids to join you. Instead of play dough, you could also have the kids draw a picture of a person.

Let's look at our creations. Wow! Your creations are great! God made you special, just how He wanted you. God created you and everything in the world. He is strong and powerful, and He loves you.



God made you to be amazing and wonderful! God's big story today reminds us that we can praise God as Creator. We can thank Him for making us.

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

- **HOW GOD**—Point up with both hands.
- **MADE ME**—Point to yourself with two thumbs.
- **IS AMAZING**—Put one arm out to your side for each word.
- **AND WONDERFUL**—Burst both arms up and out to the sides at the same time.
- **FROM PSALM 139:14**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if holding a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What's amazing and wonderful about how God made you?**
- **Why do you think God made us?** (If kids need help, offer ideas such as: God loves us; God wants to be close with us; God is creative, kind, loving.)

Craft: Praise Plates

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), disposable plates (1 per kid), coloring utensils, glue sticks

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Forever Love Plate Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Ahead of time, make one copy per kid of the Forever Love Plate Sheet and cut out the circles on the sheets.

[Read Psalm 103:8 and 136:1–9](#)

We learned today that long ago, God took care of His people and helped them. He rescued them from danger. God never forgot them. He helped them and loved them. God led His people and kept them safe. He does that for us too. God loves u, His love is faithful. That means it never stops, and we can trust it. His faithful love endures forever—like a circle that doesn't have an end. Let's make a craft to remind us of God's enduring love.

Give each kid a disposable plate, coloring utensils, and a Forever Love Plate Sheet. Encourage them to decorate the picture and glue it onto their plate.

We're learning that God's faithful love endures forever, which means it goes on and on. This plate reminds us that God's love goes on forever.

He is faithful, and we can always count on Him! Take your praise plate home as a reminder that we can always praise God for His faithful love.



Circle Time: Never-Ending Circle Review

SUPPLIES: large plastic hoop

Gather the kids in a circle and set out a large plastic hoop.

In God's big story, we learned about how God's love goes on and on forever, which is kind of like this hoop. Does it have a beginning or end? No! It goes on and on. God's faithful love goes on forever too! Let's play a game with this hoop and talk more about God's love and how we can praise Him.

Pass the hoop around the circle by having each kid climb or jump through the hoop. Stop the hoop at various times; when you stop, the kid inside the hoop will answer a question.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What book of the Bible did we hear from today?** (*Psalms*)
- **Our story told us that God is kind. How has God been kind to you?**
- **Our story told us that God is good. How has God been good to you?**
- **How much do you think God loves you? How does this make you feel?**
- **David wrote Psalm 103 to share that God is loving and wonderful. How can you share God's wonderful love with others?**
- **Which part of creation can you praise God for making?**
- **What does it mean that God's love is faithful?** (*Faithful means we can trust and count on it.*)

When I look at you, I see wonderful masterpieces created by God. Let's thank God for all the good work He did in creating us. Let's pray and thank God for His never-ending, faithful love.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for His love. God hears all our prayers!

Declaring God's Wonder

Show the Early Childhood Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

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.*)

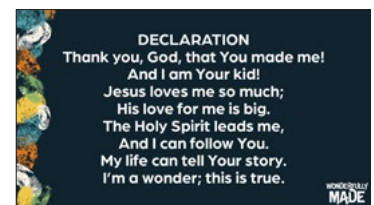
Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

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, Your love is always faithful! Thank You for that truth. Today as we seek to learn more about You, open our hearts to understand how much You love us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we're learning about how God's love is faithful and lasts forever. What a great truth to celebrate! Let's sing about the faithful love of God together.

Play songs All of Me, Be a Light and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

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.)

Let's start by reading part of God's big story from the Bible.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided. Tell them that the book of Psalms is a book of song poems in the Old Testament and is in the middle of the Bible. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction of the Bible story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), red or pink paper (several sheets)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God's Love Endures Forever God's Big Story Video](#)

Ahead of time, cut out a paper heart for each kid from red or pink paper, with one extra. Pass out a heart to each kid.

In our God's big story today, we're going to repeat a phrase about God's love. You all have a paper heart to remind you of God's faithful and enduring love. Place your heart on the ground beside you. Every time I hold up my paper heart, you can step (or hop) onto your paper heart and say this phrase with me: **His faithful love endures forever!** Remember, **faithful** means we can trust and count on it. **Endures** means it never ends. Hold up your paper heart and let the kids practice stepping (or hopping) onto their paper hearts and while they say the phrase.

The book of Psalms is in the Bible. It's full of song poems to God. Some are praises to God. They tell about who God is and all the wonderful things He has done. When we remember what God has done, we see how good and loving He is. We can thank Him! Hold up your heart. Kids respond: **His faithful love endures forever!**

The Bible reminds us what God is like: "The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love" (Psalm 103:8 NIV). The words "compassionate" and "gracious" are big words. They mean that God is kind to us, and He doesn't get angry quickly. He is full of love for us. God shows it by what He does.

A long time ago, someone wrote Psalm 136. The writer wanted to thank God for His love. God's love is faithful—and it lasts forever! God made everything—the sky, the sun, the moon, and the stars. God is strong and powerful. Hold up your heart. Kids respond: **His faithful love endures forever.**

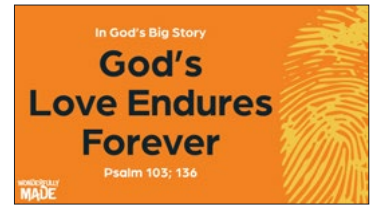
God took care of His people and helped them. He rescued them from danger. God never forgot about them. He performed miracles. **Miracles** are amazing signs that God is at work. God led His people, kept them safe, and gave them food. God's love is faithful. That means it never stops, and we can trust it. Hold up your heart. Kids respond: **His faithful love endures forever.**

God is kind, gentle, and full of love. He doesn't get mad quickly. God always keeps His promises. Hold up your heart. Kids respond: **His faithful love endures forever.**

God deserves all our thanks for everything He has done. We should say, "Thank You, God!" When we learn about God's love, we can also share that love with other people.

We can be thankful to God. He shows us who He is through the Bible and by what He did. We can know God and tell others about Him and His love. We can trust God and thank Him because His love is faithful. Hold up your heart. Kids respond: **His faithful love endures forever.**

We repeated that phrase so many times because it's very important to remember! Collect the paper hearts.



Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD'S LOVE IS FAITHFUL. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

God is always faithful. We all do wrong things called sin, but God doesn't treat us as our sins deserve—He forgives us and keeps His promises. Long after the psalms were written, God showed His faithful love by sending Jesus. As Paul writes, "Here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for His amazing love.

God, Your love is faithful. You are faithful in all ways, at all times, to all people. Help us love You with our whole hearts. Help us see You in our lives and help us reflect Your love to others. 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 loves you, and nothing can take that love away. Now and forever, feel safe in that love. Let it sink deeply into your heart and be with you every day, no matter what. God's love is faithful—forever and always.

Closing Activity: Hoop Toss

SUPPLIES: large plastic hoop, small balls

We're learning today that God's love is faithful, and we can thank Him for everything He has done. We should say, "Thank You, God!" When we learn about God's love, we can also share that love with other people.

We can be thankful to God. We can trust God and thank Him because His love is faithful. The hoop reminds us of how God's love never ends. Let's play a game with the hoop and remember God's faithful love.

Lay the large plastic hoop on the ground (or have someone hold it parallel with the floor). Let the kids stand a few feet away and toss small balls into the hoop. Each time they get one in or through the hoop, encourage them to shout, "God's faithful love endures forever!"

Remember, God's love endures forever. That means it never ends. We can celebrate God's love every day.

Responding in Worship: Play Dough Praise

SUPPLIES: play dough or air-dry clay (1 lump per kid)

Give each kid a small piece of play dough or air-dry clay.

Today we're learning that God's love is faithful. His love is patient, kind, wonderful, never-ending, and faithful! We can thank Him for His love. Listen as I read a part of the God's big story we heard earlier. As I'm reading, use your dough to make the things God created to show His love. You can be creative with the dough; it doesn't have to be perfect! Make whatever comes to your mind when you hear these words.

Pause and encourage the kids to shape their dough as you read the words of Psalm 136:3–9.

Psalm 136:3: **"Give thanks to the most powerful Lord of all. His faithful love continues forever."**

Pause to allow the kids to create something using their dough.

Psalm 136:4–5: **"Give thanks to the only one who can do great miracles. His faithful love continues forever. By his understanding he made the heavens. His faithful love continues forever."**

Pause to allow the kids to create something using their dough.

Psalm 136:6: **"He spread out the earth on the waters. His faithful love continues forever."**

Pause to allow the kids to create something using their dough.

Psalm 136:7–9: **"He made the great lights in the sky. His faithful love continues forever. He made the sun to rule over the day. His faithful love continues forever. He made the moon and stars to rule over the night. His faithful love continues forever."**

What phrase was repeated throughout this verse? Allow the kids to respond. **Great job! His faithful love continues forever. Why do you think the writer of this psalm repeated that phrase over and over?** Allow the kids to respond.

We can praise and thank God for His faithful love! Tell God, "Thank You" right now!

If using air-dry modeling clay, kids can take home the dough creations as a reminder of God's faithful love.