



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

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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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: play dough; play dough toys (such as rolling pins); heart-shaped cookie cutters;

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesus Loves the World Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

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

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

Play Station: Love Dough

Set up: Set out play dough, play dough toys, and heart-shaped cookie cutters.

Play: Invite kids to play with the play dough. Encourage them to cut out heart shapes.

Play Station: Jesus Loves the World Coloring Sheet

Set up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of something (or someone) in the world that they love.

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

WORD OF WONDER

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

—Exodus 15:11c



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LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Jesus Loves the World

SUPPLIES: World Sheet on cardstock (1 per kid), blue and green dot markers, red hearts



Jesus loves the world with a big love, so big that Jesus died for us. Let's make something to remind us that Jesus loves the world—and that includes you and me!

Give each kid a world sheet. Then have the kids use the blue and green dot markers to color the land and sea areas. Give the pages a little time to dry a bit before letting the kids glue a heart shape to the middle.

Take your craft home as a reminder that Jesus—who made the heavens and the earth—loves you so much!