

Wonder Ink®

Early Elementary Preview Guide



Age Level Included
with Elementary



About the Elementary Age Level



As children grow and develop, it's crucial that we consistently help them understand their place in God's big story. Many times, their sense of identity, purpose, and value is shaped by the messages they receive from the world, and these influences can often be confusing or contradictory.

As followers of Christ, it's our responsibility to help them see their identity in Him and share this truth: that they are created to be known, loved, and led by God. By continually pointing them back to God's Word, we help them build a strong foundation of faith that anchors them in Him.

With Wonder Ink, you can equip volunteers to lead, support parents in faith formation at home, and walk with kids in their journey of faith in God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Early Elementary Lessons

By combining activities and teachings from both Early Childhood and Elementary lessons, the supplemental Early Elementary age level creates the ideal fit for your youngest elementary kids (K–2nd Grade)—including a craft and a game. Lessons are developmentally appropriate and introduce new concepts to help them grow in their faith—building on Early Childhood foundations.

Enjoy this preview. You can sign up for the free trial at WonderInk.org/try-free.



Get 4 lessons for free at WonderInk.org/try-free



EARLY ELEMENTARY

LESSON 1

GOD CREATES HUMANS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because God Knows Me, I Am Known

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2; Psalm 8

GOD'S BIG STORY: God creates people on purpose and with a purpose. His amazing love fills us with wonder when we realize that because God knows us, we are known!

WORD OF WONDER: Your glory fills me with wonder. You do amazing things.
—Exodus 15:11c

Combines the best parts of Early Childhood and Elementary into a lesson tailored for K–1st graders.

CURIOSITY 15 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Welcome Question: What is one thing about you that others might not know?
- Curiosity Questions
- Curiosity Activity: Getting to Know You
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF 25–35 minutes • Large Group

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder

Kids experience the series memory verse through a variety of activities.

FAITH 15 minutes • Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Discussion Time
- Craft: Moon and Stars
- Game: Like It or Not?

Engage your small group with a craft and game.

IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Responding in Worship: Star Portraits
- Blessing Your Kids
- Game: Caring for God's Creation

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Wonder Ink®

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because God Knows Me, I Am Known

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2; Psalm 8

WORD OF WONDER: Exodus 15:11c

Read Psalm 8. I remember lying flat on my back in a field in Wisconsin. I had never seen stars like that before. I was on a camping trip with some college friends, far away from the electric light that sometimes obscures the night sky. We had played football earlier in the evening, but when darkness fell, we took time to be still and look up. The sky was so big, and I felt so small. Small, but not insignificant. What amazed me then and amazes me still is that the God who made all those wonders also took time to make me. He even knows my name.

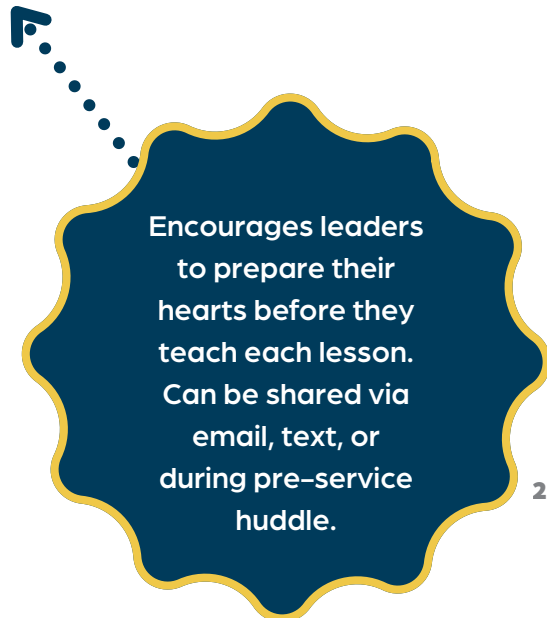
I think everyone longs to be known. When I'm in a crowd, I feel such relief when I see a familiar face. A smile. A wave. One of those looks that says, "Come, sit over here." There's great comfort in being known—in realizing you matter to someone. Now read Genesis 2:7, 15, and 22.

Do you know that you matter to God? Not just in your past or on your best days, but right now as you prepare for this lesson. Maybe you feel insignificant at times, but the truth is God made you on purpose and is pleased to include you in His plans to bring about His kingdom on earth. God knows you, which means you are always known, always seen, and never just another face in the crowd.

—Michael Rade

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher

Contributor to Wonder Ink



Equips leaders with the historical context of the passage they are exploring with kids and the why behind its importance in God's big story.

LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS GOD CREATES HUMANS

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

God is the Creator and Lord of all things. The first people were Adam and Eve, who were appointed by God to tend His creation but eventually sinned against Him. Psalm 8 is attributed to David, the shepherd who God appointed as king over Israel.

WHAT?

God gave humans the authority to rule over and care for His creation. Psalm 8 marvels at this God-given task, along with the reality that the majestic God of heaven thinks about and cares for humans. We are known by God.

WHERE?

In Genesis 2, God places Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The location of Eden remains a mystery, but the context suggests somewhere in Mesopotamia, where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flow. Psalm 8 was likely written in Jerusalem.

WHEN?

According to Genesis 1, humanity was created on the sixth day of creation. King David ruled many years later, after God had formed a people from Abraham's family and later established them as the nation of Israel. David was the second king of Israel.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God created people to know Him and care for His creation. Though humanity sinned and creation went awry, Jesus makes all things new again. He invites us to know Him and participate as children of God in His new creation work.

LESSON 1 EARLY ELEMENTARY

Large Group or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because God Knows Me, I Am Known

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2; Psalm 8

WORD OF WONDER: Exodus 15:11c

Use these videos during games or to transition between activities.

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Faith Begins with Wonder Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God Creates Welcome Question Slide

Before kids arrive, display the God Creates Welcome Question Slide, or write the following question on a whiteboard: “What is one thing about you that others might not know?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.

What is one thing about you that others might not know?

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome kids by name. Show them the Welcome Question and encourage them to share their answers with a few other kids. Invite them to illustrate their answers if they choose. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

Leader Tip: *For Younger Kids.* If kids struggle to answer this question, help them by providing prompts—do they have a secret talent, or have they been on a trip to another place? Maybe they have lots of siblings or have a pet at home.

At your start time ...

Gather everyone together and welcome them. Let them know you’re so glad they came to church today. Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **What is one thing about you that others might not know?**

Wow! I learned so many new things about all of you today! It’s great to get to know you better. Today we’re going to talk about how God created us and knows us. But first, it’s time to be curious.

Leader tips encourage, support, and/or provide alternative engagement options.

Curiosity Questions

Ask the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious ...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

I’m curious ...

- Who is someone you would like to get to know better?
- What is your favorite thing in nature?

Curiosity Activity: Getting to Know You

We’re going to get to know one another a bit better through some fun questions. When I say, “Go,” you should find a partner to stand next to. Once you’ve all found someone, ask each other the questions I give you so you can all get to know some things about a new friend. Ask the following questions and give the kids time to respond:

- When is your birthday?
- What is your favorite color?
- What kind of ice cream is your favorite?
- What school do you go to?
- How many brothers and sisters do you have?
- What did you have for breakfast today?
- What do you like to do?

Play until they’ve answered all the questions.



Simple prep and common supplies make it easy to use an interactive activity to pique kids' curiosity about the Bible story.

Leader Tip: Invite kids to come up with their own questions to ask a partner!

Great job, everyone! This helped us get to know our friends a little bit better. In God’s big story today, we’re learning about how God created people and how He knows each of us. God knows everything about you, and He loves you so much. We’ll learn today that because God knows us, we are known!

Declaring God’s Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Declaration [Video](#) or Slide

Show the Declaration [Video](#) or Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

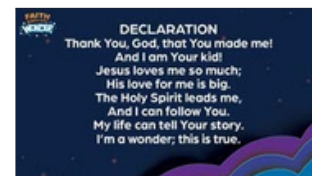
Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.



The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Declaring God's truths aloud helps kids internalize them. The declaration is consistent each week. The rhyming words, motions, video, and slide support each series.

LESSON 1 **EARLY ELEMENTARY**

Large Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because God Knows Me, I Am Known

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2; Psalm 8

WORD OF WONDER: Exodus 15:11c

Each series includes a themed worship playlist.

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 know us and love us. Help us learn from Your Word today. And we pray that Your Holy Spirit helps us live for You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Wonder Ink **RESOURCES:** songs from the [Faith Begins with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll learn that because God knows us, we are known. Let's worship God now through singing! Play songs from the [Faith Begins with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of Genesis in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

Let's start by reading part of God's big story from the book of Genesis in the Bible. That's the first book of the whole Bible!

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read Genesis 2:7, 15, 22 and Psalm 8:1–9 from the Bible.

Leaders are encouraged to read part of the story directly from the Bible.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: tape

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God Creates Images, God's Big Story Video ([Elementary](#) or [Early Childhood](#))

Ahead of time, print one set of the God Creates Images.

Leader Tip: You may have kids in your group who are visual learners. Invite them to help tell the story today by taping the pictures on the wall as you go. Or you could invite them to even draw something from the story while you talk—a drawing that they can share with everyone at the end.



Interactive Bible stories engage a variety of learning styles in an age-appropriate way for kids.

Gather kids together. **Let's listen to God's big story today. God's big story is full of wonder. It has true stories that help us know God. God's story tells us who He is. God created the heavens and the earth.** Show the kids the Heavens and Earth image and then tape it to a wall. **God created every person. He even created you! The God of heaven created you and knows you!**

Way back in the beginning, God created everything. It was wonderful. God created humans on purpose and with a lot of care. Show the kids the Humans image. Invite one of them to tape it to a wall. **God made people just how He wanted them. He made a man from the dust of the ground. God breathed life into him, so the man was alive. Later God took a rib from the man when he was asleep. God used the rib to make a woman. The man was Adam and the woman was Eve. They were created to show God's goodness. Adam and Eve took care of God's good earth.** Show the kids the Garden image and then tape it up next to the others. **God told them to farm the land and watch over the plants and animals. This was the special job God gave Adam and Eve. Lots and lots ... and LOTS of other people have lived since the first people were created. One of them was a man named David. He was a shepherd, warrior, and king. David wrote songs and song poems called psalms. He wrote psalms about God and how amazing God is.** Show the kids the Bible image and let them know that the songs and poems David wrote are in the Bible in the book of Psalms. Tape the image up. **David wrote in Psalm 8, "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in the whole earth!" (Psalm 8:1). God is super amazing! And He is everywhere. God is big and powerful. But He is also with people who are not powerful.**

It is so wonderful that God created everything. In Psalm 8:3 David says, "I think about the heavens. I think about what your fingers have created. I think about the moon and stars that you have set in place." Show the kids the Moon and Stars image and invite one of them to tape it up. **What God made is amazing!**

It is also amazing that God cares about people. "What are human beings that you think about them? What is a son of man that you take care of him?" (Psalm 8:4). Some people might not feel special. Does God really see us? Care for us? Know us? The Bible says, "Yes!" God knows and cares. God made everyone and loves us! Every person is special to God.

Psalm 8 is about how God cares for us. It is also about the special job that God gave people when He created them. It says, “You made human beings rule over everything your hands created”

(Psalm 8:6). That is animals, birds, fish, the land—everything. God made people to care for everything He created. Show the kids the Creation image and tape it up.

We can know that we are important and special to God. He knows us. God made you on purpose. He cares about you. You can always trust this wonderful truth: Because God knows me, I am known. Show the Wonder Truth image and ask a child to tape it up.

Choose the Bible Story video style and theme option that will engage your kids.

VIEW THE GOD’S BIG STORY VIDEO
([Elementary](#) or [Early Childhood](#))



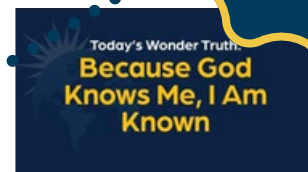
Help kids see how the Wonder Truth and specific Bible story connect to the whole of God's big story.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God Creates Wonder Truth Slide

Display the God Creates Wonder Truth Slide. Our Wonder Truth today is **BECAUSE GOD KNOWS ME, I AM KNOWN**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God created people to know Him and care for His creation. When people disobeyed God, sin and death entered the world. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to make the way for all things to be made new again. Through Jesus, we can know God, be His kids, and participate in God’s good work on earth!



Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, blue balloon, permanent marker (prep only), inflatable globe (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER
Your glory fills me with wonder. You do amazing things.

—Exodus 15:11c

Ahead of time, blow up a blue balloon and then use a permanent marker to draw some squiggly shapes on it so that it looks like a globe of the world. Or, if you have an inflatable globe, use that instead.

Display the Word of Wonder Slide, if using. You can also show the [Word of Wonder Video](#). The Word of Wonder for the Faith Begins with Wonder series is Exodus 15:11c. Let’s practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

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

Kid-led motions videos make it easier for kids to learn the series memory verse.

- **YOUR GLORY FILLS ME**—*Hold hands up above your head, then move them down to your sides.*
- **WITH WONDER.**—*Burst hands to the sides above your head.*
- **YOU DO**—*Point up.*
- **AMAZING THINGS.**—*Jump up and burst hands out to the sides as wide as you can.*
- **EXODUS 15:11C**—*Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.*

Show kids the balloon or the globe. **God made the whole world! He created everything, and He created people. He knows us and loves us—we are known! It is amazing! Let's practice learning our Word of Wonder about the amazing things God does. I will throw the balloon up into the air. Whoever catches it (without pushing or shoving!) will get to say one word from the verse. At the end, we'll all say the whole verse.** After the group says the whole verse, toss the balloon or globe up again and allow a new child to say the next word from the verse and then practice the verse again together. Play a few rounds until the kids are comfortable with saying the whole verse.

After a few rounds of practicing the Word of Wonder, gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What do you think is the most amazing thing God created?** *(If the kids need help, offer ideas from nature or talk about how God created each of them and how amazing that is.)*
- **How can you praise God for what He created?** *(If the kids need help, offer ideas such as: thanking God through prayer, praising Him through singing, honoring His creation through the way we care for the earth, etc.)*

LESSON 1 EARLY ELEMENTARY

Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because God Knows Me, I Am Known

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2; Psalm 8

WORD OF WONDER: Exodus 15:11c

Encourages kids to discuss and recall what they're learning and engages them with a hands-on activity.

Discussion Time

SUPPLIES: paper plates (8), marker, beanbag

Ahead of time, use a marker to number the paper plates 1–8.

Invite the kids to sit in a circle. Place the paper plates inside the circle of kids. **Today we learned about how God created everything, including people. He created you and me! God loves us and knows us, and that is amazing. Because God knows us, we are known!**

Hand one of the kids the beanbag and invite him to toss it onto one of the plates. Invite the child to answer the question that corresponds to the numbered question below.

Leader Tip: If a child has trouble answering the question, invite one of the other kids to help!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did God make the man from? *(the dust of the earth)*
2. What did God make a woman from? *(a rib from the man)*
3. What were the names of the first two people? *(Adam and Eve)*
4. What do you think it would have been like to see God create everything? *(Invite the kids to use their imaginations to picture creation!)*
5. Who wrote lots of the poems and songs in the book of Psalms? *(David)*
6. What are some of the most amazing things about God? *(If kids need ideas, remind them of how God created everything, how He loves us, how Jesus died for us, how God keeps His promises, etc.)*
7. How can you know that God cares about you? *(If kids need ideas, offer some ideas such as: Because God created us for a purpose and with a purpose, we know that He cares about us. God created animals and flowers and trees, and we are more important to Him than those beautiful things.)*
8. What does it mean to you that God knows you? *(If kids need ideas, let them know that they can always feel loved and comforted and special because the God who created everything knows them.)*

God knows you! He loves you! Let's take some time to pray and thank God for knowing us. And let's ask Him to help us show His love to others.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for helping them find ways to love Him and love others this week.

Craft: Moon and Stars

SUPPLIES: white and gray craft paint, small white paper plates (1 per kid plus 2 extra), large trash bags or disposable tablecloth, pom-poms (2–3 per kid), black construction paper (1 sheet per kid), glue, star stickers, gold or silver gel markers

Put white and gray craft paint on separate paper plates. Put trash bags or a disposable tablecloth on the table to protect it from paint spills. Set out pom-poms, construction paper, glue, and decorating supplies.

God created everything—He put the moon and the stars in the sky! Have you ever been outside at night and looked at all the stars? Invite the kids to answer. God created amazing things! He made all the stars in the sky, and He made the moon. Let's make a craft to remind us of what God has created.

Give every child a paper plate and a few pom-poms. Invite the kids to make the moon by dipping their pom-poms into the paint and dabbing it on their plate. It will look like craters on the moon. After they've painted their plates, they can glue them to a piece of black construction paper. Then invite the kids to make some stars in the night sky by using stickers or gel markers.

Take your pictures home to remind you that God created the moon and stars and that He also made you! He knows you and loves you.



Game: Like It or Not?

Because God knows us, we are known! Let's get to know each other even better by playing a fun game together.

Divide the room into side 1 and side 2. Tell kids that you're going to make statements about different activities. If they agree with the statement, they should go to side 1. If they disagree, they should go to side 2. Explain that you will let them know how to move each time.

Use the following statements or come up with your own. After each statement, give the kids a different action to perform. Here are some ideas: hop like a bunny, run in slow motion, move like a robot, tiptoe like a ballet dancer, walk backwards, jump like a frog.

- I like to draw.
- I enjoy playing soccer.
- I like eating vegetables.
- I love to eat cookies.
- I like coming to church.
- I enjoy playing games.
- I love to sing.
- I enjoy playing with friends.

Active games direct
kids' energy to keep
learning while moving
and having fun!

Each lesson's craft
helps kids internalize the
story and Wonder Truth.
Editable Craft Labels are
available to help parents
see how the craft ties to
what kids are learning!

- I like to help cook.
- I enjoy dancing.
- I like to be outside.
- I enjoy going to the pool.

Make It Inclusive: Some kids may not be mobile and able to do many of the activities listed. Be sensitive to their abilities and make sure to name activities that everyone can relate to. Also, be sure to choose movements that all kids can participate in.

LESSON 1 EARLY ELEMENTARY

Large Group or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because God Knows Me, I Am Known

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2; Psalm 8

WORD OF WONDER: Exodus 15:11c

Responding in Worship gives kids an opportunity to spend time with God and respond to His Word.

Responding in Worship: Star Portraits

SUPPLIES: cardstock, scissors (prep only), coloring utensils, hole punch, string, paintbrushes (optional), kid-safe glow-in-the-dark craft paint (optional), disposable tablecloths (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Star Portraits Slide, Star Portrait Sheet (1 per kid), [Faith Begins with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print a Star Portrait Sheet on cardstock for each kid, and cut the stars out along the dotted lines.

Display the Star Portraits Slide and gather kids together. **Because God knows you, you are known! God created each of us, along with all of creation—the sun and moon and stars and animals! Everything was created with His care and love. When we remember this, we are reminded that God knows everything about us—not just who we are but everything going on in our lives. It is amazing to realize that we are known by God!**

Give a pre-cut Star Portrait Sheet to each kid and set out coloring utensils.

If using kid-safe glow-in-the-dark craft paint, set out paints and brushes and consider covering tables with disposable tablecloths.

Make It Inclusive: Offer hand-over-hand assistance for any kids who need fine-motor support, or lightly draw the portrait and invite the child to trace over your drawing to create his portrait.



Encourage kids to draw a self-portrait in the rectangular frame on their stars. As the kids draw, encourage them to think about how God knows every detail about them. He made the moon and the stars, and yet He knows every hair on their heads, the color of their eyes, and the freckles on their faces. They were made to reflect God's image to the world around them. They are known by God! As the kids work, play songs from the [Faith Begins with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

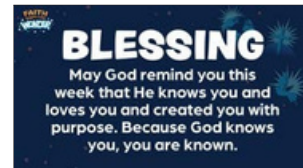
Leader Tip: If you have access to an instant photo camera, you can take photos of the kids to attach to their frames instead of having them draw self-portraits.

After they've drawn their self-portraits, encourage the kids to share them with one another and note how God has created each of them to be unique. Invite kids to color their stars. (If using glow-in-the-dark paint, invite kids to use it on the star portion of their frames.) Once they are finished, be available to help them hole punch the top of their stars and put string through them so that they can hang them up at home.

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God Creates Blessing Slide

Display the God Creates Blessing Slide. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.



Blessing: May God remind you this week that He knows you and loves you and created you with purpose. Because God knows you, you are known.

Closing Game: Caring for God's Creation

God created everything, and He created people. He invites us to take care of His creation. Let's play a game and act out how we would care for the different things God created.

Call out the questions below and invite the kids to act out how they would care for these different things in creation:

- How would you take care of a vegetable garden?
- How would you take care of a dirty street?
- How would you take care of farm animals?
- How would you take care of a flower garden?
- How would you take care of a puppy?
- How would you take care of a baby?

Play this simple game during pick-up time to remind kids of the Bible story they explored.

End your lesson with encouragement and hope as you remind kids of who God is and who they are in Him.