

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

- Welcome Question: Besides God and your family, who knows you best?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Wonder Wall
- Preteen Responding in Worship: The God Who Knows, Loves, and Leads
- 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**

Small 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

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

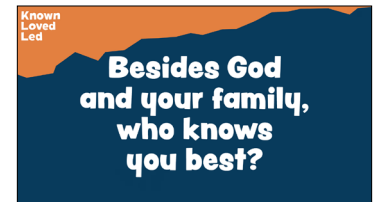
As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "**I'm curious..**" before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **Who are some people who love you?**
- **Who is someone you would follow—no questions asked and no matter what?**



Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

But whoever loves God is known by God.

— 1 Corinthians 8:3

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Our Word of Wonder for the Known, Loved, Led lesson are words a pastor and missionary named Paul wrote to Jesus-followers in Corinth who wanted to follow God but often got distracted by other things. These words remind us that the God we love knows us so well! Let's say the verse together. Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 8:3. Teach kids the following movements as you introduce 1 Corinthians 8:3 and read it several times together: When saying, "But whoever loves God," place your hands over your heart. When saying, "is known by God," stretch your hands over your head toward the sky.

It's easy to get busy in life and put aside our friendship with God as we think about other things. But when we love someone, we think about that person often. And what's true with friends is true with God.

Invite kids to stand and form a circle. Explain that they'll slowly start walking in a circle. Every time you call out something that might make people too busy to remember they love God, kids will stop and recite the verse, doing the motions. Then they'll reverse direction until you call something out again. Items you might call out include doing homework, hanging out with friends, watching TV, playing video games, cleaning the cat's litter box, eating a snack, reading a book, and riding in a car. Finish by having kids recite the verse one last time together before being seated.

Make It Inclusive: If kids in your group have limited mobility, invite kids to sit in a circle. Rather than move in circles, they can "pass a high five" around the circle, with each person giving a high five to the person to their right.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Invite kids to turn to the Table of Contents in their Bibles.

Today you'll read several passages that tell one connected story. God called Abraham, taught His people who He is, showed His love by sending Jesus, and gave us victory over sin and death through Jesus' resurrection. As you read, look for how each passage shows that God knows us, loves us, and leads us.

Read the following passages while kids listen: Genesis 12:1–2, Deuteronomy 6:4, Romans 5:8. Next, invite them to follow along in their Bibles as you read 1 Corinthians 8:6; 15:21–22, 53–57.

Elementary Questions

- **The one true God knew Abraham and made him a promise. What did God promise Abraham?** (that Abraham's family would carry God's blessing to every family on earth)
- **The one true God knows you too! What's something you want to be sure God knows about you?** (After they share, assure kids that God knows everything about them, including the thing they shared!)
- **Jesus shows us exactly what the one true God is like. What's one amazing thing Jesus has done?**
- **Following Jesus means loving and obeying Him. What's one way you follow Jesus?**
- **If you love God, why do you love Him? What is it about God that you love?**
- **What's one way you show God that you love Him?**

I love that God knows, loves, and leads us ... and that we can know and love Him too! Let's thank God for His love and ask Him to help us follow Him. Let's pray together now.

Make It Inclusive: Open-ended questions can be difficult for some kids to answer. Consider modifying the questions into yes/no format or offering two answer choices for each. For example, ask: "Did God promise to give Abraham 100 camels, or did God promise that Abraham's family would carry God's blessing to every family on earth?"

Preteen Questions

- **In Abraham's day (and ours), some people worshiped false gods called idols. Why do you think they did that? Why do you think people worship idols today?**
- **The one true God knew Abraham and made him a promise. What did God promise Abraham?** (that Abraham's family would carry God's blessing to every family on earth)
- **The one true God knows you too! What's something you want to be sure God knows about you?** (After they share, assure kids that God knows everything about them, including the thing they shared!)
- **What's a promise God has made to you? Why do you think He will—or won't—keep it?** (Invite kids to look up one or more of these verses to see some of God's promises to His people: Hebrews 13:5–6, Proverbs 3:5–6, 1 John 1:9, John 3:16, Philippians 4:6–7.)
- **As followers of Jesus, we get to love Him and do what He did! What's one thing Jesus did that you also do?**
- **How would you like your life to show God's wonder?**

Because God knows, loves, and leads you, you'll never have to tackle the tough stuff in life alone. Let's thank God for His love and ask Him to help us follow Him. Let's pray together now.

Small Group Prayer Time

Encourage kids to praise God, ask Him for help, and pray for one another. Consider starting your prayer time by having kids fill in the blank: **God, thank You for listening as we tell You _____.**

LARGE GROUP

Elementary Responding in Worship: Wonder Wall

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils, painter's tape

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: "Trinity" and "Every Step" from the [Known Loved Led Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, clear off space on a wall where you can tape kids' drawings during this activity. Kids will need to be able to reach the drawings, so be sure it isn't too high.

Distribute paper and coloring utensils to the kids. **Today in God's big story we learned that the one true God knows us, Jesus loves us, and the Holy Spirit leads us. God is one God but three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We call this the Trinity. And because we're known, loved, and led by the Triune God, we get to tell of God's amazing wonder! But how? What does living a life that reflects God's wonder look and sound like?**

As we listen to some music, I invite you to think about these questions and talk with God about them:

- How can my life tell of God's wonder?
- What does it look like to reflect God's wonder to my family? My friends? My neighbors? Kids and teachers at school?
- How is God leading me to show His love to the people around me?

Oftentimes, God speaks to His kids through creative ideas! As you think of ideas, draw them on your paper. When you're finished, we'll make a Wonder Wall by taping everyone's drawings on the wall. Play "Trinity" and "Every Step" from the [Known Loved Led Elementary Spotify playlist](#). Consider slowly rereading the three previous questions as kids work.

If kids aren't sure what to draw, offer ideas. They could draw something they can do when they're grown up, like start an orphanage in a faraway place, or something they can do in the next week, like invite a younger sibling or a new student at school to play a game with them.

After about five minutes, invite kids to bring their completed drawings to you so you can create a collage of drawings on the wall. Tape their pictures to the wall, positioning them where kids can reach them for the next part of this activity.

Once drawings have been completed and your collage created, invite kids to stand with you in front of the Wonder Wall.

When we follow God, we're worshiping Him. We're saying with our words and actions that He is worthy of our love and obedience. And we're asking Him to shine through us into the world. Please go to the wall and place one hand on a drawing that's not your own.

Once kids are in position, pray aloud: **God, only You know whether all the things on this wall will happen. You may lead us in different directions than what we're thinking about right now. But please see our hearts—we want to be known, loved, and led by You. So, whatever You've got for us in the days and years ahead, we're ready to follow. Be with us on this journey, God. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Make It Inclusive: Some kids may have physical, cognitive, or emotional differences that affect how they interact with the world. If you notice a kid struggling, offer gentle support and remind her that God's wonder shines through her in wonderful and unique ways.

Preteen Responding in Worship: The God Who Knows, Loves, and Leads

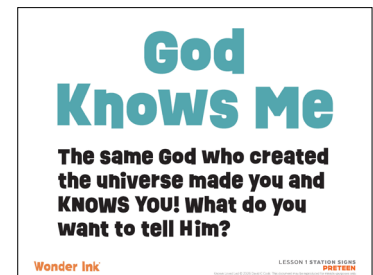
SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), bowls or containers (2), tables (3), painter's tape, coloring utensils, electric fan, flameless tea lights (several), bottled waters (several), note cards (1 per kid), writing utensils (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Station Signs; Station Slips NlrV;
Dove Picture; “Trinity” and “Every Step” from the [Known Loved Led](#)
[Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print the Station Signs, the Station Slips N1rV or N1V, and the Dove Picture. Cut the Station Slips apart and fold each slip in half. Place all the God Knows Me Slips in one bowl or container and place all the Jesus Loves Me Slips in the other bowl or container. Set up three tables. Then set up these three response stations, one at each table:

- God Knows Me Station: Tape the God Knows Me Station Sign to the table (or the wall directly above the table). Place the bowl containing the God Knows Me Slips on the table. Set out coloring utensils.
- Jesus Loves Me Station: Tape the Jesus Loves Me Station Sign to the table (or the wall directly above the table). Place the bowl containing the Jesus Loves Me Slips on the table. Set out coloring utensils.
- The Holy Spirit Leads Me Station: Tape The Holy Spirit Leads Me Station Sign to the table (or the wall directly above the table). Set the electric fan on the table, plug it in, and turn it on low. Set the flameless tea lights, bottled waters, and Dove Picture on the table. Set out coloring utensils.

Display The God Who Knows, Loves, and Leads Slide and gather the kids together. Give each kid a note card and a writing utensil.



God Knows Me Station Signs

Your heart beats about 100,000 times every day.

Every day, your red blood cells travel about 12,000 miles in your blood vessels.

If the strands of DNA inside you were uncoiled, they would stretch from the earth to the sun and back about 660 times!

Scientists estimate there are one septillion stars in the universe (that's 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000). That's more stars than grains of sand on all the earth's beaches.

Light travels at 186,000 miles per second! And God created light with His voice!

Your eyes can distinguish millions of colors!

You have about 37 trillion cells in your body!

Your brain communicates faster than any computer on earth, and it only weighs about three pounds!

The earth is the perfect distance from the sun. If it were a little closer, we'd burn! If it were a little further, we'd freeze!

Your lungs exchange over 2,000 gallons of air every day!

Your eyes send information to your brain in about 1/3 milliseconds. That's faster than a blink!

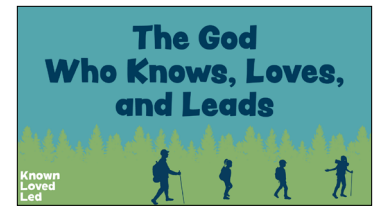
The sun gives off energy equal to one billion million bombs exploding every second.

Wander Ink

LESSON 1 STATION SLIDES NOW



Today in God's big story we learned that the one true God knows us, Jesus loves us, and the Holy Spirit leads us. God is one God but three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We call this the Trinity. And because we're known, loved, and led by the Triune God, we get to tell of God's amazing wonder!



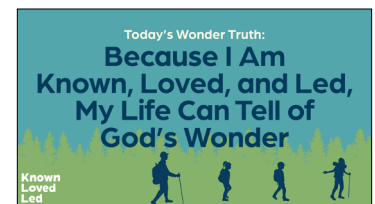
Let's spend some time now reflecting on how God knows, loves, and leads us and talking with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in prayer.

Introduce kids to the three stations. Show them the three stations and explain what they can do at each:

- **God Knows Me Station:** At this station, kids can pull three slips from the bowl and read them. They can think about the amazing truth that the God who created the universe made and knows them! They can talk with God by praying quietly or writing or drawing on their note card. When they're done, they can return the slips to the bowl.
- **Jesus Loves Me Station:** At this station, kids can pull three slips from the bowl and read them. They can imagine Jesus looking at them with love and talk with Him in prayer, silently or through writing or drawing on their note card. When they're done, they can return the slips to the bowl.
- **The Holy Spirit Leads Me Station:** The Bible mentions fire, wind, water, and a dove as word pictures to help us understand the Holy Spirit. Kids can think about how the Spirit is like each of these things and can spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help them this week. They can pray quietly or write or draw their prayers on their note card.

Next, invite kids to visit one or more of the stations. Encourage kids to only use one side of their note card at the stations. Play "Trinity" and "Every Step" from the [Known Loved Led Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids spend time reflecting and praying at the stations.

After several minutes, display the Known Wonder Truth Slide and gather the kids together. Invite them to flip their note cards to the back side and write or draw their answer to this question:



- **What's one way you want to share God's wonder this week?** Give kids time to think, write, and draw quietly. Then call on several kids who would like to share their ideas with the group.

Make It Inclusive: Invite a youth or adult leader to be present at each station. They can read the signs, prompts, and slips for struggling readers and come alongside kids who need a little extra direction or help.

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Known Blessing Slide

Display the Known Blessing Slide. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

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.

