

LESSON 1

KNOWN, LOVED, LED

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because I am Known, Loved, and Led, My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12; Deuteronomy 6; Romans 5; 1 Corinthians 8, 15

GOD'S BIG STORY: God has always known, loved, and led His people. Though we haven't always followed faithfully, God has a plan to call us to Himself.

WORD OF WONDER: But whoever loves God is known by God. —1 Corinthians 8:3

- PRESERVICE
 - OPTION 1 STEM Activity: Blind Spot
 - OPTION 2 STEM Activity: Snap and PointWelcome
Question: Besides God and your family, who knows you best?
- Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: House of the Lord, Unstoppable God
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Great Are You Lord
- Blessing Your Kids



INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because I am Known, Loved, and Led, My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12; Deuteronomy 6; Romans 5; 1 Corinthians 8, 15

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 8:3

Uh-oh ... preparing this Wonder Ink lesson could be a challenge.

Not because it's a tough lesson to teach, but because the Wonder Truth isn't just for your kids. It's for you too.

You'll share with kids the truth that, because they're known, loved, and led, their lives can tell of God's wonder. At first glance, there's not much challenge there. Of course, you're known by God—He made you. And of course, Jesus loves you—God is love. The challenge lies in the “led” part of the lesson.

Because you're only led if you're actually following.

This week, you'll touch on a few of the many times God's people lived defiantly rather than follow God's leading, which raises the question: Where do you fit into that narrative?

Are you a fan of Jesus ... or a follower?

Following Jesus isn't a one-and-done decision. It happens hourly as you choose how to handle conflicts, complete a job, or spend a paycheck.

We point this out not to wag a finger your direction but to remind you that we're praying for you ... and your kids. We're praying your lives will declare God's wonder because you're following Jesus faithfully, sharing His love joyfully, and enjoying His presence constantly.

And we ask that you pray for us too.

We're on this journey of faith and discipleship together—and what a joy it is to travel with you.

—Mikal Keefer

Children's Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

After meeting the risen Jesus, Paul became an apostle with a special mission to Gentiles (non-Jews) (Galatians 2:9). Paul, a Pharisee skilled in the interpretation of Israel's Scripture, teaches that God welcomes all who have faith, both Jews and Gentiles alike.

WHAT?

Paul has a complex response to a social dilemma facing Gentiles: whether Christians should avoid eating meat offered to idols in pagan ceremonies. Paul agrees that idols have no real existence (1 Corinthians 8:4), but he cares about any potential for misunderstanding.

WHERE?

Paul first established the church in Corinth (modern-day Greece), and his letters show that he exchanged correspondence with them and planned future visits (1 Corinthians 5:9; 16:5–9). The church in Corinth had many problems and divisions, as it was made up of recent converts from paganism.

WHEN?

The Corinthian church was founded during Paul's missionary travels (Acts 18:1, 11). Paul probably died in Rome before AD 65, which means it's likely Paul wrote 1 Corinthians in the 50s. First Corinthians became especially well-known among Christians in the first and second centuries.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

Paul saw the many difficulties within the Corinthian church, but he hoped their faith would be a testimony of God's covenant faithfulness. We know that the same God made a covenant with Abraham, came to earth as Jesus, and leads through the Holy Spirit. The one and only God had a plan all along!

LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because I am Known, Loved, and Led, My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12; Deuteronomy 6; Romans 5; 1 Corinthians 8, 15

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 8:3

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Known Loved Led Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, [display the Known Welcome Question Slide](#) or write the following question on a whiteboard: "Besides God and your family, who knows you best?" Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

As kids arrive, greet each of them by name and with a high five. Make sure they know they're welcome and that you've looked forward to seeing them. Point them to the Welcome Question and the paper and coloring utensils. Read the question aloud to all the kids and invite them to share their answers with a partner. If kids are more comfortable, encourage them to write or draw their answers.

At your start time ...

Invite kids to sit and then ask for volunteers to share their answer to the Welcome Question. Ensure participation by recruiting a few "volunteers" as they arrive; this gets your time together off to a lively start! Your volunteers can show their art or answer the Welcome Question verbally: **Besides God and your family, who knows you best?**

Today we'll discover in God's big story that God knows us better and loves us more than anyone else in all the world!

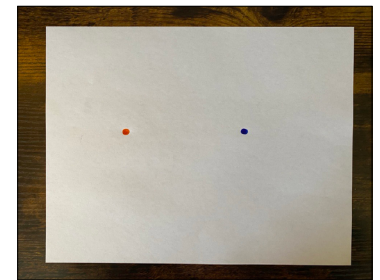
OPTION 1 STEM Activity: Blind Spot

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid plus 1), coloring utensils, rulers (1 per kid)

Leader Tip: If you have limited time or a lot of younger kids in your group who might not know how to use a ruler, prepare one sheet of paper ahead of time for each kid. On each paper, simply draw two ¼-inch dots, each in a different color, four inches apart.

Display the **Blind Spot Slide** and gather the kids. **We're going to do a little experiment, and I invite you to watch closely as I show you how it's done!** Demonstrate the following steps where kids can see them. For example, gather the kids around a table or hold up the paper so everyone can see the steps. Explain each step as you do it.

1. With a coloring utensil, like a crayon or marker, draw two, round ¼-inch dots on a blank sheet of paper, four inches apart from each other. (If possible, draw each dot in a different color.) Use a ruler to measure the size of the dots and the distance between them.
2. Hold the paper an arm's length from your face.
3. Close your right eye. Look at the dot on the right with your open left eye.
4. Slowly move the paper toward your face. Concentrate on the right dot and don't look at the one on the left.
5. Stop moving the paper when the left dot vanishes (about one foot from your face).

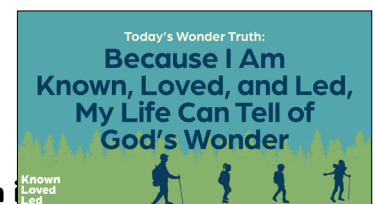


Once the kids have watched you demonstrate each step, give each kid a sheet of paper, two coloring utensils (in different colors), and a ruler. Slowly walk them through each of the five steps above. Younger kids may need help measuring the size of their dots and the distance between them and distinguishing right and left. If there are multiple leaders, invite them to circulate and help the kids with each step.

Once all of the kids have drawn their two dots and successfully completed all five steps, continue: **What happened as you moved the paper toward your face with one eye closed?** Invite kids to respond. **Yes, the left dot vanished from view! Do you know why that happened?** Encourage kids to share their best guesses. **Excellent ideas! The retina is the part of the back of your eye that helps you see. The optic nerve sends an image of what you see to your brain. There's a tiny "blind spot" where the optic nerve enters the retina. No message can travel to the brain from this little spot, so when the left dot enters your blind spot, it looks like it vanishes!**

If time allows, invite kids to pair up and stand next to their partners. One partner can back up until his partner can't see him without turning her head—at that point, he is standing in his partner's blind spot.

All of us have blind spots in life, things we don't notice or understand. But God doesn't have blind spots! He sees and understands everything. He knows us, loves us, and has good plans for us. When we follow His lead, we can walk through life with Him, and He always knows what's best for us. Display the **Known Wonder Truth Slide**. **Today's Wonder Truth** **KNOWN, LOVED, AND LED, MY LIFE CAN TELL OF GOD'S WONDER.**



OPTION 2 STEM Activity: Snap and Point

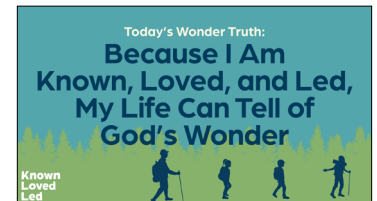
Make It Inclusive: If any kids in your group are deaf or hard of hearing, consider doing the Blind Spot STEM activity instead of Point and Snap.

Display the Snap and Point Slide and gather the kids. **We're going to do a little experiment, and I need a volunteer to help us get started!** Invite one willing kid to the front and have him sit in front of you with his eyes closed. (He can sit in a chair or on the floor.) Explain that you'll snap your fingers, and the seated kid will then need to point to where the sound is originating. Snap (or clap) near alternating ears and also in front of, over, and behind the kid's head. Then carefully snap along a line that runs directly over the kid's head, front to back, equidistant from each ear. Soon, the kid's guesses will occasionally be wildly inaccurate. Few people can accurately pinpoint the origin of a sound if it reaches both ears at precisely the same time. After watching your demonstration, invite kids to pair up and try the experiment. Snapping is difficult for some kids, so encourage them to clap if it's easier for them. Be sure each partner gets a turn snapping (or clapping) and also pointing.

Following this experiment, gather the kids and continue.

We detect the source of a sound partly by determining which ear hears the sound first. Visual clues help too. Closing our eyes and having sounds hit both our ears at the same time short-circuits some of our ability to figure out where a sound is coming from.

Sometimes when we're led by our own ideas of what's true, we're led astray. God knows us and loves us, and His plans for us are good. When we follow His lead, we can walk through life with Him, and He always knows what's best for us. Display the Known Wonder Truth slide. **Today's Wonder Truth is BECAUSE I AM KNOWN, LOVED, AND LED, MY LIFE CAN TELL OF GOD'S WONDER.**



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.

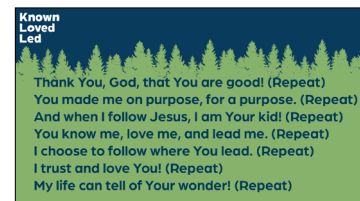
VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"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 **Known 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.)
I choose to follow where You lead. (Kids repeat.)
I trust and love You! (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, how wonderful to be known and loved by You. Through Your Holy Spirit, You're always drawing us closer to You. We're open to what You would like to show us and teach us today. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

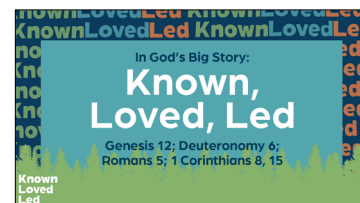
Worship

God knows you, Jesus loves you, and the Holy Spirit leads you! Let's worship Him now through music. Play songs from the [Known Loved Led Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

Display the Known Title Slide. Explain that when they read Romans through Jude, they're reading letters written to help young churches know they're known, loved, and led by God.

Today we are discovering one incredible story that stretches across the whole Bible. As you watch, think about how every part of God's plan points to Jesus and shows that you are deeply known, completely loved, and faithfully led by God.



LESSON 1 KNOWN, LOVED, LED

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: **Emoji Expressions Sheet (1 per SG)**

In this storytelling, kids will demonstrate certain scenes and emotions using only facial expressions. You can lead the story as it's written, or you can print one copy of the Emoji Expressions Sheet for each kid to use as a guide. If they're not sure how to show a particular emotion with their facial expression, they can copy one of the emoji expressions on their sheet.

Gather the kids and explain that they're now officially part of the All-Star Shoulders-Up Theater Troupe, a famous bunch of actors who do plays using only their faces. Encourage the kids to show various emotions on their faces throughout the story. As you signal kids to show various emotions on their faces, you do the same.

If using the Emoji Expressions Sheet, give one copy to each kid and explain that they can choose the emoji expression that fits each part of the story best and make their own matching facial expressions.

You're about to perform the play *Known, Loved, Led*. Your job is to make faces that show the emotions of people mentioned in the story. For instance, if someone in the story is feeling sad, you'll show me your best sad faces. Let's try that now! Pause for kids to show their best sad faces, and you do the same. If using the Emoji Expression Sheet, kids can choose the face they think looks the saddest and make that expression on their own face.

And now, show those sad, boo-hoo faces to the people around you. Pause for kids to show each other their sad faces.

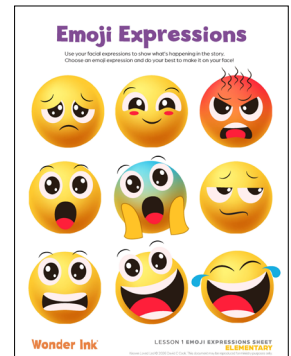
Excellent! I'll give you a thumbs-up signal when it's time to put on your best emotion faces, and we'll pause so you can show those faces to others. I know you haven't had time to rehearse, but, as they say, the show must go on!

Leader Tip: When you dive into an experience, go all in! Leading the way invites far greater participation than if you simply tell kids to do something that you won't do yourself. So have a blast and make some goofy faces!

A long time ago, many humans believed that the world was ruled by lots of gods. These humans believed that bad things in the world came from bad, angry gods. Give the thumbs-up signal to the kids and invite them to show a facial expression that represents bad things coming from bad, angry gods.

They also believed that good things in the world came from friendly gods. Give the thumbs-up signal to the kids and invite them to show a facial expression that represents good things coming from friendly gods.

These people thought they had to work hard to keep the many gods happy, so they built idols, temples, and monuments to show their devotion. Give the thumbs-up signal for kids to show a facial expression that represents people working really hard to please the gods.



But the one true God, Yahweh, created the whole world and everyone in it. All the other gods were false gods made by humans. The false gods were not the reason evil entered the world—that happened because humans rebelled against God. Humans chose to sin or disobey God. The one true God knew this would happen, and He had a plan. He spoke to a man named Abraham. Abraham didn't know a God named Yahweh, but the one true God knew Abraham. Give the thumbs-up signal for kids to show how Abraham may have felt when God spoke to him. They might look shocked or even a little scared.

First, the one true God chose a new group of people to be His own. The family of Abraham was set apart by God to bless the world. God promised that Abraham's family would carry His blessing to every other family on earth. How do you think Abraham felt when he heard God's promise? Give the thumbs-up signal for kids to demonstrate with their facial expressions.

The one true God taught Abraham's family a special prayer to help them remember this promise: "The LORD is our God. The LORD is the one and only God" (Deuteronomy 6:4b). This meant that they were not to worship any other gods.

But even Abraham's family did not follow God's words. Time and again, they fell into old habits of worshiping other gods, same as everyone else. They weren't able to keep all of God's commandments. They didn't show God to the world like they should have. Give the thumbs-up signal and invite kids to use their facial expressions to show how they think Abraham's family felt when they fell short. They may have felt sad, guilty, or even embarrassed. Some kids might want to try showing multiple emotions in one expression.

But the one true God, Yahweh, knew His people, and He knew that they were sinful. God's plan would not fail. God came down from heaven to earth in the person of Jesus. Jesus became the perfect image of God to the world. Jesus showed that God loves the world. Now how does that truth make you feel? Give the thumbs-up signal for kids to make facial expressions.

While Jesus was on earth, His closest friends were a group of twelve disciples. But at the end of this time when Jesus was unfairly arrested and sent to die, most of His friends ran away. I wonder how the disciples were feeling as they ran away ... Give the thumbs-up signal and invite kids to make facial expressions that show how the disciples might have felt. Maybe they were scared, sad, or felt guilty about running away.

But Jesus still loved His friends. He loved them enough to die for them, even while they were still choosing to sin. But Jesus' sacrifice was not just for His closest friends. Jesus' sacrifice made the way for all human sin to be erased. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, our sins can be forgiven!

How does that make you feel? Give the thumbs-up signal for kids to respond with facial expressions.

There was a surprise twist to the sacrifice though Jesus did not stay dead! The Spirit of God raised Jesus back to life! How do you think Jesus' disciples might have felt when they saw Jesus alive? Give a thumbs-up signal and invite kids to make facial expressions.

Nothing could stand in the way of what God was doing! Now Christ-followers can pray a new prayer: "But for us there is only one God. He is the Father. All things came from him, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord. He is Jesus Christ. All things came because of him, and we live because of him" (1 Corinthians 8:6). Sin and death have no more power. There is one true God, and Jesus shows exactly what God is doing.

The Spirit of God—God’s powerful, wise, and loving presence—was leading Jesus as He gave His life for everyone. And the Holy Spirit wants to lead every person into a new way of life. Give a thumbs-up signal and invite kids to use facial expressions to show how they feel about following Jesus into a new way of living. They might feel excited, nervous, or even a little scared or unsure.

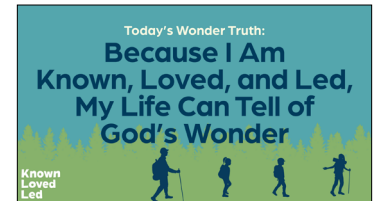
Every single person on earth was created in the image of God and has a purpose. When a person is known by God, loved by Jesus, and led by the Spirit, they are free to live as God intended. God wants each person to be transformed, so they can tell of God’s wonder to the world.

Give a thumbs-up signal, but this time, invite kids to say the Wonder Truth with you two times while making an expression on their faces that shows how it makes them feel: **Because I am known, loved, and led, my life can tell of God’s wonder.**

Applaud your actors—and invite them to leap to their feet to take a bow.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Known Wonder Truth Slide. **Our Wonder Truth today is BECAUSE I AM KNOWN, LOVED, AND LED, MY LIFE CAN TELL OF GOD’S WONDER.** Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?
Allow kids to answer freely.



The one and only God called Abraham, came to earth as Jesus, and leads through the Holy Spirit. God is three persons but still one true God. He is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And He had a plan for us all along. When we choose to follow Jesus, we’re led by His Spirit and can tell the world of His wonder!

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 Jesus-followers can tell others of God’s wonder? How can we show others what God is like? Allow time for kids to think before they respond out loud. Invite kids to share their ideas with partners before sharing with the group.

What do you think you’ve done lately that tells of God’s wonder? Again, give kids time to think first. Some may want to share their answers, and some may not—either is fine!

Leader Tip: Remind kids that the Holy Spirit helps us tell others of God’s wonder! God gives the Holy Spirit—His very presence—to every Jesus-follower. The Holy Spirit is our powerful, wise, and loving helper who is with us and lives in us when we follow Jesus.

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: [Great Are You Lord](#)

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 knows you, through and through. Jesus loves you with a love that's deep, wide, and strong. And the Holy Spirit, God's amazing presence, is with you, leading you. May God help you to follow Him joyfully, today and all your days. Go with God.