

Wonder Ink®

Elementary Preview Guide



Featuring Preteen
Activities in *Every Lesson*



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.



Elementary Lessons with Activities for Preteens

To walk alongside this age group as they learn, grow, and love Jesus, Elementary lessons are built to engage the oldest elementary kids (3rd–6th Grade) and include activities that are specific to Preteens.

This age level is recommended if all of your elementary kids are learning together. You can supplement activities and questions from the Early Elementary age level for small group time as needed.

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



ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

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 plan when we realize that because God knows us, we are known!

WORD OF WONDER: You are majestic and holy. Your glory fills me with wonder.
Exodus 15:11b

Preteen Activity

CURIOSITY 15 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

On activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the world.

- Welcome Question: What is one thing about you that others might not know?
- Curiosity Questions
- Elementary Interactive Game: Getting to Know You
- Preteen Interactive Game: Four Corners
- Declaring God's Wonder

Recommendations for songs on the Wonder Ink Spotify playlists and YouTube channel help you plan a designated time in your lesson to worship God through music.

Discussion Questions just for Preteens

BELIEF 25–35 minutes • Large Group

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

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder

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 lives.

- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

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

- Elementary Responding in Worship: Star Portraits
- Preteen Responding in Worship: I Am Known Portraits
- Blessing Your Kids

Preteen Activity

The call-and-response video helps kids memorize the Word of Wonder for each series.

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!

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 15:11b

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

Encourages leaders
to prepare their
hearts before they
teach each lesson.
Share via email, text,
or during a pre-
service huddle.

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 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

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 15:11b

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.

GOD CREATES HUMANS

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?

Elementary Interactive Game: Getting to Know You

SUPPLIES: masking tape

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Getting to Know You Slide, Agree and Disagree Sheets, God Creates Wonder Truth Slide

Ahead of time, print the Agree and Disagree Sheets. Tape them to opposite walls of the room.

Display the Getting to Know You Slide. **Today we get to learn about how God knows and loves each of us! Let’s take some time to get to know each other a bit better too!**



Let the kids know that you’re going to make statements about different activities they may or may not enjoy. If they agree with the statement, they can move to the side of the room with the thumbs-up “Agree” sign. If they disagree, they can move to the side of the room with the thumbs-down “Disagree” sign. Be sure to tell them that you will let them know how they will move each time.

Use the following statements or come up with your own! After each statement, tell the kids how to move. For instance, you could ask them to hop like a bunny, run in slow motion, move like a robot, tiptoe like a ballet dancer, walk backwards, or jump like a frog.

- I like to draw.
- I enjoy playing soccer.
- I like eating vegetables.
- I love to eat cookies.
- I like to learn new things at church.
- I enjoy playing board games.
- I love to sing.
- I enjoy playing with friends.
- I like to cook.
- I enjoy dancing.
- I like to be outside.
- I enjoy swimming.



These tips are in every lesson to help engage kids of all abilities.

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

Leader Tip: If your space is too small or your group too large to facilitate the activity, a simple alternative is to print Agree and Disagree Sheets for each kid. Then invite them to show their response to each statement by holding up the appropriate sign. Or, if you prefer not to print more copies of the sheets, you could simply encourage them to give you a thumbs-up or thumbs-down in response to each statement.

After a few rounds, gather the group back together. **We all got to know each other a little better through that game! You are unique in what you enjoy and what you don't. God created each of you, and He knew what you would enjoy! Today we get to learn about how God knows and loves us. Today's Wonder Truth is **BECAUSE GOD KNOWS ME, I AM KNOWN.****



Preteen Interactive Game: Four Corners

SUPPLIES: paper (4 sheets), marker, masking tape

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Four Corners Slide, God Creates Wonder Truth Slide

Ahead of time, label four sheets of paper with consecutive numbers from 1–4. Tape each sheet to the wall in a different corner of the room.

Display the Four Corners Slide. **Today we get to learn about how God knows and loves each of us! Let's take some time to get to know each other a bit better too!**

Let the kids know that you're going to list a variety of different activities. They will show their level of enthusiasm for that activity by choosing a number in a range from 1 to 4, with 4 indicating the most enthusiasm and 1 indicating the least enthusiasm. Then they can go to one of the numbered corners of the room based on the number they choose. For example, if they really like cooking, they should go to the corner with the number 4. If they dislike soccer, they should go to the corner with the number 1.

After each statement, help kids feel seen by commenting on who ended up where, and invite a few to share why they love, dislike, or feel so-so about that activity.

Use the following list of activities or come up with your own!

- I like to read.
- I enjoy playing basketball.
- I like cleaning my room.
- I love to eat chips.
- I like coming to church.
- I enjoy soccer.
- I love to sing.
- I like math.
- I like to watch sports on TV.
- I enjoy doing homework.
- I like video games.
- I like to cook.
- I enjoy dancing.
- I like to be outside.
- I enjoy swimming.



Curiosity features both Elementary and Preteen activities to engage each age.

Make It Inclusive: Some kids may not be able to do many of the activities listed. Be sensitive to their abilities and make sure to include activities that everyone can relate to.

Leader Tip: If your space is too small or your group too large to facilitate the activity, a simple alternative is to have each kid label his own sheets of paper with consecutive numbers from 1 to 4. Rather than moving around the room, a kid can show his response to each statement by holding up the appropriate number sign. Or you could simply encourage them to hold up the corresponding number of fingers from 1 to 4 in response to each statement.

After a few rounds, gather the group back together. **We all got to know each other a little better through that game! You are unique in what you enjoy and what you don't. God created each of you, and He knew what you would enjoy! Today we get to learn about how God knows and loves us. Today's Wonder Truth is **BECAUSE GOD KNOWS ME, I AM KNOWN.****



Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God Creates Declaration Slide

Display the God Creates Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! *(Kids repeat.)*

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. *(Kids repeat.)*

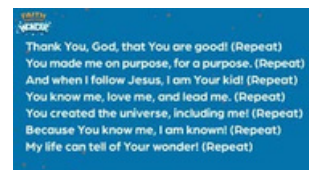
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! *(Kids repeat.)*

You know me, love me, and lead me. *(Kids repeat.)*

You created the universe, including me! *(Kids repeat.)*

Because You know me, I am known! *(Kids repeat.)*

My life can tell of Your wonder! *(Kids repeat.)*



Declaring who God is,
who we are in Him,
and the truth from
Scripture we are
exploring in the lesson
is formational.

LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

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 15:11b

Worship is built into every lesson!

Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **Thank You, Father, for the chance to worship You together. As we learn from You today, we pray that You will remind us of Your love and that Your Holy Spirit will lead us. Thank You for knowing us and loving us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Leader Tip: Consider inviting one of the kids to lead the group in prayer before you worship God through singing!

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

Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story—each one reinforces the others! **HEAR** it read directly from the Bible. **WATCH** it in a video. **EXPERIENCE** it through the live script.



SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink **RESOURCES:** God Creates Title Slide, [God Creates Humans God's Big Story Video](#)

Display the God Creates Title Slide. Invite kids to turn to Genesis 2 in their Bibles. Explain that Genesis is the very first book in the Bible. Let the kids know they will also be turning to the book of Psalms, which is in the middle of their Bibles. **Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!**

Three-step approach to explore the Bible and engage in multiple ways.

Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 2:7, 15, and 22. Then have everyone turn to Psalm 8 in their Bibles and ask a volunteer to read Psalm 8:1–4 and another volunteer to read Psalm 8:5–9. Then do one or both of the following:

- View [God Creates Humans God's Big Story Video](#)
- Use the following God Creates Humans Experience It! Script

LESSON 1 GOD CREATES HUMANS

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: table, Bible, cardstock (6 sheets), ball of string or yarn, table, scissors (prep only), masking or painter's tape, laminator (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Timeline Images Sheets, Wonders Slides, Timeline Images Full Page Version (optional), Timeline Images Placement Diagram Sheet (optional)

PREP

Prep your resources: Ahead of time, print the Timeline Images Sheets onto cardstock and cut along the dotted lines. (If your space is large, consider printing the Timeline Images Sheets Full Page Version instead.) If you are able, laminate the images to make them more durable for future use. These 12 images will be placed on a timeline that is utilized in all four Faith Begins with Wonder lessons. For this lesson, however, you only need images 1–4. For a diagram of the *completed timeline*, print the Timeline Images Placement Diagram Sheet.

Gather your materials: masking or painter's tape, scissors, and a ball of string or yarn. The material and length of the string, which will become the base of the timeline, will depend on the specifications of your staging area. Scout out a wall in your staging area where the timeline can go. If you have the space, get a thick, chunky yarn in a vibrant color that will stand out against your wall. Before you begin, wind the string into a ball (like a knitting ball), so it unwinds easily. Have more string ready than you think you will need!

Set the stage: Make sure the wall you plan to build the timeline on is empty (or at least clear from distracting images). Ideally, you would build the timeline so that it is behind you yet visible from where the kids will be sitting. Set a table to the side of your staging area (near the timeline) where you can easily grab all your props and timeline images when needed. Place on the table: the Bible (bookmarked to Psalm 8), the ball of string or yarn, rolls of tape, scissors, and images 1–4. You will use the tape to adhere the string to the wall during the story. You will also use the tape to adhere the images to the wall as the story proceeds. Consider placing tape rolls on the back of images 1–4 ahead of time.



Make It Inclusive: Consider providing an adult or peer helper to provide clarification or redirection for any kids who may have difficulty with listening comprehension or attention.

Gather kids and begin: Hold the ball of string or yarn. **Imagine that I'm holding a story in my hands. I know it's a ball of string. But let's pretend that when stretched out like this ...** (begin to unwind it) **the string becomes a timeline that follows a story. Every story has a beginning.** Tape the first end

of the string onto the left side of the wall (from the kids' perspective). **That's right here: the beginning** (point to it). **And**—(walk with the ball of string to the opposite end of your staging area, unwinding it as you go) **every story has an end**. Tape the string to the wall so that it's taut, and cut the leftover string at the end with scissors. **That's over here: the end** (point to it). **And everything in the middle?** Wave your arms towards the middle. **That's what happens in the story!**

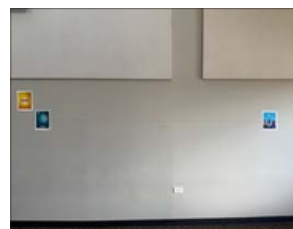
For instance, let's pretend this (gesture to the whole timeline) **is the story of my day today. My story starts right here at the beginning** (point to the beginning) **when I opened my eyes and woke up. Then I ...** Tell the kids a story of your day so far, including just a few interesting anecdotes from the moment you woke up until now. Your story should be brief, in chronological order, and specific to you. For example: I made breakfast and burnt the toast and then took my dog for a walk, and so on. Use the whole length of the timeline to tell the story linearly, moving your finger along it to show the progression of time. **And now I'm right here** (point to the end of the timeline), **standing in front of you! But the story of my day isn't over until I close my eyes and go to sleep, so let's make this** (point to the end of the timeline) **an arrow pointing that way** (point to the space beyond the end of the timeline) **to show** (cut two pieces from the extra ball of string and form them into an arrow on the end of the timeline) **... there's more to come! The story isn't over yet.**

Step back and look at the timeline. **I can tell this story because I was there: It's one day in my life. But let's imagine this timeline tells a bigger story—a much bigger story! Let's imagine this line is all of time. Not just one day in my life, but every single day that ever was ... from the very beginning of time until now.** Invite two kid volunteers to help you. Give one the Creation Image and one the Us Image to hold. **This shows us creation—the beginning of the world and the beginning of time.** Direct the kid holding the Creation Image to stand at the very start of the timeline. **And this is a picture of us—you and me, right now, today.** Direct the kid holding the Us Image to stand at the very end of the timeline, right before the arrow. Step back and look at the timeline. **Who could tell a story this big?** Allow kids to respond.



Only someone who was always there, from the very beginning, could tell this story. Reveal the God Image. Invite a third volunteer to hold it at the beginning of the timeline. **But God wasn't just there from the beginning—God was there before the beginning. He created time itself!** Direct the kid holding the God Image to move to the left of the timeline's beginning. Step back to look at the whole picture and say: **This is God's big story.**

Show a Bible. **Written down for us in the Bible, God's big story is full of wonder—true stories that help us see and know who God is. It is truth you can depend on because all truth is pointing to someone—**(point to God Image) **to God Himself. He's the One who created the heavens and the earth** (point to Creation Image). **He's the One who created every man and woman who's ever lived** (run your finger along the timeline until you get to the Us Image). **He even created you!** Point to the Us Image and look at the kids. **The God of heaven created you and knows you!**



Tape the images in their place—all images should sit on and touch the timeline (except for the God Image, which should be above and outside of the timeline, close to the beginning). Thank your volunteers and ask them to sit.

Way back in the beginning, God created all kinds of wonders—the heavens (display Wonders Slide 1: moon and stars) **and the earth** (display Wonders Slide 2: land and plants) **and everything in it.** Display the next three slides, waiting several seconds between each (Wonders Slide 3: flocks of the land; Wonders Slide 4: birds of the sky; and Wonders Slide 5: fish of the ocean). **Then God created humans on purpose and with great care. This was no accident. He formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into him.** Display Wonders Slide 6: Adam. **Later, God took a rib from the man while he was sleeping and used it to make a woman.** Display Wonders Slide 7: Adam and Eve. **The man was called Adam and the woman, Eve. Together, they were to take care of God’s good earth, reflecting God’s goodness to everything around them. They were to farm the land and watch over the plants and animals. This was the special job God gave them. This was their part in God’s creative work.**



Look at the timeline and spread your hands wide. **Since then, billions of people have walked the earth. One of those billions was a man named David.** Show kids the David Image. **David’s life and story is somewhere in the middle of God’s big story, thousands of years ago.** Invite a volunteer to tape the David Image on the timeline about one-third of the way past the Creation Image. **We can read about David in the Bible!** Pick up the Bible. **David was a shepherd, warrior, and king. He was also a songwriter who wrote a song poem, or psalm, marveling at how majestic God is and how amazing it is that God thinks about humans.** Open the Bible to Psalm 8. **Psalm 8 says, “Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in the whole earth!” (Psalm 8:1).** Look at the kids. **God’s amazingness fills the heavens. But as big and powerful as God is, He still works through those who are small and weak ... like David** (point to the David Image), **who was not always a great king but was once the youngest and smallest in his family. David was just one man singing about his love for God. But the praises of the young and powerless can even silence God’s enemies!**

In this psalm, David expresses wonder at God’s power to create. Display Wonders Slide 1: moon and stars. Read Psalm 8:3: **“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.”** Point to the slide and look at the kids. **God’s works are surely amazing, but what amazes David even more is that after creating such huge, wonderful things, such a powerful God also thinks and cares about people.** Read Psalm 8:4: **“What are human beings that you think about them? What is a son of man that you take care of him?”** Look again at the slide of the moon and stars. **Have you ever gone outside to stand under the night sky, and while looking up at the moon and the stars, you suddenly felt really small?** Allow kids to respond. **Any person may feel small and insignificant at times. Just one among billions. When you feel small, it’s easy to question: Does God really see us? Care for us? Know us?** Refer to the Bible in your hands. **The Bible’s answer is “Yes!” God created people just “a little lower than the angels” of heaven. He crowned them with “glory and honor” (Psalm 8:5). Every person has God-given value. Every person has a purpose in God’s creation.**

Psalm 8 is full of wonder over the fact that God cares for us and gave people a special job to care for His creation. Go to the timeline and point to the Creation Image. **The songwriter sings, “You**

made human beings rule over everything your hands created.” That includes the flocks of the land (display Wonders Slide 3: flocks of the land), the birds of the sky (display Wonders Slide 4: birds of the sky), and the fish of the oceans (display Wonders Slide 5: fish of the ocean). All these God placed in the care of humans so that God’s creation could flourish.

But what about us way over here? Move down the timeline and point to the Us Image. Who are we that God thinks and cares about us? Are each of us just one among billions, easily lost in the crowd and forgotten? No. God has made us more than that. Step back to look at the timeline. You are part of God’s big story! God thought of you way back here (run your hand backwards through the timeline from the Us Image until you reach the Creation Image and then reach beyond that to the God Image)—even before the beginning! He is always thinking about you. He made you on purpose and with great care in His heart. He made you and knows you! Now you can live your life always trusting this wonderful truth: Because God knows you, you are known.

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!



In Awe of God’s Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God’s story.

If you wrote a psalm of praise right now, how would you describe God? Invite kids to shout out words that describe God.

What did you notice about God’s care and love for people in God’s big story today? Invite the kids to think about what they learned about God’s love for them today.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

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 15:11b

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

—Exodus 15:11b (NIV)

You are majestic and holy. Your glory fills me with wonder. You do amazing things.

—Exodus 15:11b (NIRV)

SUPPLIES: Bible, paper plates (16 or 13 per small group), marker (prep only), timer (optional)

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

Ahead of time, write each word of the verse on a paper plate. Write the Bible reference on a separate plate. Make a set of plates for each small group.

Today we learned about God's amazing creation and how He created people with purpose and love. What an amazing God, who is worthy of all our praise! Let's worship God by saying our Word of Wonder together. Open your Bible to Exodus 15:11b. If possible, display the Word of Wonder Slide or watch the [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#). Introduce kids to Exodus 15:11b by reading it several times together.

Next, mix up the paper plates with words from the verse on them and give each kid one or more. Encourage kids to put their plates in the correct order. Once they've done it, invite everyone to say the verse together. If you have extra time, do the challenge again, but time the kids to see how fast they can go!

Leader Tip: *For Younger Kids.* Hide the plates around the room and invite kids to look for them. Once they find all the plates, help them read the words and then put the verse in order.

Leader Tip: *For Preteens.* Challenge older kids to put their plates in verse order before you introduce Exodus 15:11b. Once they think they have it figured out, display the Word of Wonder Slide and check their answer.

Call-and-response videos help kids learn the memory verse!

Elementary Questions

- Who created the heavens and the earth? (*God*)
- What did God form the first man out of? (*dust*)
- What were first two people called? (*Adam and Eve*)
- Why do you think God created so many beautiful things?
- What are some things you want to praise God for?
- Why is it good to realize that God knows you?

Questions just
for 4th–6th
graders!

Our God is so amazing! He created us with purpose, and He knows us and loves us. Let's take some time to thank God for all He has done in our lives.

Make It Inclusive: Understanding and answering open-ended questions can be difficult for some kids. Modify questions to help all kids participate by changing questions into yes/no format, offering answer choices, and/or providing extended wait time for kids to process.

Preteen Questions

- How did God create the first two people? (*He created them with purpose and with care. He created Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him, and He created Eve from Adam's side.*)
- What were some of the responsibilities God gave to the first two people? (*God created people to take care of His good earth, reflect His goodness, farm the land, and watch over plants and animals.*)
- Who wrote Psalm 8? (*David*)
- Why do you think God created people to live their lives with purpose?
- How can you reflect God's goodness to your friends? Family? Teachers?
- What does it mean to you that God knows you and loves you?

God knows us and loves us and created us with a purpose. He invites us to show His goodness and glory to everyone around us. Let's take some time to pray together, praising God and asking Him to help us reflect His goodness!

Leader Tip: Many kids struggle with peer pressure and fitting in. Reflecting God's goodness to others might make them stand out. Acknowledge this with the kids, and then ask how you can be praying for them throughout the week.

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to share some praises with the whole group—things they want to praise God for, or things from their week that caused them to notice God's love and attention. After some sharing time, pray for the group, asking God to help them reflect God's goodness with the help of the Holy Spirit powerfully at work in their lives.

LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

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 15:11b

Elementary 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)

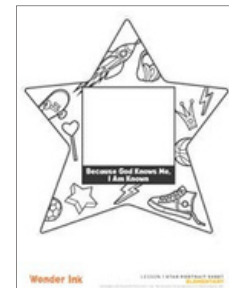
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Star Portraits Slide, Star Portrait Sheet (1 per kid), [Faith Begins with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

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.

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

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.

Preteen Responding in Worship: I Am Known Portraits

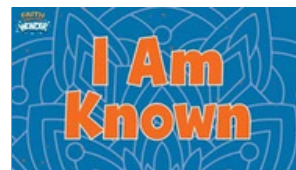
SUPPLIES: cardstock, colored pencils, kid-safe scissors, hole punch, string, paintbrushes (optional), kid-safe glow-in-the-dark craft paint (optional), disposable tablecloths (optional)

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

Ahead of time, print an I Am Known Portrait Sheet on cardstock for each kid.

Display the I Am Known Slide and gather kids together. **God created the sun and moon and stars and every creature that crawls or flies or swims! Everything was created with God's care and love. But of all the things God created, there is just one who He made to reflect His goodness to everything around them: people! God made you and me on purpose and with a purpose. The same God who created the whole universe knows everything about you and everything going on in your life. Because God knows you, you are known!**

Give an I Am Known Portrait Sheet to each kid and set out colored pencils and kid-safe scissors. 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. Also, consider precutting the stars on the I Am Known Portrait Sheet.

Encourage kids to cut out their stars and draw a self-portrait in the frame section of their sheets. 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 in 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.

As kids finish drawing their self-portraits, invite them to share their responses to these questions, either with the group or with a neighbor:

- **Among all the billions of people in the world, God knows you! How does that make you feel?**
- **God is good, kind, and loving! What part of God's character do you hope to reflect this week?**

LESSON 1 **GOD CREATES HUMANS**

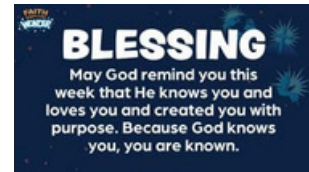
Responding in Worship gives preteens an opportunity to spend time with God and respond to His Word.

After they've drawn their self-portraits, encourage kids to color their stars. (If using glow-in-the-dark paint, invite kids to use it to outline the star portion of their frames.) Once they are finished, kids can hole-punch the top of their stars and put string through them so that they can hang them up at home.

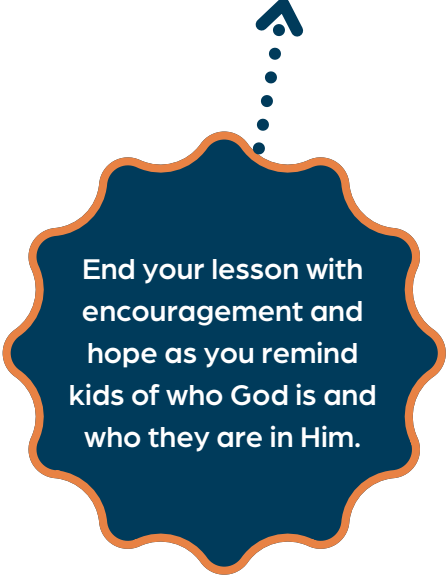
Blessing Your Kids

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.



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