

September 3, 2023

KNOWN, LOVED, LED

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder!**SCRIPTURE:** 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 (NirV)

CURIOSITY (PRE-SERVICE)

Three options for interactive hands-on activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

- Play Stations:
 - Wonder Shapes
 - Drawing in the Sand
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF (WORSIP & TEACHING)

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship
- God's Big Story: Known, Loved, Led
- Word of Wonder: 1 Corinthians 8:3

FAITH (APPLICATION)

An intentional interactive discussion that helps kids discover the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own.

- Craft: Known, Loved, Led Poster
- Game: Share the Wonder

IDENTITY (RESPONSE & CLOSING)

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Worship Response: Prayer and Blessing
- Closing Game: Known, Loved, Led Wonder Run

Wonder Ink

WonderTM@Home

Help families engage in the wonder of God together with a video, conversation starter, hands-on activities, and more designed just for them. WONDER@HOME (PDF)



LESSON 1 **FOR LEADERS**

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder!

SCRIPTURE: [1 Corinthians 8: 15](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [1 Corinthians 8:3](#)

Oh, 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 lay in the "led" part of the lesson.

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

Today, 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's hourly as you choose how to handle conflicts, do a job, or spend a paycheck.

We point this out not to wag a finger in your direction but to remind you: 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, 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 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 ([Gal 2:9](#)). Paul, a Pharisee skilled in the interpretation of Israel's Scripture, teaches that God welcomes Jews and Gentiles alike, welcomes all who have faith.

WHAT?

Paul has a complex response to a social dilemma for Gentiles, whether Christians should avoid eating meat offered to idols in pagan ceremonies. Paul agrees that idols have no real existence ([1 Cor 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 Cor 5:9](#); [16:5–9](#)). The congregation of 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 65 AD, which makes 1 Corinthians likely to have been composed 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!



Curiosity (PRE-SERVICE)

LESSON 1 3 & 4 Year Olds

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder!

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 8; 15

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 8:3

Play Stations (PRE-SERVICE)

SUPPLIES: play dough (a few different colors), various shapes of dough cutters, sand, baking sheet or bin, coloring utensils, towel or tarp (optional), kinetic sand (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Coloring Sheets (1 per kid)

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

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

Play Station #1: Wonder Shapes

Set-up: Set out play dough and various shapes of cutters.

Play: Encourage the kids to shape the play dough into hearts or any shape that allows them to share or see God's wonder. It may be helpful for you to share examples of things they can make, such as hearts, people, the world, various things in nature, a Bible, or a happy face.

Play Station#2: Drawing in the Sand

Set-up: Set out a baking sheet or bin with a layer of sand. To keep the mess contained, you can set out a tarp or towel under the baking sheet. Instead of regular sand, you can also use kinetic sand.

Play: Encourage kids to draw pictures in the sand to show God's wonder. There are no right or wrong responses in this activity. The kids can draw anything that makes them think of how wonderful and amazing God is!

Declaring God's Wonder (PRE-SERVICE)

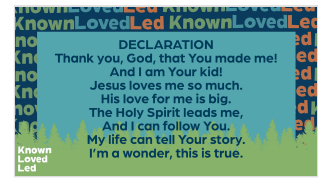
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Early Childhood Declaration [Video](#) or [Slide](#) (optional)

Show the Declaration Video or display the Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say it with you and do the motions.

Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.



And that I can be 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 the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

March 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, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Belief

LESSON 1 3 & 4 Year Olds

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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WONDER TRUTH: My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder!

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 8; 15

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 8:3

Prayer of Invitation (Do BEFORE Video/Storyteller)

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:

God, it's wonderful to be known and loved by You. Through Your Holy Spirit, You're always bringing us closer to You and shaping our lives. Help us hear from You today. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show it to the kids. Tell them today's story comes straight from the Bible and is in the Book of Psalms, which is right in the middle of the Bible. Even if kids can't read, or don't have a Bible of their own, you can open the Bible and show them where to find the story.

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 or read [1 Corinthians 8:3,6](#) from the Bible.

Watch God's Big Story (PLAY VIDEO)

Watch the Known, Loved, Led God's Big Story.



Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

Our Wonder Truth today is MY LIFE CAN TELL OF GOD'S WONDER! Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

We know that the same God who called Abraham came to earth as Jesus, and also leads us through the Holy Spirit. God is three persons, but the one and only God had a plan for us all along. When we choose to follow Jesus, we are led by His Spirit and can tell the world of His wonder!

Word of Wonder (Memory Verse)

SUPPLIES: Bible, floor tape (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Word of Wonder Jump Sheet](#) (1 set per group); [Known, Loved, Led Word of Wonder Slide](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, print the Word of Wonder Jump Sheets, one copy per small group of kids.



WORD OF WONDER

But whoever loves God is known by God.

—from [1 Corinthians 8:3](#)

Our verse reminds us we're known by God. That means we belong. You're made in His image, as His child. God knows me. Jesus loves me. The Holy Spirit leads me. God's amazing story changes my own. My story can show what God is like and how He is working in my life. When I choose to join God's amazing story, my story changes. I get to follow Jesus and listen to His Spirit. Because of God's story, I get to know who I truly am and who I was made to be—a wonder-filled example of God to the world.

Leader Tip: It's great when kids know the words of a passage— but it's far more important for them to understand the meaning. Debriefing with questions is one way to ensure understanding; don't skimp on the time you spend with questions!



Set out one set of sheets for each small group of kids. Lay them on the floor in order, close enough for kids to jump from one paper to another. If your floor is slippery, tape the papers to the floor using floor tape. Encourage the kids to take turns jumping from paper to paper as you all say the verse together, saying one word at a time as a kid lands on each paper.

God is Creator of all. God is good, and He created us in His own image. We are known by God. Remember, He made you on purpose for a purpose, and He wants a relationship with you.

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

- **BUT WHOEVER**—*Spread one arm out in front of you, palm up, toward others in the room.*
- **LOVES**—*Put your hands over your heart.*
- **GOD**—*Point up.*
- **IS KNOWN**—*Point to your head.*
- **BY GOD.**—*Point up.*
- **1 CORINTHIANS 8:3**—*Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What's something you want to be sure God knows about you?**
- **If you love God, why? What is it about God that you love?**



Faith

LESSON 1 3 & 4 Year Olds

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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WONDER TRUTH: My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder!

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 8; 15

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 8:3

Craft: Known, Loved, Led Poster

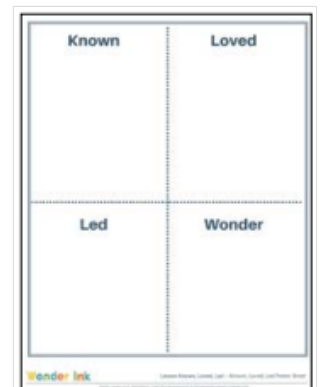
SUPPLIES: coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Known, Loved, Led Poster Sheets](#) (1 per kid); "Who You Say I Am" from the [Known, Led, Loved Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Before kids arrive, print the Known, Loved, Led Poster Sheets (one for each kid). Set out coloring utensils. Encourage the kids to draw in each box according to the prompt. As they draw, play the song "Who You Say I Am" from the [Known, Led, Loved Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#).

In the boxes, tell the kids to draw ...

- **Known:** something God knows about you
- **Loved:** a way Jesus shows His love for you
- **Led:** a way the Holy Spirit has led you
- **Wonder:** a way your life can show God's wonder



Because God knows you, Jesus loves you, and the Holy Spirit leads you, you get to be a wonder-filled reflection of God to the world. The Bible tells us we are fearfully and wonderfully made, knit together by a loving God who knows all about us and loves every inch of us. He delights in us, and we can celebrate His wonder!

I get to be part of God's story, and my life tells of God's wonder. Take your pictures home as a reminder that you are known, led, and loved, and your life can tell of God's wonder!

Game: Share the Wonder

Let's play a game to help us think about how we can share God's wonder through our lives! What do you think it means to help others to know Jesus too? Allow the kids to respond. **When you are led by the Holy Spirit, He can lead you to share His story with others so they can know about God. Is it**

easy for you to follow? Is it easy for you to lead others? Allow the kids to respond. **Let's practice leading, following, and sharing in this game.**

Have the kids form two lines and stand together on one side of the room. Whisper instructions to the first kid in each line and encourage that kid to follow the directions without talking. The next kid in line will follow the directions of the first child without hearing the specific instructions—the child will only know what to do by watching and following the example of the first child. Each child in line will do the same. To make it harder, have all the kids close their eyes or turn their backs except the next child in line.

Use the following directions, or make up your own:

- **Crawl to the other end of the room and back.**
- **Walk with a toy on your head to the other end of the room and back.**
- **Pretend to build a tower with invisible bricks.**
- **Pretend to drive a race car in a race around the room and end back at your line.**
- **Pretend you're walking at the zoo looking at animals.**
- **Do the Hokey Pokey in the middle of the room.**

At the end, the first child can act out the original instructions while all the kids watch. **While it may have been hard to lead or follow in this game, God gives us help as we follow Him each day! When we follow God, He gives us the Holy Spirit to lead us. As we are led by the Spirit, we can share God's story with others. You get to be a part of God's story and tell of His wonder!**

Let's play the game again! But this time, when it's your turn to follow directions, think of one way your life can share God's wonder, and act it out!



Identity

LESSON 1 3 & 4 Year Olds

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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WONDER TRUTH: My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder!

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Prayer and Blessing

Ask kids to look at the wall and join you in saying the Word of Wonder aloud—while joining in on the motions. Remind kids that they're known, loved, and led by God, and they can know and love God as well.

Let's pray and talk to God and thank Him for how He knows us, loves us, and leads us.

God, thank You for Your great love for us. Thank You for knowing us and giving us the Holy Spirit to lead us. Lead us to become more like You and share Your wonder every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were 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. He loves you with a love that's deep, wide, and strong—stronger than life itself. May God help you always follow Him joyfully, today and all your days. Go with God and let your life share His wonder with the world.

Closing Activity: Known, Loved, Led Wonder Run

SUPPLIES: painter's tape

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Wonder Wall Sheets](#) (1 set)

Print the Wonder Wall Sheets and tape one sheet to each wall in your room. Read the statements to the kids and encourage them to run to the wall that best fits with each statement.



We've been learning we are known by God, loved by Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, and that our lives can tell of God's wonder. Let's think about what those things mean in our lives today. Listen as I read a statement and run to the wall you think the statement goes with: known, loved, led, or wonder.

The focus is less on getting a “right” answer than on helping the kids be curious and explore how they are known, led, loved, and how they can share God’s wonder. Encourage discussion and sharing as they are playing the game.

Point to each wall and the sign on it and tell the kids what word each wall represents.

Read the bulleted statements, either in the order they’re listed, or in a varied order, and encourage the kids to run to the wall they feel each statement best fits.

KNOWN

- **God knows everything about me.**
- **God made me in His image.**
- **I belong in God’s family**

LED

- **The Holy Spirit helps me do the right thing.**
- **The Holy Spirit gives me wisdom.**
- **The Holy Spirit helps me become more like Jesus.**

LOVED

- **Jesus died on the cross because He loves me.**
- **Jesus forgives my sins.**
- **I am loved by Jesus.**

WONDER

- **My life can tell others about God.**
- **I can be a part of God’s story and share His wonder with the world.**