



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Teaches Us How to Live

SCRIPTURE: [Matthew 6](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [from Matthew 5:8](#)

I've been struggling with something lately—my repeated, worry-filled thoughts.

Those thoughts on repeat in my head that I can't turn off.

The nights I lie awake processing those repeated thoughts.

The lies Satan tells me that are difficult to dismiss.

The worries of the past, present, and future.

I've come to realize the only way to distinguish and call out those repeated thoughts is with truth. Satan loves to get us to focus on things other than truth, so he will try to fill our minds with whatever he can to distract us from God's truth.

Jesus spent time teaching His disciples not to worry because He knew that they would. He actually commanded them not to worry and told them to focus on something else.

Read [Matthew 6:33–34](#).

When we seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, He will take care of our worries. Those thoughts that rattle you, seek first His kingdom. Those lies Satan keeps telling you, seek first God's kingdom.

What worries do you need to turn over to God and trust that He can take care of them?

As you interact with kids, they may be dealing with similar thoughts and worries. Help them turn worry to truth. Help them refocus their thoughts on God and who He is. Remind kids God sees them and they can trust Him.

—Stephanie Rhyne

Kids Ministry Content Creator

Contributor to Wonder Ink

10:45 Service

LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

WORRY

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus could have been thinking especially of the 12 disciples, telling them not to worry about the dangerous mission ahead ([Matthew 10:5–20](#)). But Jesus' words are not only for them; the sermon was not spoken in private.

WHAT?

Jesus teaches a lot about wealth and money in Matthew. It could be that Matthew, a tax collector, was especially interested in these subjects. Jesus' command to seek "treasures in heaven" comes before he says not to worry about material needs ([Matthew 6:20, NIV](#)).

WHERE?

Similar to the book of Mark, Matthew tells of Jesus beginning His ministry in the villages and synagogues of Galilee. Jesus would make one dramatic journey to Jerusalem to confront the chief priests and leaders of the temple, and this would lead to His arrest.

WHEN?

At this point in the narrative, Jesus was a regional teacher. He and the disciples would soon carry the kingdom message to all of Israel. Jesus adds, "[D]o not worry about what to say or how to say it" ([Matthew 10:19, NIV](#)).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus sent His followers on a mission that required radical reliance upon God ([Matthew 10:5–20](#)). In stilling the storm, Jesus displays His power over creation ([Matthew 8:27](#)). The creator of all things can be trusted to provide for His people.



Curiosity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

Caring is Sharing

SUPPLIES: toy food, piece of clothing, dollhouse bed, pair of shoes

Place some toy food, a piece of clothing, a dollhouse bed, and a pair of shoes on the floor and gather kids nearby.

Let's play a game where we pretend to help others who need something! If you had a friend who was hungry, which of these things could you give your friend? Point to items you laid out. Encourage one of the kids to pick up a piece of toy food from the objects. **Great job! If someone is hungry, we can share some food with them!**

What if someone doesn't have any clothes to wear? Allow a kid to pick up the piece of clothing. **Right! We could give the person some clothes.** **What if someone doesn't have somewhere to sleep?** Allow a kid to pick up the bed. **Great! We could help her find a bed to sleep in.** **What if someone doesn't have anything to wear on their feet?** Allow a kid to pick up the pair of shoes. **Good job! We could give him some shoes to wear. Jesus teaches us how to live, and we can trust Him to take care of us! You all did a great job putting God first by helping others!**

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS TEACHES US HOW TO LIVE.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—*Point up.*

TEACHES US—*Point at self.*

HOW TO LIVE.—*Wave arms in a circle in front of self.*



Belief

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

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 helping us hear from You today. May the Holy Spirit speak Your truth to our hearts. Lord, we often worry about things in our lives. We ask that You help us remember today to trust You and focus on You instead of our worries. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *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

Read from
The Big Picture Bible p216
"The Sermon on the Mount"

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see the face of God.**

—Matthew 5:8

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What are some things that make you feel happy? How does Jesus say we will be happy?**
- **We learned today that Jesus teaches us how to live. One of the things Jesus teaches us is that we should keep our hearts pure. What are some ways that we can keep our hearts clean and pure?**



Faith

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

Craft: God Is #1

SUPPLIES: Craft sticks, Glue sticks

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God Is #1 Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Before kids arrive, print a copy of the God Is #1 Sheet for each kid and set out crayons.

Allow kids to color their sign and help them glue it to a craft stick.



Have you ever been to a sports game and seen people wearing big foam fingers that say “#1” on them? Allow the kids to respond. Some people like to wear these in support of their favorite teams. Who should we always put first in our lives? Allow the kids to respond. Jesus reminds us that we should always put God first in our lives. He is our #1. We’re going to decorate our own “God is #1” fingers to help us remember to always put God first.

Allow kids to color and decorate their God Is #1 fingers. When they finish, encourage them to hold up or wear their fingers and shout, “God is #1!”



Identity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for being with them in whatever they face and what they worry about.

God, thank You for always being with us. When we are worried, help us remember that we can always trust 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: May you always remember to put God first in your life and that He is always with you. Go in peace knowing that God loves you and will take care of you.

Closing Game: Pop Up

Gather kids together in an open space. Tell them to spread out and sit down.

We're learning today that we don't have to worry, because we can trust God to take care of us. God takes care of everything He created! I'm going to shout out a category, and you will jump up when you think of one way that God takes care of what I said. I'll call on the first person to pop up.

Call out the following things:

- Birds
- Flowers
- Cats
- Fish
- Horses
- Trees
- People

Play multiple rounds or until you run out of categories.

10:45 Service