



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because Jesus Loves Me, I Am Loved

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1; John 3

WORD OF WONDER: Exodus 15:11c

Read Colossians 1:15–23 and John 3:16–17. Sometimes I have trouble believing Jesus really loves me, even though His love is all over the pages of Scripture. Instead of remembering His love, I remember ways I've disobeyed God or gone against His perfect plan. Then I start thinking that maybe God is mad at me. Or that God doesn't like me. Or wondering how God could love someone who's done what I've done. Do you ever feel that way?

The voice of accusation is loud and unrelenting, whether it comes from our own hearts or the devil himself. Regularly, I pray, "God, help me hear Your voice above the voice of the accuser." Amen, right?

I need to hear God's big story, over and over again. I need to hear about Jesus, the rescuer who came to break the power of sin and gather the broken parts of creation back to God. Even me. And even you! He presents us to God without blemish and free from accusation. He loves us!

Because Jesus loves me, I am loved. God's big story says so, and God's big story is true. Will you hold onto His love today? Will you share it with the kids you serve this week? After all, they need to hear the story too. Again and again. Jesus loves us! Amen, right?

—Michael Rade

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS JESUS LOVES THE WORLD

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus is the divine Son of God, uncreated and eternal. He is the exact likeness of God, perfectly revealing who God is because He is Himself God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is Savior of the world and Lord of creation.

WHAT?

Jesus came to save the world, bringing life to those who believe. Jesus loved the world, and by dying on the cross, He made the way to reconcile all things to God. Through Jesus' death, God made peace with people, bringing them back to Himself.

WHERE?

Paul wrote Colossians as a letter to the church in Colossae. Colossae was located in the Roman province of Phrygia in the territory of Asia Minor. The Gospel of John may have been written in Ephesus, which was about 100 miles east of Colossae.

WHEN?

These passages discuss who the Son of God is and has been from all eternity, before the beginning of creation. They also discuss what happened when the eternal Son took on flesh and became a man, dying on the cross in approximately AD 30.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus' death and resurrection is the central event of history. Through Jesus' death on the cross, the same God who created all things redeemed all things—defeating death and breaking the power of sin, making way for a new heaven and a new earth.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Curiosity Activity: Love Ball

SUPPLIES: large bouncy ball, heart-shaped stickers (optional)

Gather the kids together and show them the ball with hearts on it. **This is a “love ball.” We’re going to carefully toss it to each other. When you catch it, you get to name something or someone you love. You might say, “I love my mommy” or “I love my teddy bear.” Then you will pass it to someone else!** Allow the kids to pass the ball to one another while naming someone (or something) they love. Continue until every kid has had a turn.

We love our family and our friends. We might even love cookies and snacks, but not in the same way we love our families. Did you know that someone loves you with a very special love? In today’s part of God’s big story, we’re going to find out how very much Jesus loves you and me!

Leader Tip: It’s hard for some kids to think on the spot, so they might just repeat what the kid before them said. Don’t force them to come up with something unique. However, if the whole group starts copying each other, encourage them to think of something new. If necessary, pause the game so kids can think for a moment.



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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, You love us and do wonderful things for us! Holy Spirit, please fill us with wonder at how amazing You are. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? ***The Bible***

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

Tell the Bible story – use the script provided:

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about Jesus. Encourage the kids to say "Jesus." Let's learn about Jesus from the Bible!

Did you know that God made you? God created all people! And God *loves* all people. But—oh, no!—something bad happened. People didn't obey God, and they messed up God's perfect creation. That's called sin.

God loves people so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to the world. Jesus is more powerful than anything. Jesus died and came back to life. God loves the world. Always. His love has the power to make all things right. And God's love can make all things new.

And guess what? Jesus is King over everything. When we trust in Jesus to save us, we can live forever with God someday in heaven. Sin does not win. Jesus wins! God can forgive us and make us new.

Jesus loves the world with a *big* love! How big do you think His love is?

Each time you ask one of the following questions or say one of the statements, spread your arms farther and farther apart and speak louder every time: **Is Jesus' love *this* big? How about *this* big? Maybe it's *this* big! Wow, look at how much Jesus loves you! Because Jesus loves me, I am loved. Let's say that with our BIG voices!** Encourage kids to say with you, "Jesus loves me!"

The Bible says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." (John 3:16). Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to save all people who trust in Him! When we trust Jesus to save us, God forgives our sins. Then we can live forever as part of God's family. That is how much God loves us. Jesus loves you so much. He knows you and loves you. Trust and remember this good news. Share this good news. All who trust Jesus can trust in God's love and remember: **Because Jesus loves me, I am loved.**

WORD OF WONDER

Your glory fills me with wonder. You do amazing things.

—Exodus 15:11c



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Game: Story Scavenger Hunt

WONDER INK RESOURCES: Timeline Images

Before you begin, hide the Timeline Images from God's Big Story around your room. Invite kids to find each picture, then bring them back to a central location to put them in order.

In today's part of God's big story, we discovered that because Jesus loves us, we are loved. We know that Jesus loves us because He made the world, He died and rose again, and He's the King over everything. There are some story pictures hiding around our room. When I say, "Go," you can look for them. If you find a picture, bring it back here, and we'll put all the pictures in order. Ready, set, go!

Give kids time to find the hidden images and then bring them back to a central place. Invite the kids to recall what each image means from the God's Big Story time.

This is the order of the pictures and a reminder of what each image means:

1. Creation—God made people.
2. Heart—God loves people. Because Jesus loves me, I am loved.
3. Sin—People made wrong choices and disobeyed God.
4. Jesus Dies and Rises Again—Because He loves us, Jesus died and came back to life.
5. Jesus as King—Jesus is God and made all things. He's the King over everything.

