



LESSON 2 THE FALL

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Never Gives Up on Us

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3

GOD'S BIG STORY: Adam and Eve disobey God, believing the serpent's lie over God's truth. Still, God calls to them, cares for them, and promises that one of their descendants will someday defeat Satan once and for all.

WORD OF WONDER: When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! —2 Corinthians 5:17

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: If you could do one thing forever and never stop, what would it be?
- Curiosity Questions
- Elementary STEM Activity: Forever Swing
- Preteen Interactive Game: "The Longest" Challenges
- 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: 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

- 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 that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Elementary Responding in Worship: A Bigger Love
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Infinity Knot Bracelets
- Blessing Your Kids

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

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WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Have you ever seen a toddler throw a tantrum? After a long day of fun at a theme park, my three-year-old fell apart because I would not buy her another sweet treat. I tried to explain to her that it wasn't good for her, but she screamed and refused to accept not getting her way. So I took her to a nearby bathroom to take a time-out, to allow her to calm down. She sat on that disgusting floor and threw the biggest tantrum. Although it felt like the longest three minutes of my life, she eventually calmed down and apologized. She was ready to trust and believe that I wanted only the best for her.

As we read the story of the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3, I wonder why the enemy didn't directly command Eve just to go and eat the fruit. Did you catch his brilliant tactic? What lies has the enemy told you about God? Do you truly believe that God will take care of you as He promised?

One of the toughest realities of the Christian walk is the fact that we have all fallen. And one of the most joyous realities is that the Father—our perfect parent—doesn't give up on us. He will pursue us patiently until we surrender, soften our hearts, and believe God can be trusted.

—Catherine Hwang-Jin

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

It was the serpent who encouraged Adam and Eve's fall into sin. This is the first time we see God's enemy disguised as one of God's good creatures, encouraging people to disobey. Revelation talks about the coming defeat of Satan, "that ancient serpent" (Revelation 20:2 NIV).

WHAT?

Sin changed everything in God's good world. Adam and Eve turned away from God and disobeyed His command. From then on, all of us do the same. We choose to follow our own way, and it breaks our relationship with God and separates us from Him.

WHERE?

Adam and Eve lived in the garden of Eden, located somewhere in southern Iraq. After the fall, Adam and Eve were forced to leave the garden and can never return. Eden has never been found—the Bible says the entrance is guarded (Genesis 3:24).

WHEN?

We don't know the exact date this took place, but this first sin changed everything in God's good world. From the first people until now, humanity has been in rebellion against God and His way. This happened long ago, but it continues to affect us today.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

God gives consequences for sin in Genesis 3. But God also makes a promise—a snake crusher will reverse the curse of sin (Genesis 3:15). As we read God's big story, we're on the lookout for the One who will make everything right—Jesus!

LESSON 2 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Never Gives Up on Us

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Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

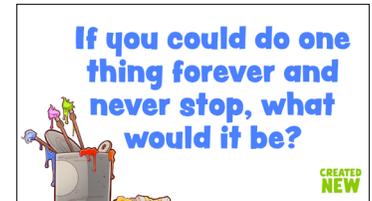
Choose between the [Created New Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

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

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Fall Welcome Question Slide

Before kids arrive, display the Fall Welcome Question Slide or write the following question on a whiteboard: “If you could do one thing forever and never stop, what would it be?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Welcome and greet kids by name and help them find partners to discuss the Welcome Question with. To help younger kids and to give older kids a positive sense of responsibility, pair younger and older kids together.

At your start time ...

Give an energetic welcome to all the kids! Call on several to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **If you could do one thing forever and never stop, what would it be?**

Today we’re going to hear in God’s big story about how God’s love for the first humans never ended and never stopped, even when they turned away from Him. But first, it’s time to be curious!

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 ...

- **Do you know what the world record is for the longest race completed on foot? Longest hug? Longest time on a swing?**
- **Can you think of anything that goes on forever?**

Once kids have guessed at the world records, share these records with them:

- Longest race done on foot: 3,100 miles
- Longest hug: 36 hours, 36 minutes, 36 seconds
- Longest time on a swing: 36 hours (set by a 12-year-old boy!)

Elementary STEM Activity: Forever Swing

SUPPLIES: 6" wooden dowel rods (6 per station), rubber bands, string (one 8"–10" length per station), circular magnets (1 per station), clear tape (1 roll per station), rectangular magnets (3 per station)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Forever Swing Slide, The Fall Wonder Truth Slide

Before kids arrive, prepare for this activity by completing steps 1–2 for each forever swing. If your group is large, set up multiple stations with the supplies for a forever swing (including a prepared wooden frame) at each one. Depending on your space, it works best for 5–10 kids to gather at each station. Assign a leader to each station. Also consider completing a practice run of the entire activity ahead of time.

STEP 1: Create a triangle by overlapping three dowel rods and securing a rubber band around each overlapping corner end.

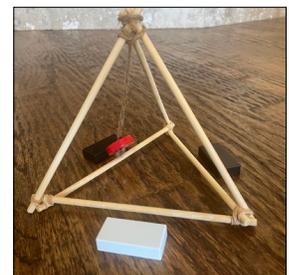
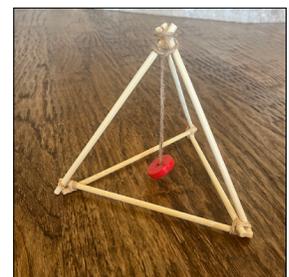
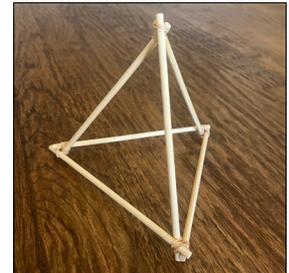
STEP 2: Connect three more dowels to the existing triangle to form a 3D pyramid. Secure each dowel end to the corners of the base first. Then secure the three dowels together at the top to create a pyramid shape.

Display the Forever Swing Slide and gather the kids. **Today, we're going to do a STEM activity and use the force of magnets to create a forever swing. Scientists call the force that keeps the swing moving without ever stopping the Lorentz force. Let's watch it work!** Gather the kids around the forever swing. If you've set up multiple stations, assign kids to each station and have leaders complete the steps at each station. Complete steps 3–4, inviting one or more kid to help you with each one.

STEP 3: Tie one end of the string around the circular magnet and the other end to the top of the pyramid. Secure both ends of the string with clear tape. (Note that the tape will simply wrap around the magnet, to keep it from loosening.)

STEP 4: Place three rectangular magnets at the center of each dowel in the base. Gently lift and release the circular magnet to watch it go! It will bounce back and forth between the three magnetic fields.

Leader Tip: If you plan on having kids gather at multiple stations for this STEM activity, meet with your leaders ahead of time to teach them the steps for this activity, so they feel confident building a forever swing. Youth volunteers make great leaders for this activity!



Because of the powerful force of the magnets, the swing never stops! It just doesn't give up. God's love for us is a little like this forever swing—it never stops!

Display The Fall Wonder Truth Slide. **Our Wonder Truth today is GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON US.**



Preteen Interactive Game: "The Longest" Challenges

SUPPLIES: tape measure, stopwatch, hardcover books (several), whiteboard, dry-erase markers, paper (optional), writing utensils (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Longest Challenges Slide, The Fall Wonder Truth Slide

Ahead of time, tape one long line on the floor.

Display The Longest Challenges Slide and gather the kids. **If you could hold any world record in something, what would it be?** Invite kids to respond. **Wow! It's amazing to think about being the best or fastest in the world at something! Let's do some "longest" challenges now! We might not set any world records today, but we can have fun trying!**



Invite kids to try one or more of the following challenges. If your group is small, encourage everyone who is able and interested to try each one. If your group is large or your time limited, invite kids to choose 1–2 of the challenges to try. Focus on having fun and celebrating each kid's participation, not on winning and losing:

- The Longest Reach: Kids stretch their arms out to the side. Use a tape measure to determine the distance from fingertip to fingertip. See whose reach is the longest!
- The Longest Time Holding Your Breath: On the count of three, have kids hold their breath. See who holds it the longest!
- The Longest Time Balancing a Book on Your Head: Have kids place a hardcover book on their head and keep it there as long as possible without using their hands to steady it. See who balances the book the longest! (This challenge can be done standing or sitting.)
- The Longest Time Standing on One Foot with Eyes Closed: On the count of three, have kids balance on one foot and close their eyes. See who is the last person standing on one foot!
- The Longest Word You Can Spell Correctly: Invite kids to write the longest word they know on the whiteboard. See who writes the longest word and spells it correctly! (Alternatively, kids can write their words on paper.)
- The Longest Jump: Invite kids to line up behind the line. On the count of three, have them all jump as far as they can (without getting a running start). See who jumped the farthest!

Make It Inclusive: If kids in your group have physical limitations that affect mobility, lung capacity, etc., limit the challenges to activities that everyone can safely participate in.

Gather the kids. **Wow! I don't think we set any world records today, but you all rose to the challenge and did some impressively long things! Today we're going to learn about something that is longer and higher and deeper than any world record: God's love for us!** Display The Fall Wonder Truth Slide. **We'll see through the lives of the first two people on earth that, as our Wonder Truth says, GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON US.**



Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Fall Declaration Slide

Display The Fall 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.)

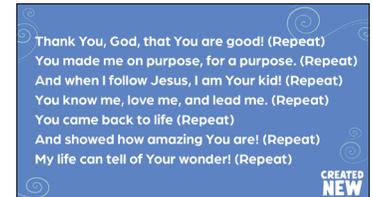
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

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

No matter what I have done or will do, (Kids repeat.)

You will never give up on me. (Kids repeat.)

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



Make It Inclusive: Kids who are a regular part of your ministry may have most of the weekly declaration memorized. All kids like to help in meaningful ways! Invite one or two kids with unique needs to help you lead the declaration.

Large Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Never Gives Up on Us

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for always being with us. We invite Your Holy Spirit to lead, teach, and show us Your truth today. Remind us that no matter what, You don't give up on us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll hear about how God never gives up on us. Let's praise Him now. Play songs from the [Created New 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: The Fall Title Slide, [The Fall God's Big Story Video](#)

Display The Fall Title Slide. Briefly explain that today's story comes straight from the beginning of the Bible, God's Holy Word, and can be found in the first book of the Old Testament called Genesis. Have kids open their Bibles to Genesis 3. Encourage your volunteers to help kids find the passage.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!

Read Genesis 3:1–7, 21–22. Ask kids to place a finger on the word "God" as they follow along. Then do one or both of the following:

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

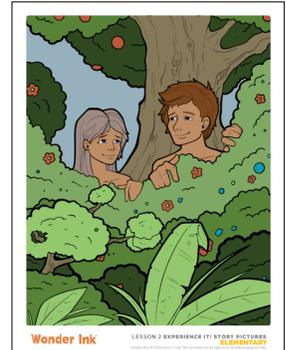
LESSON 2 THE FALL

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, white cardstock, tape, butcher paper (optional), markers (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Experience It! Story Pictures (1 set)

Before kids arrive, print the Experience It! Story Pictures on white cardstock. Tape the Experience It! Story Pictures around the stage area, where they're easily visible but not in order. Consider drawing a large tree on butcher paper and taping it to the wall in your stage area. Then tape the pictures to the tree as "fruit."



As you tell the story, you'll pause at indicated points for kids to point to the matching picture. Each time, call on a kid to "pick" the picture off the wall (or tree!) and stand on stage holding that picture for the remainder of the story.

In the beginning, God created everything that is. Open the Bible to Genesis and hold it up for kids to see. **The book of Genesis tells us that God filled the universe with planets and stars and filled the earth with living things. What other things did God make?** Allow kids to answer freely.

Next, God made human beings, male and female, in His own image, and commanded them to care for the world and its creatures. In return, God showed that He would never give up on them by promising to take care of them and to provide them with many children and grandchildren and great-great-great grandchildren called descendants.

I'll need your help for the next part of the story. Up here (indicate taped pictures), **I have some pictures of this part of God's big story ... but they're all mixed up!** Describe the pictures so everyone in the room has an idea of what's on the pictures if they can't see them clearly. **When I come to a part of the story that matches a picture, quietly point to the picture. I'll call a few of you up here to grab each picture and hold it for all of us to see.**

God gave the first two human beings, Adam and Eve, everything they could want or need. He placed them in a garden and told them to care for it together and to fill the earth with new people. Does anyone see a picture that matches this part of the story? Of Adam and Eve in the garden?

Choose a kid to come on stage, pick the correct picture, then stand on the stage holding the picture for the rest of the kids to see.

God gave Adam and Eve the freedom to eat and enjoy almost all the fruits of His garden. Only one fruit was off limits—the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God warned Adam that if he ate of it, he "would certainly die" (Genesis 2:17). Does anyone see a picture that shows this tree?

Choose a kid to come on stage, pick the correct picture, then stand to the left of the first kid, holding the picture for everyone to see.

In the garden, the serpent was the sneakiest of all the animals on earth, and the enemy of humankind, Satan, used the serpent to deceive Adam and Eve. Does anyone see a picture Adam and Eve with a serpent?

Choose a kid to come on stage, pick the correct picture, then stand to the left of the previous kid,

holding the picture for everyone to see.

The serpent asked Eve why she and Adam were not permitted to eat from the tree of knowledge. When Eve told the serpent what God had said, the serpent replied, “You will not die! God is holding out on you; He knows that you’ll be just like Him if you eat its fruit.”

Eve saw how beautiful the fruit was and the power it promised, so she took a piece and shared it with Adam, who was with her. Does anyone see a picture that matches?

Choose someone to come on stage, pick the correct picture, then stand to the left of the previous kid, holding the picture for the rest of the kids to see.

Despite everything God had done for them, the first human beings disobeyed His one command. Disobeying God is called sin, and Adam and Eve’s sin hurt their relationship with God. They realized what they had done, and for the first time, they felt fear and shame. They noticed they were naked and sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. They had never felt these feelings before. In the evening, as God walked in the garden, Adam and Eve tried to hide from Him. Does anyone see a picture that matches?

Choose a kid to come on stage, pick the correct picture, then stand to the left of the previous kid, holding the picture for everyone to see.

When God called to Adam and Eve, they revealed themselves and confessed their fear and shame over their nakedness. God asked them how they knew they were naked, but rather than admit they had done wrong, Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent.

Actions have consequences, and sin always has consequences. God said that the relationship between the man and the woman would change for the worse. He said the woman would experience more pain when she gave birth, and the man would have to work very hard for his food rather than eating freely from the trees of God’s garden. Adam and Eve would have to leave Eden, never to return. Yet God did not give up on them. Instead, He began to show His plan for healing the relationship between Himself and the people He created. God replaced their fig leaves with clothes made from leather. Does anyone see a picture that matches?

Choose a kid to come on stage, pick the correct picture, then stand to the left of the previous kid, holding the picture for everyone to see.

Most importantly, God hinted to Adam and Eve that He would defeat Satan once and for all through one of their own descendants, crushing the head of the serpent. Which picture is left?

Choose a kid to come on stage, pick the final picture, then stand to the left of the previous kid, holding the picture for the other kids to see.

Leader Tip: Consider pausing at this point in the story to ask kids if they know who would be the One to defeat Satan once and for all. (The answer: Jesus!)

People continue to disobey God today, sinning against Him and hurting their relationship with Him. Despite our sins, God loves us and made the way through Jesus to defeat evil and heal our relationship with Him. God never gives up on us.

Thank the volunteers, collect the pictures, and ask kids to return to their seats.

Leader Tip: Lay the pictures in order (or tape them back to the wall in order) and invite kids to retell the story in their own words. It's amazing to see the Bible come to life from a child's perspective!

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Fall Wonder Truth Slide

Display the Fall Wonder Truth Slide. **Our Wonder Truth today is GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON US. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.



God gives consequences for sin in Genesis 3. But God also makes a promise—one day a snake crusher will reverse the curse of sin (Genesis 3:15). **As we read God's big story, we're on the lookout for the One who will make everything right—Jesus!**

In Awe of God's Wonder

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

What is something new you discovered today about God's big story? Allow kids to answer freely. Consider sharing your own answer too!

What do you want to say to God today about what He did in this story? Don't hurry kids' answers. Instead, give them time to think and respond freely. Invite kids to share their ideas first with a friend and then with the whole group.

Leader Tip: This is a great moment to be aware of kids who are ready to take the next steps in their faith journey. Whenever possible, invite their families into the conversations that you have with them. Take a look at the Salvation Path resource for ideas and language to incorporate as you talk with kids.

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: God Never Gives Up on Us

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!

—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NirV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), colored pencils or crayons

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Infinity Sheet NIV or NirV (1 per kid), Word of Wonder Slide (optional), [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#) (optional)

Before kids arrive, print a copy of the Word of Wonder Infinity Sheet NIV or NirV for each kid.

Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5:17. If possible, display the Word of Wonder Slide or watch the [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#). Invite kids to read 2 Corinthians 5:17 several times together.

Distribute Word of Wonder Infinity Sheets and colored pencils or crayons. **In math, this symbol—which looks like an 8 taking a nap—represents infinity, or a number or line that doesn't end. God's love for us is infinite. It goes on forever! And there's nothing you can do that would cause His love for you to stop. God never gives up on us ... ever!** Invite kids to trace the verse inside the infinity symbol with a colored pencil or crayon, using a different color each time. Challenge kids to say the verse out loud as they trace. Repeat the entire verse together at the end.

Elementary Questions

- **What did God tell Adam that he and Eve could do in the garden? What did He tell them not to do?** (God told them to care for the garden and gave them the freedom to eat and enjoy almost all the fruits. God told them not to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)
- **Instead of listening to God, who did Eve listen to while Adam also stood by?** (Eve listened to the serpent, which was being used by the enemy, Satan, to deceive Eve and Adam.)
- **Adam and Eve disobeyed God. This is called sin. What were the consequences for Adam and Eve's sin?** (The relationship between the man and the woman became worse—the woman would experience more pain when she gave birth, the man would have to work hard for his food, and they had to leave Eden forever!)
- **What did God do to take care of Adam and Eve after they sinned? What did God promise them?** (God called to them and replaced their fig leaf clothes with leather clothes. He also promised that one of their descendants would defeat Satan and crush the head of the serpent once and for all!)
- **What do God's actions toward Adam and Eve and His promise show us about what God is like?**
- **God never gives up on you! What can you do to remember this?**

When we sin, God still loves us and desires to be with us. He never gives up on us! Jesus is the One God promised who would defeat Satan once and for all. Through Jesus, our sins can be forgiven, and we can be with God forever! Let's talk with God now in prayer!

Preteen Questions

- **What clear instructions did God give Adam? What did God tell Adam that he and Eve could do in the garden? What did He say they couldn't do?** (God told them to care for the garden and to fill the earth with new people. God gave them the freedom to eat and enjoy almost all the fruits. God told them not to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)
- **Instead of listening to God, who did Eve listen to while Adam also stood by? What things (or people) in our world do you sometimes listen to instead of God?** (Eve listened to the serpent, which was being used by the enemy, Satan, to deceive Eve and Adam.)
- **After Adam and Eve sinned, what did they feel for the first time? (fear and shame) What did they do next?** (They sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves, and they hid from God.)
- **While Adam and Eve were hiding, God called out to them: "Where are you?" Do you think God knew where they were? Why do you think God called to them? What might this tell us about what God is like?**
- **What did God do to take care of Adam and Eve after they sinned? What did God promise them?** (God called to them and replaced their fig leaf clothes with leather clothes. He also promised that one of their descendants would defeat Satan and crush the head of the serpent once and for all!)
- **God didn't give up on Adam and Eve, and He never gives up on us! When have you experienced God's love and forgiveness even after you did something wrong?**

When we sin, God still loves us and desires to be with us. He never gives up on us! Jesus is the One God promised who would defeat Satan once and for all. Through Jesus, our sins can be forgiven, and we can be with God forever! Let's talk with God now in prayer!

Leader Tip: If needed, explain that shame is a deep feeling of embarrassment or self-dislike for what we've done.

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to a safe and quiet place where they can share prayer requests, including situations that are difficult. Invite them to share praises and things they're grateful to God for. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! If they feel led, encourage them to pray with one another.

LESSON 2 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: God Never Gives Up on Us

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Elementary Responding in Worship: A Bigger Love

SUPPLIES: posterboard or butcher paper (red or pink, if possible), scissors (prep only), sticky notes (1 per kid), writing utensils (1 per kid), tape, whiteboard (optional), red or pink crayon (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: A Bigger Love Slide, [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, cut a giant heart out of posterboard or butcher paper and set it aside. (If possible, use red or pink posterboard or butcher paper or color the heart red or pink.) In this activity, kids will place sticky notes on a whiteboard or blank section of wall. The giant heart must be large enough to cover all their sticky notes. Decide where on the wall or whiteboard kids will stick their notes.

Display A Bigger Love Slide and gather the kids. **We heard in God's big story today about the difficult moment when sin entered the world. Sins are the wrong things we say and do that separate us from God. The Bible tells us that all of us have disobeyed God and done wrong things** (see Romans 3:23). **The hard truth is that our sin hurts us and others, and it hurts our relationship with God.** Give a sticky note and a



writing utensil to each kid. **Let's spend a few moments thinking quietly about something we've said or done that was wrong. As you think of that sin, I invite you to draw either a large "X" or a sad face on your sticky note.** Pause as kids think quietly and write/draw on their sticky notes. Consider modeling a quiet, humble attitude of confession by participating in the activity alongside the kids.

Leader Tip: Confessing our sins to God is both sacred and deeply personal. This activity may stir up hard emotions for some kids, and others may seem distant or disconnected. Give kids space and permission to process while letting them know you're here for them. Your presence and no-strings-attached love will give them a glimpse of how Jesus feels about them!

God, who always loves us no matter what, invites us to confess our sins to Him. Confession means simply that we admit that what we did was wrong and ask for forgiveness. Let's hold our sticky notes in front of us as we pray a prayer of confession. You can repeat each line after me:

God, (Kids repeat.)

I confess that I have sinned against You (Kids repeat.)

in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. (Kids repeat.)

I have not loved You with all my heart. (Kids repeat.)

I have not loved other people as I love myself. (Kids repeat.)

I am truly sorry. (Kids repeat.)

Please forgive me. (Kids repeat.)

Let's pause in our prayer to imagine that our sticky notes represent the wrong things we've done, our sins. Let's stick them to the wall (or whiteboard) as a symbol of releasing our sins to God and asking Him to forgive us. Invite kids to stick their notes to the wall or whiteboard. All the notes should be clustered pretty close together.

As kids write on their sticky notes and place them on the wall or whiteboard, play songs from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

The good news is that God didn't give up on Adam and Eve when they sinned, and He doesn't give up on us! Hold up the giant paper heart. **God created us and loves us. He sent Jesus so that our sins could be forgiven and we could be in relationship with Him forever. God's love is bigger and greater than all our sin!** Invite kids to help you tape the giant heart directly over all the sticky notes, so the notes are no longer showing. If it feels natural, lead kids in a round of clapping and cheering because the heart—God's love—is bigger than our sins!

Let's finish our prayer now. Invite kids to repeat after you:

God, (Kids repeat.)

Because of Your Son Jesus, I am forgiven! (Kids repeat.)

Thank you for never ever giving up on me! (Kids repeat.)

I accept Your big, amazing love! (Kids repeat.)

Help me to walk with You in Your ways (Kids repeat.)

all the days of my life! (Kids repeat.)

Amen. (Kids repeat.)

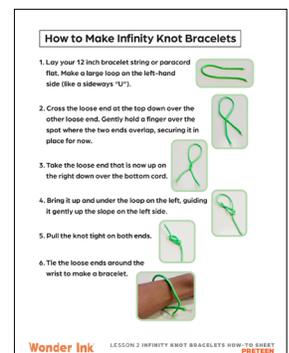
Keep the heart up (and the sticky notes covered) for the remainder of the lesson.

Preteen Responding in Worship: Infinity Knot Bracelets

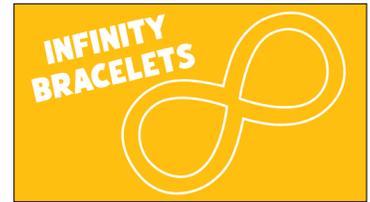
SUPPLIES: bracelet strings or paracords in various colors (one 12" length per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Infinity Knot Bracelets Slide, Infinity Knot Bracelets How-To Sheet (optional), [Infinity Knot Bracelets How-To Video](#) (optional), [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, practice making an infinity knot with a bracelet string or paracord so that you feel ready to demonstrate it for the kids. Print the Infinity Knot Bracelets How-To Sheet or watch the [Infinity Knot Bracelet How-To Video](#) for step-by-step instructions.



Display the Infinity Knot Bracelets Slide and gather the kids. **We heard in God's big story today about the difficult moment when sin entered the world. Sins are the wrong things we say and do that separate us from God. The Bible tells us that all of us have disobeyed God and done wrong things** (see Romans 3:23). **The hard truth is that our sin hurts us and others, and it hurts our relationship with God.**



God, whose love for us is infinite, invites us to confess our sins to Him. Confession means simply that we admit that what we did was wrong and ask for forgiveness. Let's pray a prayer of confession together. As we pray, think about one or two specific sins in your life and imagine yourself letting go of them. Demonstrate holding your hands out in front of you with palms down and open as though letting go of something. **Then imagine yourself receiving God's love and forgiveness like you would receive a gift.** Demonstrate holding your hands in front of you with palms up and open as though receiving a present. Model these actions again during the prayer.

Leader Tip: Confessing our sins to God is both sacred and deeply personal. This activity may stir up hard emotions for some kids, and others may seem distant or disconnected. Give kids space and permission to process while letting them know you are here for them. Your presence and no-strings-attached love will give them a glimpse of how Jesus feels about them!

Invite kids to repeat each line after you:

I confess that I have sinned against You (Kids repeat.)
in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. (Kids repeat.)
I have not loved You with all my heart. (Kids repeat.)
I have not loved other people as I love myself. (Kids repeat.)
I am truly sorry. (Kids repeat.)
Please forgive me. (Kids repeat.)
Because of Your Son Jesus, I am forgiven! (Kids repeat.)
Thank you for never ever giving up on me! (Kids repeat.)
I accept Your big, amazing love! (Kids repeat.)
Help me to walk with You in Your ways (Kids repeat.)
all the days of my life! (Kids repeat.)
Amen. (Kids repeat.)

God didn't give up on Adam and Eve when they sinned, and He doesn't give up on us! God's love for us stretches to infinity—it never ends! Let's make bracelets that we can wear as a reminder that God's love for us is infinite. Give a bracelet string or paracord to each kid. If you have various colors of string, invite kids to choose their favorite.

An infinity knot is a special kind of knot that has no beginning and no end—it's goes on for infinity, like God's love for us! Demonstrate how to make an infinity knot. (Refer to the Infinity Bracelet How-To Sheet or [Video](#) for guidance.) Then invite kids to try tying an infinity knot with their bracelet strings. Once they've tied the knot, encourage them to help one another tie their bracelets loosely onto their wrists (using regular knots!). As kids make their bracelets, play songs from the [Created New Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

Leader Tip: Feeling a bit unsure about showing kids how to make an infinity knot? Consider showing them the [Infinity Knot Bracelet How-To Video](#).

Make It Inclusive: Be available to tie infinity knots for kids who struggle with dexterity or simply feel frustrated and need a little help.

Once all the kids are wearing their infinity knot bracelets, gather them together. **Every time you see your infinity knot bracelet on your wrist, remember that God’s love for you is infinite—it never ends! Let’s end this time by learning a simple breath prayer we can say every time we remember God’s infinite love.**

Explain that a breath prayer is a word or phrase we repeat in a single breath with one part on the inhale and the other part on the exhale. Teach kids this simple breath prayer and say it several times together. (Kids might want to touch the infinity knot on their bracelets as they pray.)

Inhale: **Thank You, God ...**

Exhale: **for never giving up on me.**

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Fall Blessing Slide

Display The Fall Blessing Slide. Close your time by saying a blessing over kids. 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 you always turn to God no matter how big the mess up, how bad the choice, or how much shame you feel. God never gives up on you ... ever! May you always remember that His infinite love covers all things!**

