



Week 1    Preschool    8:30/11:00

## 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

## Play Stations

### Play Station: The Shema Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the [coloring sheet](#) and set out the coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a heart.

## Curiosity Activity: Soak It Up

**SUPPLIES:** buckets (2), water, sponges (at least 2), garbage bags or plastic tablecloth

Ahead of time, fill one of the buckets with water. Put it on the floor or a table where the kids will be able to reach it. Put the other bucket on the opposite side of the room or table. Put garbage bags or a plastic tablecloth on the floor between the two buckets.

**Who likes to sing?** Invite the kids to respond. **I like to sing too! I love singing worship songs to Jesus. But do you know that worship is more than singing? God wants us to worship with our whole lives! Every part of us can be filled with love for God.**

Point out the sponges. Invite the kids to stand behind the bucket of water. Encourage the first child to take a sponge and dip it into the bucket of water. She should then carefully carry it over to the other bucket and squeeze all the water out of it. Allow each kid to have a turn doing this. If you have time, play again, but make it a race to see how fast they can each wring out their sponges.

**Great job, everyone! Today we'll learn about how we can soak up God's words, just like the sponges soaked up the water. Have you ever thought about how people can be like a sponge? What do sponges do? Allow the kids to respond. When we soak up God's words, God's love can pour out of every part of our lives. We'll learn today that we can worship God with our whole lives.**

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

### WORD OF WONDER

**Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy.**

—Psalm 100:2

**Our Word of Wonder reminds us that God deserves our worship. We can worship Him with joy and with gladness and with our whole lives, like we learned about.** Open your Bible to [Deuteronomy 6](#) and point to it. **In God’s big story today, we learned about loving God with our heart, soul, and strength. We learned that we can worship God when we get up, when we lie down, when we walk along the road, and even when we go into our houses. Let’s practice learning the Word of Wonder while we do those things!**

Have everyone sit on the floor. Say the Word of Wonder aloud to the kids, and then invite them to repeat it after you while they get up. Now say the verse again and encourage everyone to repeat it while they lie down and pretend to sleep. Now say the Word of Wonder together while “walking along the road” (walk around the room). Say it again together while everyone jumps to touch the top of the door.

**Great job learning the Word of Wonder. God loves our joyful worship, and we can worship Him with our whole lives! Now let’s learn the motions to remember the Word of Wonder.**

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

**WORSHIP THE LORD**—*Put hands over your head in a “praise” motion.*

**WITH GLADNESS.**—*Smile and point to your mouth.*

**COME TO HIM**—*Move one arm toward your body, as if inviting someone to come with you.*

**WITH SONGS OF JOY.**—*Place open palm in front of your mouth. Move it in circular motions away from your face.*

**PSALM 100:2**—*Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

**What are some things that make you feel joyful? How can we worship God with joy?**

**What are some ways we can show others our joy when we worship God?** (*Share examples of joy—such as smiling, laughing, dancing, singing loudly—using hand motions such as raising hands.*)

## Circle Time: Find the Heart

**SUPPLIES:** red construction paper, scissors (prep only), paper bowls (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, cut a small heart shape out of red construction paper. It needs to be small enough to fit under a paper bowl.

Invite everyone to gather in a circle and sit down. Put a paper bowl upside down in front of each kid. **Today we learned about how God gave His good commandments to His people so they could learn how to love and worship Him with their whole lives. God wants you to love Him with your heart, soul, and strength.** Ask the kids to turn around and close their eyes. Quietly place the heart under one of their bowls, and then invite everyone to turn back around and open their eyes. **Whoever has the heart under his bowl gets to answer the first question.** Continue asking the kids to turn around and close their eyes so you can put the heart under a different bowl each time.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How long did God's people wander in the wilderness? *(40 years)*
- What was the name of the man who led God's people? *(Moses)*
- What three things did God say He wants His people to love Him with? *(heart, soul, strength)*
- Who were God's people supposed to teach God's good commands to? *(their children)*
- What are some ways we can worship God? *(singing, dancing, going to church, drawing, praying)*
- How can you worship God when you're at home or with friends? *(talk about Him, sing about Him, tell Him "thank You")*
- How can you show your love for God every day? *(pray, sing praise songs, be kind to family and friends, tell others about Him)*

**God wants us to love and worship Him with our whole lives! He gives us His good instructions that help us to live for Him. Let's talk to God now in prayer and thank Him for loving us and for letting us worship Him in so many ways.**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for His love and to ask Him to help them worship Him with their whole lives.

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for His good commands and the invitation to worship Him with our whole lives.

**Father, thank You for all we learned today about You and Your good commands. Help us to worship You with our whole lives. 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.

## Closing Game: Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes

**God invites us to worship Him with our whole lives. Let's think about that truth as we listen to worship songs and move our whole bodies!**

Play a game of Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes with the kids while playing the songs. Start out slowly by touching your head and having the kids touch their heads as well. Then move down to touching your shoulders, then bend down and touch your knees and then your toes. Invite kids to follow along. Gradually go faster and faster until the kids can't keep up any longer. Invite different kids to lead the actions by starting out slowly and getting faster each time.

