

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:** You created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together inside my mother's body. How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well. —Psalm 139:13–14

- PRESERVICE
 - OPTION 1 STEM Activity: What Goes Up!
 - OPTION 2 STEM Activity: Project Gravity
- Welcome Question: Who or what can you always depend on?
- Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: All of Me, This Little Light
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Responding in Worship: Reckless Love
- Blessing Your Kids



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: Psalm 139:13–14

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

Theology Editor and Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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).

LESSON 4 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group

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: Psalm 139:13–14

As kids arrive...

20 minutes before service begins, leaders are in place ready to welcome kids.

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 intentional about introducing yourself to new parents and kids.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

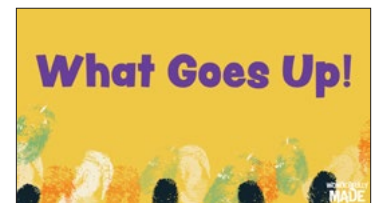
VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

OPTION 1 STEM Activity: What Goes Up!

SUPPLIES: balls of crumpled paper(1 per kid)

Display the **What Goes Up!** Slide and gather the kids. Give one clean, rolled-up sock to each kid.

If part of being faithful is always showing up and being constant, we can consider gravity faithful. Or can we? Let's do an experiment to see if gravity should be listed on our Faithfulness Wall.



Tell kids that they'll be seeing if gravity is doing its job in your room. Ask kids to spread out and then, at your direction, toss their socks in the air in a variety of ways. After each experiment, kids will pick up their socks and get ready for the next test. Ways to launch socks skyward could include throwing a sock and catching it with both hands/left hand only/right hand only, catching socks behind their backs, doing three jumping jacks before catching their socks, and tossing their socks and then catching them from a seated position.

Wrap up the game by having kids toss their socks high and catch a different sock than they tossed.

Collect all socks, gather kids, and continue. **Here, at least, gravity seems to be faithful and always constant. Gravity is a force that pulls things down. Because of gravity, what went up came down. But is there somewhere gravity can't be counted on to bring our socks back down?** Allow kids to share their ideas. Many kids may say, "outer space."

The bigger something is—like the earth—the stronger the pull of gravity. So maybe we can't count on gravity being faithful everywhere! Display the Faithful Love Wonder Truth Slide. But good news: God's love is faithful—everywhere. You can count on God's love—always! Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD'S LOVE IS FAITHFUL**.

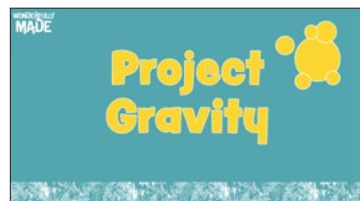


OPTION 2 STEM Activity: Project Gravity

SUPPLIES: table, ½ cup water, clear drinking glass, ½ cup rubbing alcohol, eyedropper, cooking oil, large box (optional), lab coat (optional), safety goggles (optional), surgical mask (optional)

Ahead of time, place a table at the front of your room. Set the supplies out of the kids' sight and reach. Consider placing all the supplies in a large box and storing the box on a high shelf or in a locked or supervised room. Be especially careful with the rubbing alcohol, making sure kids cannot access it.

Display the Project Gravity Slide and gather the kids around the table. Set the supplies out on the table as kids watch—it'll build a sense of anticipation! Consider putting on a lab coat and safety goggles. Prior to pouring the rubbing alcohol, consider putting on a surgical mask.



If part of being faithful is always showing up and being constant, we can consider gravity faithful. Or can we? Let's do an experiment to see if gravity should be listed on our Faithfulness Wall.

Invite kids to pay careful attention as you go through the following steps in this STEM activity. Consider inviting 1–2 kids to help with steps 1, 3, and 4. (For safety, do step 2—pouring rubbing alcohol—by yourself without kids' help.)

1. Pour the ½ cup of water into the glass.
2. Tilt the glass gently and slowly pour in the ½ cup of rubbing alcohol. (You don't want the water and alcohol to mix, so be sure not to shake the glass.)
3. Fill the eyedropper with cooking oil.
4. Place the tip of the dropper below the surface of the top alcohol layer but above the surface of the water. Squeeze out several drops of oil.

Safety Caution: Rubbing alcohol can give off fumes. Therefore, be sure not to breathe it in or allow kids to peer over the glass too closely! Consider wearing a sterile mask when handling the alcohol and don't allow kids to help with this step.

Together, watch what happens. Then ask:

- **What happened?** *(The drops of oil should form nearly perfect spheres and remain floating below the top surface of the alcohol and on top of the water.)*
- **Why do you think the drops of oil aren't falling to the bottom of the glass?** Invite kids to respond freely before you offer an explanation.

Gravity is an invisible force that pulls objects toward each other. The larger the object—like earth—the stronger gravity pulls. That's why what goes up usually comes back down! However, in the case of the drops of oil in our glass, earth's gravity doesn't have much effect on them. This is because they are surrounded by liquid molecules that are pulling on them in all directions. This causes them to stay in one place.

Gravity is pretty faithful. We can usually count on it to cause objects to fall toward the ground. But as we saw in this activity, gravity has limits! Display the Faithful Love Wonder Truth Slide. However, there is something that we can always count on—it's faithfulness has no limits.



That something is God's love! Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD'S LOVE IS FAITHFUL**.

Note: Be sure to put the rubbing alcohol away where it's out of sight and reach.

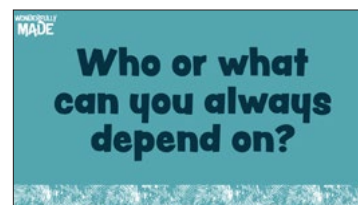
Welcome Question

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.

When a person or thing is faithful, we know we can count that person or thing every time. Today we'll discover something that certainly belongs on our Faithfulness Wall! Let's circle up for small group and read our story together!



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 Faithful Love 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.)

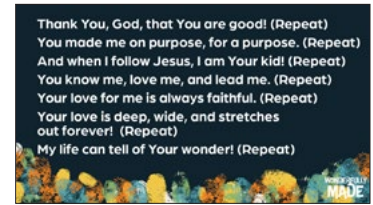
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Your love for me is always faithful. (Kids repeat.)

Your love is deep, wide, and stretches out forever! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, Your love is always faithful and welcomes us all. Today, we gladly say, "Yes!" to You! Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, draw us closer to You and help us know You better. Lead and we'll follow. Speak and we'll listen. Thank You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

God loves us with a love that never quits, never gives up, and never ends. God's love is faithful! Let's worship Him now through music.

Play *All of Me, This Little Light* and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

Display the Faithful Love Title Slide. The writers of the book of Psalms in our Bible wrote song poems praising God's faithful love.

Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll experience more of the story!



LESSON 4 GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, dry-erase marker, eraser

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Experience It! Script (1 extra copy), Theme Song Sound Effect

Make It Inclusive: Have noise-canceling headphones available for kids who are sensitive to loud music and sounds.

Ahead of time, consider asking a teen or adult volunteer to be the sound tech. Give her a copy of the Experience It! Script so she can check the sound effects and sound system before kids arrive.

Gather the kids and explain that during today's story, they'll be playing a game and competing in teams. Divide your group into two even teams. If you have an odd number of kids—that's OK! Choose a kid from each team to play Rock, Paper, Scissors. The winner gets the extra player. Have one team sit on one side of the room while the other team sits on the other side of the room. Give the teams time to come up with a team name. Alternatively, if your group is small or will respond better to a non-competitive game, invite all the kids to work together to solve the riddles as one cooperative team.

Play the Theme Song Sound Effect Slide. Hello, and welcome to God's big story! Today we're going to learn the story while playing the newest game show—Crack the Riddle. I'm your host, (say your name), and let me introduce you to the contestants! On this side, we've got the (say team's name)!

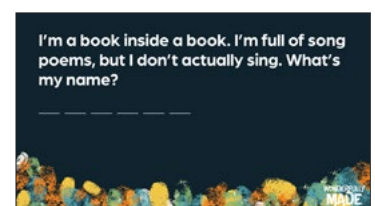
Point to the first team and encourage them to cheer. **And their opponent—the** (say opposing team's name)! Point to the second team and encourage them to cheer. **Both teams will be competing today to become the ultimate riddle solver!** Assign one team leader for each team. Be sure all the kids know who their leaders are.

The rules are simple. As I tell you a true story from the Bible, I'll give you riddles and will draw line spaces on the board for each letter of the answers. Each team will take a turn guessing a letter that may be in the word. If you guess correctly, I'll write the answer on the board, and your team gets another turn. If you guess incorrectly, the other team takes a turn. If your team is ready to crack the riddle, tell your team leader what you think the answer is, and the team leader will stand to respond during your turn. The first team leader to stand up and give the correct answer wins the round. The team that wins the most rounds is the ultimate riddle solver! Contestants, are you ready? Allow kids to respond. **Great! Let the show begin!** Fade the Theme Song Sound Effect.

The Bible is full of song poems—poems that offer praise and give thanks to God and poems that talk about God's character and all the amazing things He has done. When we remember the wondrous things that God has done, we're thankful for His goodness and see how faithful His love is. Here's the first riddle.

Draw six lines for the letters in the word *Psalms* on the whiteboard. Display the first Crack the Riddle Slide on the screen and encourage kids to read it with you. The Decision Sound Effect will play in the background

I'm a book inside a book. I'm full of song poems, but I don't actually sing. What's my name?



Allow each team to take turns guessing a letter of the word until a team guesses the word correctly. Write the correctly guessed letters on the respective lines. Once the correct answer is guessed, reveal it to the kids—*Psalm*s—and declare the winner of the round. Fade the Decision Sound Effect.

That was fun! Contestants, are you ready for round two? Allow kids to respond.

Throughout the Bible, God reminds us of these truths: “The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love” (Psalm 103:8, NIV). These truths tell us what God says about Himself and how He shows Himself to us. God is kind to us and doesn’t get angry quickly. He is full of love for us, and He shows it through the things He does. Are you ready for the second riddle? Allow kids to respond.

Draw seven lines for the letters in the word forever on the board. **Show the second Crack the Riddle Slide** the Decision Sound Effect will play in the background. on the screen and encourage kids to read it with you.

I am a time but not on a clock. My time never ends. What kind of time am I?



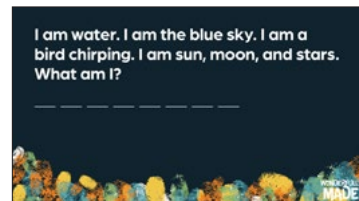
Allow each team to take turns guessing a letter of the word until a team guesses the word correctly. Write the correct letters on the lines as kids guess them. Once a team guesses the correct answer, reveal it to the kids—*forever*—and declare the winner of the round. Fade the Decision Sound Effect.

You got it! God’s faithful love goes on forever! It doesn’t end! The truth of God’s faithful love—His compassion, grace, patience, and constant presence—prompted the writer of Psalm 136 to overflow with thankfulness to God. It’s a song that talks about God’s great works and then repeats the truth that His faithful love goes on forever!

Let’s find out what the writer of Psalm 136 was thankful for. It’s time for round three!

Draw eight lines for the letters in the word creation on the board. **Show the third Crack the Riddle Slide** on the screen and encourage kids to read it with you. the Decision Sound Effect will play in the background

I am water. I am a blue sky. I am birds chirping. I am the sun, moon, and stars. What am I?



Allow each team to take turns guessing a letter of the word until a team guesses the word correctly. Write the letters on the appropriate lines as kids guess them. Once a team guesses the correct answer, reveal it to the kids—*creation*—and declare the winner of the round. Fade the Decision Sound Effect.

Say this with me: God’s faithful love goes on forever! Allow kids to respond. **God created everything. He made the heavens and the earth, and the sun, moon, and stars. God is the Creator of all things—no one else can do the things He has done. God’s creation shows that His faithful love goes on forever!**

God is good and more powerful than any other god. His faithful love goes on forever!

God did amazing things for His people. He brought plagues on the land of Egypt so that His people would be set free from slavery. He showed His great power and kept His promise to rescue His people. His faithful love goes on forever!

It's time for round four! Which team will crack the next riddle? Will it be the (say name of one team) **team?** Allow kids to respond. **Will it be the** (say name of the other team) **team?** Allow kids to respond.

Draw seven lines for the letters in the word *promise* on the board. **Show the fourth Crack the Riddle Slide** on the screen and encourage kids to read it with you. the Decision Sound Effect will play in the background

God will do it. God will keep it 100% of the time. What am I?



Allow each team to take turns guessing a letter of the word until a team guesses the word correctly. Write the correct letters on the lines as kids guess them. Once a team guesses the answer correctly, reveal it to the kids—*promise*—and declare the winner of the round. Fade the Decision Sound Effect.

Say this with me as loudly as you can: God's faithful love goes on forever! Allow kids to respond. **God always keeps His promises, every one of them, 100% of the time.**

After the great miracle at the Red Sea, God led His people through the desert. He protected them, defeating any kings who fought against them, and leading them safely to the land He had promised them. God protected His people. Say this with me: God's faithful love goes on forever! Allow kids to respond.

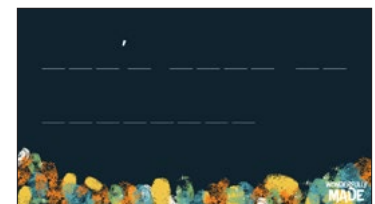
God remembered His people when they were suffering, and He stepped in to help them. He provides food for His creation. Say this with me: God's faithful love goes on forever! Allow kids to respond.

God deserves all our thankfulness. He is full of grace and compassion. He doesn't get angry quickly, and He is filled with great love for us. Say it with me again: God's faithful love goes on forever! Allow kids to respond.

We can be thankful for God's character. He shows us who He is through the Bible, through all the things He has done, and through all the ways He has loved us. As we learn about God's love, we can reflect it to others because ...

It looks like it's time for our final round, and it's a tough one! This time, there is no riddle, just the lines on the board. Are you ready?

Draw lines for the letters in the sentence *GOD'S LOVE IS FAITHFUL* on the board. **Show the fifth Crack the Riddle Slide** on the screen. Leave a space between each word. the Decision Sound Effect will play in the background



Allow each team to take turns guessing a letter of the word until a team guesses the sentence correctly. Once a team guesses the answer correctly, reveal it to the kids—*God's Love Is Faithful*—and declare the winner of the round. Fade the Decision Sound Effect. Play the Theme Song Sound Effect.

Excellent! You've cracked the most important riddle of the day! Our Wonder Truth! Say it again with me: God's Love Is Faithful. Allow kids to respond.

You've played the game well today—and now for the big announcement! The winner of Crack the Riddle is ... Encourage kids to do a drum roll by patting their legs as you announce the winner.

Thank you for playing Crack the Riddle today. I'm your host (say your name), and we hope to see you again soon! Fade the Theme Song Sound Effect.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Faithful Love Wonder Truth Slide. Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD'S LOVE IS FAITHFUL**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action 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).



In Awe of God's Wonder

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

What are some ways you've seen God's faithful love in your own life? Give kids space to think about their answers quietly before sharing.

How does it make you feel to know that God's love for you goes on forever? Allow kids to think quietly and, if they would like, share their ideas with the group.

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: [Reckless Love](#)



Blessing Your Kids

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 when hard days and long nights come. God's love is faithful—ever and always.