



## 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.*

## Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** bin or baking pan; dirt or soil; rocks; dried seeds, beans, or rice; small shovels or measuring cups; spoons; play dough or clay; fake feathers in various sizes and colors; coloring utensils; toy dump trucks and diggers (optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Seeds and Soil Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas what we'll be learning about today?**

### Play Station: Planting Seeds

**Set-up:** Fill a bin or baking dish with dirt or soil. Scatter rocks in the soil and make a pile of seeds or beans. You can use dried beans, sunflower seeds, pumpkins seeds, or even rice. Lay out shovels or measuring cups, spoons, and toy dump trucks and diggers (if using).

**Play:** Encourage kids to dig holes in the dirt and pretend to plant the seeds. Supervise closely to ensure kids don't try to put the seeds in their mouths or throw seeds, rocks, or dirt.

**Allergy Caution:** Be aware of any food allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

### Play Station: Birds of a Feather

**Set-up:** Set out play dough or clay and feathers.

**Play:** Encourage kids to use play dough to shape the bodies of birds and then stick feathers in the play dough bodies to complete their birds.

### Play Station: Seeds and Soil Coloring Sheet

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

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw their favorite flower or plant.



## 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

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?**
- **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.*

#### Active Game: Seed and Soil

**SUPPLIES:** Seed and Soil game, beanbag

Set out the pictures and hand the child a beanbag. Have him toss the beanbag ("seed") and talk about where it landed. They want the "seed" to land on the soil where it can grow. You can have the children close their eyes or scoot them back to make it more challenging for the older kids.



9:00 Service

## 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.*

#### Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for giving us His Word and truth to plant in our hearts. Give each kid a seed to hold while saying the prayer.

**God, thank You for speaking to us in Your Word. May Your Holy Spirit plant Your truths deep in our hearts. Help us hear and obey what You teach us in Your big story. 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:** You have God's truth planted deep in your hearts. May your roots grow down into God's love and keep you strong, and may you have the power to understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep is His love.

#### Closing Game: Hungry Birds Tag

**In our story today, we learned about some hungry birds that snatched away the seed that was sown! We need to watch out for the hungry birds in our lives, and we also need to watch out for them in this next game!**

Choose one kid to be "It," or the "bird." The bird will run around trying to tag kids. When tagged, kids will become "frozen" seeds that can't move. The only way for them to be able to move again is for someone to come and "water" the seed by saying the Wonder Truth or the Word of Wonder to that kid.

**One of you will be the bird and will try to tag the "seeds," or the other kids. If you are tagged by the bird, you will be frozen until someone comes to "water" you. Others can say either the Wonder Truth or the Word of Wonder to you so you can move again. Remember, our Wonder Truth is: **JESUS WANTS US TO HEAR AND OBEY**. Our Word of Wonder is: Love the Lord your God with all your heart. When I say "Go!" the bird will run around and try to tag all of you—the "seeds."**

**Leader Tip:** If it's taking too long to tag kids, choose additional kids to play birds during the game.

9:00 Service