

9:00 Service



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

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.

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Curiosity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: toy foods, toy dishes, dress-up clothes, fake flowers, fake greenery, unbreakable flower vases or containers, coloring utensils

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

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

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

Play Station: Sharing Is Caring

Set-up: Set out toy foods, dishes, and dress-up clothes.

Play: Encourage kids to take turns caring for each other by serving each other food and sharing the clothes.

Play Station: Flower Play

Set-up: Set out fake flowers, fake greenery, and unbreakable flower vases or containers.

Play: Allow kids to play with the flowers and make their own flower arrangements. Talk about what makes flowers special and ask them about the most beautiful flower they've ever seen.

Play Station: Worry Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw pictures of birds or flowers.

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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.

Game: Put God First

Have kids line up on one side of the room and choose one kid to stand in the middle as the caller. The caller will call out something he likes to do, and any of the kids who also enjoy doing that will try to run to the other side of the room without getting tagged by the caller. After each round, ask the kids how they could put God first while they do the activity that was just called out. The first person who gets tagged will be the caller for the next round. Have everyone return to the same side of the room and repeat as time allows.

Today we've learned that we should put God first in all we do. We're going to play a game where one of you will call out something you like to do. For example, if I like to read books, I will yell out "read books." Anyone who likes to read books would try to run across to the other side of the room before I can tag you. Let's practice. I'll be the caller for the first round. When I yell, "read books," if you like to read books as well, you will try to run to the other side of the room without getting tagged.

Play a practice round with the kids. After the kids have had a chance to run, gather them back together and ask them if they can think of some ways they could put God first while reading books. (For example, they could read the Bible.)

Use the following statements (or let the kids use their own):

- Read books
- Dance
- Play with toys
- Play sports
- Eat vegetables
- Pick flowers
- Swim

Let the kid you tagged in your practice round be the first person to be the caller. Play as time allows.



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.

Responding in Worship: Give God Those Worries

SUPPLIES: whiteboard (1 per kid), dry-erase markers (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Heart of Jesus Early Childhood music flashdrive](#)

Hand out a whiteboard and dry-erase marker to each kid (or let them share). **We all have things that we worry about.** Consider sharing an example of something that you worry about. **But when we put God first, we give God our worries and trust Him to help us in what we are worrying about.** If you shared an example of your own worries, share with the kids how you can trust God to help you in that situation. **I'm going to turn on some quiet music while you draw a picture of things that you worry about.** Turn on some quiet music from the [Heart of Jesus Early Childhood music flashdrive](#) and allow time for the kids to draw pictures of their worries on whiteboards.

After kids have had adequate time to draw their worries, turn down the music, and get the kids' attention again. **We're going to spend some time telling God that we trust Him with the things we have drawn on our boards.** Lead kids in a prayer, turning their worries over to God and telling Him that they trust Him to take care of them. If time allows, ask each kid to share what they drew a picture of and pray with each specifically asking God to help each child trust Him in that situation.

Leader Tip: Remind kids that giving their worries to God will not make the worries disappear, but God will be with them in every situation.

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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.

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