



Week 4    2's 3's    9:45

## INVITATION

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

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Love Comes from God

**SCRIPTURE:** [1 John 4](#)

**WORD OF WONDER:** [Matthew 22:37](#)

Several years ago, I purchased a mantel-sized display of [1 John 4:19](#): “We love because he first loved us” (NIV). One evening I was admiring my lovely sign when a fight broke out in my home. As I intervened, this verse was fresh in my mind.

Read [1 John 4:7–21](#).

God loved us first. Incredible, right? While we were still sinners, He loved us. The more of God’s love we accept, the more He changes our hearts so we can love others with Christlike love, whether we’re kids arguing over the remote or leaders in a team meeting.

Imagine my heart as a cup full of sewage. When I get jostled by a fight over video games or a rude child, what spills over? You guessed it: sewage. But as I allow God’s love to pour like crystal clear water into my heart, it slowly displaces the sewage, creating a cleaner heart inside me. The next time I get jostled, this crystal-clear love from God overflows into a love for others. I can love God and others because of the love that comes from God.

As you prepare to lead the kids in your group, you may be thinking of a few kids who jostle you the wrong way. Invite God to fill you with His love so you can demonstrate His amazing love to every kid, even when you’re jostled.

—Christie Thomas

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## Object Lesson: Play Dough Impressions

**SUPPLIES:** play dough, seashells, dry stamps, small age-appropriate toys

Set out play dough, seashells, stamps, and toys. Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

**Welcome! I am so glad you're here! Today we're going to hear about how God's love can change us. His love makes an impression on us! Let's use this play dough to see what else we can make impressions of—seashells, stamps, toys, even your own fingers!**

Encourage kids to press different objects into the play dough and see what impression is left behind.

**Leader Tip:** Watch closely to make sure toddlers don't put the dough in their mouths.

## Activity: Sort the Hearts

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), pencil (prep only), construction paper (different colors), buckets (1 per color of construction paper, optional)

Ahead of time, draw hearts on different colors of construction paper and cut out the hearts. Mix up the colors. You can line up buckets for kids to sort the hearts into.

**Today we're learning all about love—where love comes from, how God loves us, and how we can love each other! When you see a heart, you can think about love. We have a lot of hearts here in different colors. Let's see if we can sort these hearts by their colors!**

Encourage toddlers to sort the hearts by their color, either into piles or buckets.

**Make It Inclusive!** Some kids may have visual impairments or color blindness, or they may not know their colors yet. Instead of sorting by colors, you can cut out different-sized hearts and let the kids sort by size instead.

**We're playing with hearts to remind us about love. Did you know that God is love? We'll learn about that today in our story!**

**Our Wonder Truth today is LOVE COMES FROM GOD.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**LOVE**—*Put both hands over your heart.*

**COMES FROM**—*Bring both palms forward, then move them outward from your body.*

**GOD**—*Point up.*

## Worship

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Rooted Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

We'll learn in God's big story how God is love and love comes from God! Let's worship and thank God for His love!

Play songs from the [Rooted Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scissors (prep only), construction paper, flashlight

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [God's Big Story Video](#)

**Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about God.** Encourage the kids to say, "God." Let's find out from the Bible about where love comes from!

Show the kids the [God's Big Story Video](#) or read the story from the Bible or use the Script provided.

Ahead of time, cut out one heart shape from the construction paper. Keep the flashlight nearby. Invite the kids to sit together.

**In our story today, we will hear the word *love* a lot! Whenever you hear the word *love*, you can place your hand on your heart. Let's practice. Are you ready? I'll say, *love*, and you place your hand on your heart.** Give kids time to place their hands on their hearts. **Great job!**

**The Bible says in [1 John](#) that we can *love* (hands on hearts) each other because *love* (hands on hearts) comes from God. God's *love* (hands on hearts) is special. God's *love* (hands on hearts) cares about all people. God *loves* even people who make wrong choices. God's *love* (hands on hearts) changes us and makes us like Him. When we are children of God, we can *love* (hands on hearts) people the way God *loves* (hands on hearts) them.**

**Loving is who God is. God's *love* (hands on hearts) doesn't turn off and on like a flashlight.** Hold up the flashlight and turn it on and off. Allow kids to pass the flashlight around and turn it on and off. **How do we know God *loves* (hands on hearts) us? We know because God sent Jesus so we can live forever. Jesus made the way for us to be part of God's forever family. When we *love* (hands on hearts) like God, we know that God lives in us.**

**When we follow God, we can *love* (hands on hearts) others with His *love* (hands on hearts). When we *love* (hands on hearts) like Jesus, we show God's *love* (hands on hearts). The Bible says, "*We love* (hands on hearts) because he *loved* (hands on hearts) us first" ([1 John 4:19](#)). Because God *loved* (hands on hearts) us, we *love* (hands on hearts) others. Our *love* (hands on hearts) for God turns into *love* (hands on hearts) for others. *Love* (hands on hearts) comes from God.**

## Prayer and Blessing

**Let's talk to God. Father God, thank You for Your love that changes us to be like You. You always love us! Thank You most of all for loving us by sending Your Son, Jesus. Help us tell others about You and help us love them like You do too. 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:** May you experience God's love today. May God's love grow, change, and encourage you. May you show His love to others.

### Activity: Pass It Along

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), construction paper (1 sheet), ball, apple, funny toy (i.e., rubber chicken), construction paper, pencil, opaque bag

Ahead of time, cut a heart out of the construction paper. Place all the objects into the opaque bag. Gather the kids around you.

**Let's play a game called Pass It Along. I'm going to pull out an object from the bag and hand it to one person. When you get the object, feel it and pass it along! Let's play!**

Take one object out of your bag at a time. Encourage toddlers to keep passing the objects to one another after they have explored each one.

**All of these objects came from the bag. The bag was the source! We just learned that love comes from God! Kind of like the bag was the source for our objects, God is the source of love! How awesome to know that love comes from God!**

