



## LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus' Words Matter

**SCRIPTURE:** [Mark 4](#)

**WORD OF WONDER:** [Luke 10:27](#)

A few years ago, we had a vine of small squash growing in our church parking lot. I noticed it on a prayer walk one day: small yellow squash growing on a green vine that covered an entire “island” in the lot. We realized this plant had probably come to grow here because a child from our summer camp disposed of seeds from a project in the rocks of the parking lot island.

My mind immediately went to the familiar parable in [Mark 4:1–20](#), where a farmer is scattering seed. Some seed falls on the path, where the birds eat it. Some seed falls on rocks and springs up, but because it is without roots the growth withers away. Some seed falls in thorns and is choked out. Finally, some seed falls on good soil, and it produces a crop that multiplies.

Each week, we hopefully and expectantly sow the Word in the lives of the children God entrusts to us. We pray they would be like the good soil, and that they would respond to God's Word in obedience because they know they are known, led, and loved. So we stay faithful to sowing the seed, hopeful that they will obey it and one day we will see the fruit that grows in their lives and spills into the lives of others.

—**Courtney Wilson**

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Mark is the shortest, simplest, and probably the earliest of the Gospels. According to the church father Papias, Mark is based upon Peter's oral preaching. But Mark is also hardest on Jesus' disciples, showing that they continued to misunderstand Jesus during His ministry.

**WHAT?**

Not everyone is receptive to Jesus' message, for He is like the prophet Isaiah, who was also disbelieved and rejected ([Mark 4:12](#) quotes [Isaiah 6:9–10](#)). But the good soil is exceptionally fertile with its tremendous—almost unbelievable—harvest ([Mark 4:8](#)).

**WHERE?**

By speaking from the lake, Jesus' voice carried across the water so that a large crowd could hear Him. In [Mark 4](#), Jesus is still preaching in rural Galilee, but He will soon travel to Jerusalem to confront the religious and civic authorities.

**WHEN?**

This parable comes early in the Gospel of Mark and provides a lens for the narrative as a whole. Only the disciples are given the parable's interpretation, and they too will be challenged to endure persecution and trouble when Jesus is arrested.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

Like Moses, Jesus calls people to listen to and obey God. But Jesus is greater than Moses ([John 1:17–18](#); [6:32–33](#); [Hebrews 3:1–6](#)), because He teaches with the authority of God's own Son and not as a mere teacher of the law ([Matthew 7:29](#)).



## Curiosity

### LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

#### Seed Shaker

**SUPPLIES:** various types of seeds and dried beans, small clear plastic containers with lids, tape (optional)

Before kids arrive, fill small plastic containers with seeds and dried beans. Make sure the lids are secured so they can't be opened. If the lids come off easily, consider taping them shut. Pass the seed shakers out to the kids and let them take turns shaking them.

**Can you guess what else is going to be in our story today?** Allow the kids to respond. **That's right: seeds! Seeds make a cool sound when we put lots of them together, don't they? Usually, we plant seeds in the ground, but I brought some in today to introduce our story. Before we hear the story, let's make a song with these seed shakers!**

Encourage kids to shake the seed shakers and dance. **That's great dancing and music-making! In our story today, we will hear about planting seeds of God's truth in our hearts, like people plant seeds deep in the ground. God wants us to really understand His truth.**

**Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS WANTS US TO HEAR AND OBEY.**

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.

**JESUS**—*Point up.*

**WANTS US**—*Spread your arms out in front of you.*

**TO HEAR**—*Cup your hands up to your ears.*

**AND OBEY.**—*March in place.*



10:45 Service

## Belief

### LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Guide kids into knowing God, 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 giving us Your Word, the Bible. May Your Holy Spirit open our hearts and ears to hear what You have to say to us today. Help us hear and obey the truths that You have for us. 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 p218  
Parable of the Sower

#### Word of Wonder

##### WORD OF WONDER

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart.**

—Luke 10:27a

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

**LOVE**—Give yourself a hug.

- **THE LORD YOUR GOD**—Point up.
- **WITH ALL YOUR HEART.**—Put your hands over your heart.
- **LUKE 10:27a**—Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How can we show God that we love Him?**

## 10:45 Service

**How does loving God with all our hearts show God we hear and obey Him?**



## Faith

### LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.*

#### Craft: Plant God's Word in Your Heart

**SUPPLIES:** beans or sunflower seeds (1 small handful per kid), glue, paper (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils

**Leader Tip:** To save time and prevent mess, turn this craft into an activity by drawing the hearts and crosses ahead of time and having kids put beans or seeds on the line without using glue. If you choose to use glue with younger kids, have leaders put glue on the hearts, or use glue sticks.



**Allergy Caution:** This activity includes possible food allergens!

Pass out a sheet of paper and coloring utensil to each kid. Instruct kids to draw a large heart shape in the middle of the paper and then a cross inside the heart. Younger kids may need help drawing the heart and cross. You can also draw one ahead of time and hold it up to show the kids.

**The heart is like your heart, and the cross is there to remind you of Jesus. Jesus came to bring you into a relationship with God by dying on the cross for you.**

**We can plant God's seed, or words, in our hearts by remembering how much Jesus loves us. To remind us to plant that truth in our hearts, we are going to glue seeds along the heart and cross. Trace the lines of your heart and cross with glue and then put seeds on the glue.** Be sure to monitor kids using glue so they don't use too much. When kids are done with their craft, make sure they write their names on them and lay them someplace safe to dry.



## Identity

### LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

#### Responding in Worship: Planting Truth

**SUPPLIES:** non-wax coated white paper cups (1 per kid), potting soil or dirt, packet of flower seeds, spoons (1 per kid plus 1 extra), markers, tarp or disposable tablecloth cover (optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [What Did He Say? Early Childhood music flashdrive](#)

**Allergy Caution:** This activity includes possible allergens!

We can plant God's Word in our hearts by reading and memorizing parts of God's big story, the Bible. God wants us to read His Word and do what it says, so that the truth grows deep in our hearts. To remind us to plant God's Word in our hearts and obey God, we are going to plant seeds that you can take home. For this seed to grow, you will need to water it regularly. Every time you water it, remember the truth that God loves you and you can love Him by listening to Him. We are going to draw crosses and hearts all over the outside of the cups to remind us of that truth. You can draw anything else that reminds you of what you have learned today.

First, pass out the cups and markers to the kids and encourage them to decorate the cups. While kids are drawing, play songs from the [What Did He Say? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). When kids are finished, have them line up with their cups to get soil. Have a leader use a spoon to carefully fill the cups halfway with soil. Give each kid a seed and a spoon. To contain the mess, you can set out a tarp or disposable tablecloth cover.

To plant this seed, you need to dig deep. Dig a hole in the soil with your spoon and carefully drop the seed in, and then use your spoon to gently put the soil back on top of the seed. Be sure to check the soil for rocks or thorns. And you'll want to put it someplace safe, where birds or other predators can't get it. Remember it will need lots of sunlight and water to grow. Each time you water it, remember our Wonder Truth: **JESUS WANTS US TO HEAR AND OBEY!**