



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Teaches Us How to Live

SCRIPTURE: [Matthew 6](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [from Matthew 5:8](#)

I've been struggling with something lately—my repeated, worry-filled thoughts.

Those thoughts on repeat in my head that I can't turn off.

The nights I lie awake processing those repeated thoughts.

The lies Satan tells me that are difficult to dismiss.

The worries of the past, present, and future.

I've come to realize the only way to distinguish and call out those repeated thoughts is with truth. Satan loves to get us to focus on things other than truth, so he will try to fill our minds with whatever he can to distract us from God's truth.

Jesus spent time teaching His disciples not to worry because He knew that they would. He actually commanded them not to worry and told them to focus on something else.

Read [Matthew 6:33–34](#).

When we seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, He will take care of our worries. Those thoughts that rattle you, seek first His kingdom. Those lies Satan keeps telling you, seek first God's kingdom.

What worries do you need to turn over to God and trust that He can take care of them?

As you interact with kids, they may be dealing with similar thoughts and worries. Help them turn worry to truth. Help them refocus their thoughts on God and who He is. Remind kids God sees them and they can trust Him.

—Stephanie Rhyne

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DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus could have been thinking especially of the 12 disciples, telling them not to worry about the dangerous mission ahead ([Matthew 10:5–20](#)). But Jesus’ words are not only for them; the sermon was not spoken in private.

WHAT?

Jesus teaches a lot about wealth and money in Matthew. It could be that Matthew, a tax collector, was especially interested in these subjects. Jesus’ command to seek “treasures in heaven” comes before he says not to worry about material needs ([Matthew 6:20](#), NIV).

WHERE?

Similar to the book of Mark, Matthew tells of Jesus beginning His ministry in the villages and synagogues of Galilee. Jesus would make one dramatic journey to Jerusalem to confront the chief priests and leaders of the temple, and this would lead to His arrest.

WHEN?

At this point in the narrative, Jesus was a regional teacher. He and the disciples would soon carry the kingdom message to all of Israel. Jesus adds, “[D]o not worry about what to say or how to say it” ([Matthew 10:19](#), NIV).

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

Jesus sent His followers on a mission that required radical reliance upon God ([Matthew 10:5–20](#)). In stilling the storm, Jesus displays His power over creation ([Matthew 8:27](#)). The creator of all things can be trusted to provide for His people.

9:00 Service



Curiosity

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

God is #1

SUPPLIES: foam finger

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! Look what I have today. What does this look like? Allow the kids to respond.

Hold up the foam finger. **It looks like a hand, doesn't it? People like to use these to cheer for their favorite teams. Today we're going to learn that God is #1 and we should put Him first. Let's all say, "Put God first!" together.**

Pass the foam finger around and allow each child to wear the finger while everyone shouts, "Put God first!" If using the printed shape, pass it around and let the kids hold up the God Is #1 Foam Finger.



Belief

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for helping us hear from You today. May the Holy Spirit speak Your truth to our hearts. Lord, we often worry about things in our lives. We ask that You help us remember today to trust You and focus on You instead of our worries. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Read from
The Big Picture Bible p216
"The Sermon on the Mount"

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will
see the face of God.**

—Matthew 5:8

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- What are some things that make you feel happy? How does Jesus say we will be happy?
- We learned today that Jesus teaches us how to live. One of the things Jesus teaches us is that we should keep our hearts pure. What are some ways that we can keep our hearts clean and pure?



Identity

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for being with them in whatever they face and what they worry about.

God, thank You for always being with us. When we are worried, help us remember that we can always trust You. 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 always remember to put God first in your life and that He is always with you. Go in peace knowing that God loves you and will take care of you.

Trust Hoops

SUPPLIES: large plastic hoops

Set several large plastic hoops out around the room and have one or two kids stand by each hoop.

Jesus teaches us how to live. He teaches us to put God first in everything we do. Let's all stand around this hoop. I'm going to call out different things we do. If it's something that we can put God first while doing, we will jump into a hoop.

Call out different things, such as playing games, going to a friend's house, eating meals, playing with toys, going to church, cleaning up. Kids should jump into the hoop with everything you call out (because we can put God first in everything we do!).

Good job! You got it! We can put God first in everything we do, whether that is going to a friend's or playing a game, we can trust God in everything! We don't have to worry!

9:00 Service