



Week 1 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: God Wants Us to Worship with Our Whole Lives

SCRIPTURE: [Deuteronomy 6](#)

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

Singing, shouting, raising hands, kneeling ... these were some of my favorite ways to express my love for God when I began leading worship as a teen. But I was often frustrated when students stood apathetically during services that I led. Later, as an adjunct professor for a worship leader class at a Christian university, I observed that college worship leaders felt similarly about the engagement of their peers during chapel worship times.

I shared with my college students what I wish I'd known years ago: We can't force an expression. Instead of focusing only on the physical response, we must become worshipers who respond from our whole selves, being formed by the work and presence of God.

Read [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#).

We're called to love not just with actions but with our whole selves. Verse 6 speaks of God's ways being in our hearts, and verse 7 goes on to say, "Impress them on your children" (NIV). This means our role isn't just to guide children to action but to lead them to be shaped in a way that their actions flow from a worshipful heart formed by the love of God.

When have you entered into worship and responded to God with your whole self? What has helped you to have God's ways written on your heart?

—**David Ruybalid**

Worship Leader, Recording Artist, and Discipleship Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

Activity: Hugs of Love

SUPPLIES: stuffed animals, dolls

Ahead of time, line up some stuffed animals and dolls in a row.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. **Hello, everyone! I'm so glad to see you today! Do you see all of our stuffed animal and doll friends? They're feeling lonely and need us to show them some love. Can we give them some hugs?**

Invite the kids to choose some of the stuffed animals or dolls and give them big hugs. They might show them around the room and introduce them to one another as well.

Great job showing love, friends! Today we're going to learn about how God wants us to love Him—with our whole lives! Everyone, give yourself a hug! Invite the kids to wrap their arms around themselves.

Activity: Soak Up the Love

SUPPLIES: large bowls (2–3), water, trash bag or plastic tablecloth, small sponges (several)

Ahead of time, add a little bit of water to each bowl and set them on the floor or a table. Place the trash bag or plastic tablecloth underneath the bowls.

Today we're going to learn about a time when God gave His people help so they could love Him with their whole lives! God will give us His words, His love, and the help we need to love Him with our whole lives too! Invite the kids to stretch their arms out wide and then give themselves a big hug. Yes, just like that!

When God's love fills us up, we have so much love in us that we can show it to others!

Invite the toddlers to come over to the bowls of water. Let them take turns dipping a sponge into the water and then squeezing it out over the bowl. **Great job! We filled the sponges with water and then squeezed them out. God fills us with love, and then we can show love! This is how we worship God. We can worship God with our whole lives.**

Leader Tip: Be sure to set the bowls of water out of the kids' reach after this activity

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD WANTS US TO WORSHIP WITH OUR WHOLE LIVES.

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.

GOD WANTS US—*Point up.*

TO WORSHIP—*Raise both hands in the air.*

WITH OUR WHOLE LIVES—*Give yourself a hug.*

Worship

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

Today we're learning that God wants us to worship with our whole lives. Let's sing and worship God now. He is amazing!

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

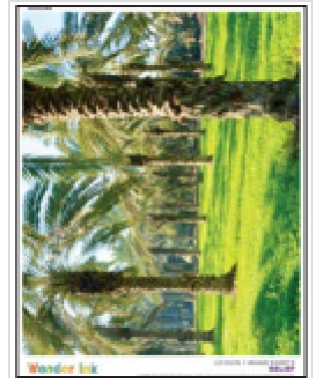
God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Video](#), [Toddler Image Sheets](#)

Ahead of time, print a set of the [Toddler Image Sheets](#).

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about God's people and how God wanted to help them. Encourage the kids to say, "God helps me." Let's find out from the Bible what happened in God's big story!



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

God's people, the Israelites, were ready to go into the good land God was giving them. Show the image of the good land to the kids. God told Moses, their leader, to tell the people that He loved them and wanted to help them. They could obey God and do what He said. Moses told the people, "The Lord is our God. The Lord is the one and only God. Love the Lord your God with all your heart (show the heart image) and with all your soul (show the soul image). Love him with all your strength" (show the strength image) ([Deuteronomy 6:4-5](#)).

God is the best! God deserves worship. God saved His people and took care of them. God keeps His promises. So we should worship Him! Worship means thanking God and telling Him how amazing He is. Moses told the people to worship and love God! How? With their whole lives. With all their heart, soul, and strength. Hold up the heart, soul, and strength images again.

We can worship all the time. We can love God's words and live for Him. God wants us to keep His help in our hearts. Hold up the heart image. God wants us to worship with our whole lives.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

Father, thank You for loving us so much. Thank You for filling us with Your love. Help us worship You by showing love to others. 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 the Lord bless and keep you this week as you worship and love Him with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Activity: Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes

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

God loves us and wants us to worship Him with our whole lives. Let's move our bodies as we worship God!

Play a game of Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes with the kids while playing songs from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). Start out slowly by touching your head and having the kids touch their heads as well. Then move down to touching your shoulders, then bending down and touching your knees and then toes. The kids can follow along with you and dance to the music.

