



Week 2 3's 4's, 4's 5's 9:45

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Loves When We Worship with Our Whole Hearts

SCRIPTURE: [2 Samuel 6](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [Psalm 100:2](#)

I have a comfort zone. I'm not the type to volunteer for youth group games or paint my face at football games. However, when I was a worship pastor at a large church, I discovered a different side of myself during kids' events like Christmas parties and VBS. When I put on a costume, something shifted. My usual reservations disappeared, and I found myself jumping, spinning, and even leaping with energy all over the stage. A part of me that only cared about joy and being in the moment came alive. It was a side of me that was uninhibited and undignified.

Take a minute and read [2 Samuel 6:13–22](#).

The Lord was “enthroned between the cherubim on the ark” ([2 Samuel 6:2](#), NIV). God's presence was entering the holy city of Jerusalem to be with His people, a powerful testament to His goodness. An undignified part of David's heart came alive, just as mine has when joy has taken over. As David declares in verses [21](#) and [22](#), “I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes” (NIV).

When was the last time God's goodness and presence unlocked a piece of your heart that you were holding back? What would it look like to worship with your whole heart, fully open?

—David Ruybalid

Worship Leader, Recording Artist, and Discipleship Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

Curiosity Activity: Limbo Time!

SUPPLIES: pool noodles (1 or more)

Today we're going to do the Limbo! Limbo is a game where people take turns walking or dancing underneath a stick that gets lower and lower each round. Have two leaders hold the pool noodle parallel to the ground as your Limbo stick. Invite a few leaders and/or older kids to the front. Ask them to demonstrate how to do the Limbo by leaning back as they walk under the pool noodle. If this is too hard for kids (or leaders!), suggest that they could bend forward or do silly movements as they go underneath the stick (such as crawling or walking on their knees). You could also encourage them to dance while going under it.

Now everyone can try it! But remember, the pool noodle will get lower each round. Let's see how low you can go!

Invite the kids to line up and take turns dancing under the Limbo stick. If you have a larger group, create multiple lines so kids don't have to wait too long for a turn. You might want to divide your group by age or height. Continue as long as time allows.

Wasn't it fun to dance and have fun with our bodies? One thing we can do with our bodies is worship God! He loves when we worship Him.

Make It Inclusive! Invite kids with mobility issues to hold the pool noodles. Or prompt the leaders holding the pool noodles to adjust the height as needed.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Tac the Cat Picture](#) or puppet

For this section, you can use the cat picture provided, or a stuffed animal cat, or a cat hand puppet.

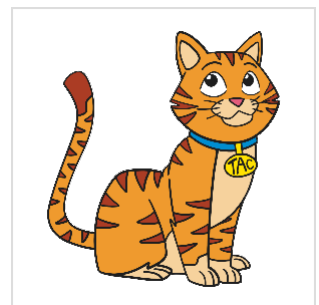
Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hi, Tac! It's nice to see you today.

Tac the Cat: (*sings quietly*)

Leader: I can't hear you, Tac. Are you singing?

Tac the Cat: I am! I just made up a new song to praise God!



Leader: Ooh, can I hear it?

Tac the Cat: *(looks around at all the kids)* There are so many kids here! Will they all hear me?

Leader: There are lots of kids here, but I bet they'd like to hear your song. Is that right, kids? Would you like to hear Tac's song? *(Wait for them to respond.)*

Tac the Cat: But I'm embarrassed to sing in front of the kids.

Leader: Well, Tac, is your song for the kids, or is it for God?

Tac the Cat: It's a song for God!

Leader: Then your song isn't for them anyway. It's for God, which means it is worship.

Tac the Cat: Is it OK to worship God in front of the kids?

Leader: You bet! It doesn't matter who's watching because worshiping is for God.

Tac the Cat: OK. Well, how about I close my eyes and turn away from the kids, then sing it?

Leader: That's a great idea. You can worship God, and we can learn about worship from you.

Tac the Cat: OK, here goes! *(Tac turns around and sings)* God, I love You. I love You so much! You are the best! *(Tac can also sing a worship song your kids love if you want.)*

Leader: Thank you, Tac, for showing us what worship can look like! God loves when we worship Him. We're going to learn more about that in our story today. We're actually going to learn about a man who worshiped God with lots of passion and didn't care what anyone around him thought!

Tac the Cat: Well, that sounds like a cool story. That makes me want to sing and dance and worship more. I'm going to go and make up some more worship songs for God! Bye!

Leader: Bye, Tac!

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Why do we sing songs in church? Allow the kids to respond. **What do we call it when we sing songs for God?** Allow the kids to respond. **We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God feels when we worship Him?**

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD LOVES WHEN WE WORSHIP WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS.**
Today we'll discover how to worship with our whole hearts!

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

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

—Psalm 100:2

The Word of Wonder for the Worship with Wonder series is **Psalm 100:2**. Today we learned about how David worshiped God with all his heart. We can do that too! Let's learn the Word of Wonder together.

Display the Word of Wonder slide and open your Bible to **Psalm 100:2**. Read the verse aloud to the kids then encourage them to do the motions 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.*

In our story today, David moved his body and danced while worshiping. We can add our own movements while we’re saying the words of praise to God in this verse. Let’s add some rhythm to our Word of Wonder! Let’s pat our legs and say the verse together. Repeat the verse several times to the beat in a “spoken word” or rap style rather than as a song. You can encourage kids to make up their own dances while saying or singing the verse.

Leader Tip: If kids are squirmy at this point, have them stand up and stomp the beat instead. It may not sound like much of a beat because kids this age aren’t always good at rhythm, but they can still have fun with their bodies!

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- How do you think David, the person who wrote the Word of Wonder, felt when he worshiped God? Have you ever felt this way when you worshiped God? Tell about it.
- What are your favorite songs to sing to God?

Craft: Worship Streamers

SUPPLIES: paint stir sticks or jumbo craft sticks (1 per kid), markers, crepe paper streamers (various colors), kid-safe scissors, tape

In our story today we learned about one way to worship God: through dancing! But there are other ways to worship God too. We can play instruments, sing, or wave flags and ribbons. Let’s make some worship streamers today! Then you can take them home and use them to worship God whenever you want.

Give each kid a paint stir stick or jumbo craft stick. Encourage them to use markers to decorate their sticks. They can draw hearts on their sticks to remind them to worship with their whole hearts. Assist kids as needed with cutting or ripping the crepe paper into approximately 2' lengths. Then encourage the kids to tape the crepe paper streamers to their sticks. This is a very open-ended activity—some kids will only want one piece of crepe paper, and others will want many. Both are OK! When the kids finish, allow them to wave their worship streamers and dance.

You can worship God however you want! Take your worship streamer home to help you remember that we can worship God with our whole hearts.

Game: Worship Postures

Did you know there are lots of ways to worship God? What kind of worship did we talk about today? Allow the kids to respond. I’m going to read you some other Bible verses, and you get to act out

whatever it says! Are you ready to listen carefully?

Read the following selection of verses and encourage kids to do what they hear (suggested actions are underlined).

“Clap your hands, all you nations. Shout to God with cries of joy” (Psalm 47:1).

“I will praise you as long as I live. I will call on your name when I lift up my hands in prayer” (Psalm 63:4).

“I will sing praise to you with my mouth” (Psalm 63:5).

“Let them praise his name with dancing. Let them make music to him with harps and tambourines” (Psalm 149:3).

“Come, let us bow down and worship him. Let us fall on our knees in front of the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95:6).

You can also add a fun element to this activity by calling out “statue” at various times. Tell the kids to freeze in place when you call out “statue” and then continue their movements when you start reading the verses again.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for giving them lots of ways to worship Him.

Thank You, God, that we get to worship You in so many amazing ways. Help us to worship You with our whole hearts. 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 worship the Lord your God with your whole heart every day this week.

