



LESSON FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Invites Us into His Family

SCRIPTURE: [Galatians 4](#); [Romans 7](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [1 Peter 2:9a](#)

This summer our family spent a fair amount of time at animal parks. My middle child loves animals, and her souvenir of choice at every visit was a stuffed animal. Not surprising for a 6-year-old. What did surprise us was the amount of time she spent choosing each new member of her stuffed family.

She examined every style of creature, evaluating its pose, its stitching, whether the face looked friendly or fierce, whether the eyes were even, what the huggability was for each one. She was dedicated to finding The One. And sure enough, eventually she would look at a stuffed animal and know “This is it!”

Did you know God chooses you with the same dedication and attention? He doesn’t spend time evaluating your worth based on your faults. Rather, He focuses on your identity. Who you are. The fact that you ARE!

[1 Peter 2:9](#) says we are God’s special treasure, chosen by Him to be part of His family. Then we can tell the world of God’s goodness and wonder!

But first, God invites us into that family. He doesn’t force us or demand ... He simply invites. It’s up to us whether or not we’ll accept the invitation.

Remember, God sees something special and beloved when He looks at you.

—**Laura Koesterer**

Kidmin Director

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Paul encountered Jesus through a revelation that changed the direction of his life ([Galatians 1:13–17](#)). His zeal for preserving Jewish traditions was transformed; he went from persecutor of the church to Jesus' apostle to the Gentiles. His letters show the development of early Christianity.

WHAT?

Paul says the Jewish law is good ([Romans 7:12](#)), but it does not redeem from sin. Paul introduces a metaphor—legal adoption—to show God's unprecedented offer through Jesus. Because of Jesus' redemptive actions, no one has to remain enslaved to sin any longer.

WHERE?

Galatians is sent to multiple congregations in the region of Galatia (modern-day Turkey). Paul had first brought the message of Jesus to these Gentiles. Romans touches on some similar themes and is addressed to various house churches in the city of Rome.

WHEN?

Galatians could be Paul's earliest letter, normally dated a few years before the book of Romans and perhaps around AD 50. Paul wrote his letter to the Romans before being brought to Rome as a prisoner in the early 50s.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Israel is called God's child many times in the Old Testament, and Paul gives new meaning to this image. Anyone with faith in Jesus becomes a child of God, part of His family. Paul uses the Aramaic word Abba, as Jesus does in prayer ([Mark 14:36](#)).



Curiosity

LESSON **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: wax sticks in a variety of colors, pipe cleaners in a variety of colors

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [My Life Can Tell 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 of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Wax Sticks and Pipe Cleaners

Set-up: Set out wax sticks and pipe cleaners.

Play: Encourage kids to use the wax sticks and pipe cleaners to make a pretend family. Tell them they'll learn today about what it means to be invited into God's family.

Play Station: My Life Can Tell of God's Wonder Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Ahead of time, print one [Coloring Sheet](#) for each kid. Set out the [Coloring Sheets](#) and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their family.



9:00 Service

Belief

LESSON **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

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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 the opportunity to learn more about You. Holy Spirit, help us understand what it means to be invited into God's family and to walk in the truth that we are His kids! In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

What is this? *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

[Galatians 4:4-7](#):

But then the chosen time came. God sent his Son. A woman gave birth to him. He was born under the authority of the law. ⁵ He came to set free those who were under the authority of the law. He wanted us to be adopted as children with all the rights children have. ⁶ Because you are his children, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. He is the Holy Spirit. By his power we call God Abba.

Abba means Father. ⁷ So you aren't a slave any longer. You are God's child. Because you are his child, God gives you the rights of those who are his children.

SUPPLIES: Bible, stuffed animals

God's big story today is about how our lives can tell of God's wonder as children of God and a part of God's family. Let's find out more!

Show the kids the [God's Big Story Video](#), or read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided.

9:00 Service

You can help tell the story by hugging the stuffed animals anytime I say, “family.”

In the beginning, God created everything that exists. The most special was people! He created people to be in relationship with Him! But people sin—that is, do things that are wrong—and sin separates us from God.

But God sent Jesus to save us from our sins and forgive us so we can be a part of God’s *family*! Encourage the kids to hug their stuffed animals.

When we trust in Jesus, we can be a part of God’s *family* (encourage the kids to hug their stuffed animals) **and be adopted as a child of God.**

We get to be forgiven from our sins and have the Holy Spirit live in us when we are a part of God’s *family*. Encourage the kids to hug their stuffed animals.

When we ask God to let us become His children and part of His *family*, to be filled by the Holy Spirit and freed from sin, we live the way God created us to be. Encourage the kids to hug their stuffed animals.

As children of God, we get to be messengers to the world, pointing people to our loving Father. Through our words and actions, others can see what God is like. All of our lives can tell of God’s wonder! We can know that God invites us to be a part of His *family*! Encourage the kids to hug their stuffed animals.

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

You are God’s special treasure.

—1 Peter 2:9a

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What do you think it means to be treasured and loved by God?**
- **How do you know God loves you? How does it make you feel?**



Faith

LESSON **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

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Craft: You're Invited Card

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, device with digital camera (optional), photo printer (optional), tape (optional), small mirror (optional), dry-erase markers (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [You're Invited Card](#) (1 card per kid)

Ahead of time, print a [You're Invited Card](#) for each kid and set out coloring utensils.

Because God knows you, Jesus loves you, and the Holy Spirit leads you, you get to be a wonder-filled reflection of God to the world. You are invited into the family of God as a child of God, through Jesus. Your life can tell of God's wonder!

Draw a picture of yourself on the invitation and take it home as a reminder that you're invited into the family of God!

To make the craft more complex, take a picture of each child and tape the picture onto the invitation, or give each child a small mirror instead of a card and allow her to decorate and write on the mirror with dry-erase markers. Then the kids can look into the mirrors and remember that they can be children of God reflecting His wonder to the world.





Identity

LESSON EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

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Activity: Mirror Drawing

SUPPLIES: mirrors, dry-erase markers

We've been learning we are invited into God's family and we can become children of God, showing His love to others and then they can see how wonderful God is! Because we are known by God, loved by Jesus, and led by the Holy Spirit, we become children of God whose lives can share God's wonder! Look into the mirror and you'll see your own reflection. You can be a reflection of God and His wonder! Draw a picture of yourself on the mirror as you look at the mirror and remember that God invites you into His family.

Give the kids dry-erase markers and encourage them to look at their reflections in the mirrors and draw pictures of themselves. Young kids may not be able to draw themselves but can look at themselves in the mirror.

Remember today and every day: you are a child of God, and your life can tell of God's wonder!

Prayer and Blessing

Let's pray and talk to God and thank Him for how He loves us and invites us into His family!

God, thank You for Your great love for us. Thank You for inviting us to be adopted into Your family and allowing us to be forgiven and live as children of God. We love 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: God knows you through and through. He loves you with a love that's deep, wide, and strong—stronger than life itself. May God help you always follow Him joyfully, today and all your days. Go with God and let your life share His wonder with the world.