

## LESSON 2 UNITY

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Brings Us Together

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 4

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** While in prison, Paul writes a letter to Jesus-followers in Ephesus, urging them to put aside their differences and live in unity with the help and power of the Holy Spirit.

**WORD OF WONDER:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. —Galatians 5:22–23a (ISV)

### 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 spend one hour with anyone in the world, who would you choose?
- Curiosity Questions
- Curiosity Activity: Same and Different
- Declaring God's Wonder



### BELIEF 25–35 minutes • Large Group

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

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: Galatians 5:22–23a

### FAITH 15 minutes • Small Group

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

- Discussion Questions
- Craft: One Heart
- Game: Hoop Pass

### IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

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

- Responding in Worship: Family Album
- Blessing Your Kids
- Closing Game: Unity Tag

## 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:** God Brings Us Together

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 4

**WORD OF WONDER:** Galatians 5:22–23a

When I was in my teens, I often felt frustrated with my parents—as many teens do! I remember going through one particularly difficult moment with my mom and the Lord reminding me of a passage of Scripture I had just memorized: Ephesians 4. The Spirit prompted me to pray through that passage, asking God to keep me from bitterness and anger, to bring me unity with my mom.

Are there people in your life with whom you struggle to be unified? Read Ephesians 4:1–16, and as you do, picture those people.

Ephesians 4 is an encouraging chapter—living in unity is the calling we have received as we become more like Jesus. But it’s also a convicting chapter because we so often fail at being humble and gentle, and bearing with one another in love.

Do you see Paul’s instructions for unity being lived out in your Christian community? In your church? Do you live the life of unity that God calls you to?

As God’s people, we are to live in unity because it represents Him to the world around us. It’s impossible to do on our own, but as we receive help from the Holy Spirit, we can grow in grace, forgiveness, and unity as He brings us together.

—Denise Morris Snyder

Spiritual Formation Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians. Paul once believed that only Jewish people could be in God's family. But when Paul gave his life to Jesus, Jesus told him to preach that God wanted everyone—Jews and non-Jews—to be part of His family.

**WHAT?**

In Ephesians 4, Paul encourages Jesus-followers to be unified over their similarities despite their differences. Paul explains that his readers are like parts of Jesus' body—each part is different, but all are essential.

**WHERE?**

The earliest manuscripts of Ephesians don't include an addressee, so the letter was most likely meant to circulate among churches in multiple areas of the Roman empire. Paul wrote this letter while he was imprisoned in Rome.

**WHEN?**

Paul probably wrote the letter around AD 62 while he was a prisoner in Rome. He was most likely put to death by the Roman emperor Nero two years later.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:**

In Psalm 133, King David longs for unity: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (v. 1 NIV). Centuries later, Paul's words to the Ephesians express a similar desire—for God's people to "remain as one," living together in peace (Ephesians 4:3).

Large Group or Small Group

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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### Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

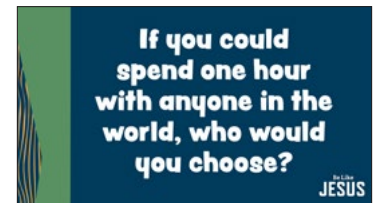
Choose between the [Be Like Jesus Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

### Welcome Question

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

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Unity Welcome Question Slide

Before kids arrive, display the Unity Welcome Question Slide or write the following question on a whiteboard: “If you could spend one hour with anyone in the world, who would you choose?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



### As kids arrive ...

Greet each kid by name. Point out the Welcome Question and share your answer to the question. Your answer will prompt kids to begin thinking of who they’d like to spend an hour with—for example, a professional athlete, a world leader, a music group, or a far-away relative. Read the question to younger kids. Invite kids to draw pictures of their answers if they’d like.

### At your start time ...

Welcome all the kids warmly and invite several kids to share their response to the Welcome Question: **If you could spend one hour with anyone in the world, who would you choose?**

**When we spend time with other people—no matter who they are—we discover more about what we have in common. Today in God’s big story, we’ll learn what we have in common with other Jesus-followers. 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 ...

- What is special about the person (or people) you would choose to spend one hour with?
- What usually brings you together with new people?

## Curiosity Activity: Same and Different

**SUPPLIES:** large pom-poms (at least 5 colors), small pom-poms (at least 5 colors), basket or bucket  
Mix up the large and small pom-poms. Dump them and invite the kids to sort pom-poms according to color and size.

As they sort, ask the kids questions: **What is the same about these pom-poms?** Allow kids to answer. (examples: soft, some are the same size, color, etc.) **What are some things that are different about the pom-poms?** Allow kids to answer.

Have the kids place the pom-poms in the basket and mix them up again.

Toss a pile of pom-poms on the floor on one side of the room and call out a color. Kids can take turns running to that side of the room to gather the color you called. Then put the pom-poms back in the basket.

**If someone asked what's in here** (point to the basket or bucket), **what would you say?** Allow kids time to answer. **Yes, pom-poms! Are all the pom-poms the same?** Allow kids to answer. **No! Some are the same, and some are different.**

**When we decide to follow Jesus, we become part of God's family. We're all His children. But are we all the same? No. We're like each other in some ways, but we're also different in some ways. We're all special to Him, and we also need each other. Today we'll learn how God brings us together.**

## Declaring God's Wonder

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

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

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

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

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

Put your hands on your hips.

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

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

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

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

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

Bring your arms down from above and make a path in front of you.

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

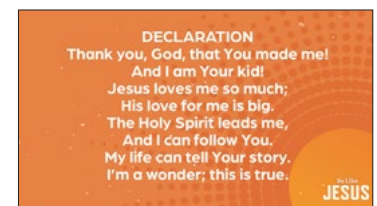
March in place like you're following the leader.

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

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

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

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



## Large Group

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Brings Us Together

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 4

**WORD OF WONDER:** Galatians 5:22–23a

## Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for bringing us together and making us part of Your big story. Through Your Holy Spirit, help us celebrate our differences and not fear them. Help us love each other like You love us. Please speak to us today, God. We're listening. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

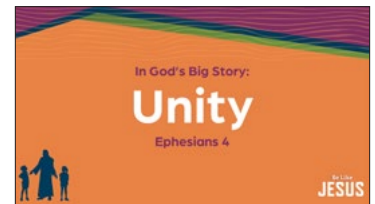
**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Be Like Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

When we follow Jesus, we're all part of God's family, which means we have a lot in common! Today we'll hear how God brings us together and helps us live in unity with each other. Let's praise God now for how amazing He is! Play songs from the [Be Like Jesus 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:** Unity Title Slide, God's Big Story Video ([Early Childhood](#) or [Elementary](#))

Display the Unity Title Slide and gather the kids together. Let them know today's portion of God's big story comes from the book of Ephesians, which is in the second half of the Bible, near the back. Help kids find Ephesians 4. Explain that today's passages are part of a letter the apostle Paul wrote to help Jesus-followers know the best way to live.

**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 Ephesians 4:1–6, 11–16 aloud while the kids follow along. Then do one or both of the following:

- Use the following Unity Experience It! Script
- View God's Big Story Video ([Early Childhood](#) or [Elementary](#))

## LESSON 2 UNITY EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

Gather the kids together and help them form groups of 3–4. Encourage kids to sit next to the people in their group. **I need your help bringing today's part of God's big story to life through human illustrations! Do you know what an illustration is?** Pause for answers. **Yes, an illustration is a picture in a story or book. At several points in the story, I will pause and say, "Illustrate!" But you won't be drawing pictures of the story. Instead, you'll stand up and work together with your small group to create an illustration with your bodies. That means that you'll act out what's happening in the scene as if it's a still picture, like you're human statues. Any questions?** Allow kids to ask questions. Let's get the story started!

**Leader Tip:** Consider taking photographs of the human illustrations that kids create during this activity, especially the last one, which shows that we're all united as God's family. Post the photos in the room or use them to create a slide show to display before the next lesson. (Just be sure you have photo releases for all the kids.)

**After Jesus ascended to heaven and the Holy Spirit came as a powerful helper to the disciples, Jesus appeared to a man named Paul. Jesus changed Paul's life, and Paul went from being an enemy of God's people to one of Jesus' most devoted followers!**

**Paul traveled to many places, telling people about Jesus and starting churches. OK, it's time to illustrate! Stand up with your group and act out a human illustration of Paul starting churches and telling people about Jesus.** Give kids about 20–30 seconds to work together to make a human illustration. If needed, remind them that a human illustration remains still, like a statue. Admire each group's creativity. Then invite the kids to sit back down.

**After leaving, Paul often wrote letters to teach and encourage the people there. Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians while he was in prison. He wanted Jesus-followers to pass the letter from church to church in and around the city of Ephesus, so they could all be encouraged in their faith. It's time to illustrate! Stand up with your group and create a human illustration of Paul writing a letter from prison.** Give kids about 20–30 seconds to work together to make a human illustration. When they're finished, admire each group's work and invite kids to sit back down.

**Paul started his letter by explaining that through Jesus, we're all children of God. We are part of the same family! This would have been a difficult idea for many of Jesus' followers to understand because people who became disciples of Jesus often came from very different backgrounds. Some were men and some were women. Some were servants and others were free people. Some were Jewish and others were non-Jews, called Gentiles. They represented many distinct races, ethnicities, and even religious backgrounds. At that time, people usually only interacted with those who were just like them.**

**Paul explains in his letter that God wants His family to be a different kind of community. He wants it to be made up of men, women, and kids from every nation and tribe, every language, race, and**

ethnicity. God is the One who makes humans unique, and He wants His children to reflect the differences of all humankind.

**But sometimes we let our differences separate us from other members of God's family. Let's illustrate! Stand up with your group and create a human illustration that shows how we might let our differences separate us.** Give kids about 20–30 seconds to create their human illustrations. This concept is pretty abstract, so if needed, help kids think of scenes they could create. Their illustrations might show people arguing or their group separated into two, based on age or their birth month. Admire each group's finished illustration and invite kids to sit back down.

**God's heart is for His family to be united! So in his letter to the Ephesians, Paul explains how to keep our differences from dividing us. First, Paul encourages Jesus' followers to be humble, gentle, and patient with each other. It's time to illustrate! Stand up with your group and create a human illustration that shows people being humble, gentle, and patient.** Give kids about 20–30 seconds to create their human illustrations. When they're finished, admire each group's work and invite kids to sit back down.

**In Paul's letter, he encourages Jesus-followers to show love to one another, even when their differences make it hard. He explains that as Jesus' disciples, the things they have in common are greater than their differences. All Jesus-followers share the same Holy Spirit and the same hope of living forever with God. They all serve the same Lord, Jesus Christ, and have the same faith. They all worship God the Father. With all of these things in common, all Jesus-followers are one family, and that family includes us! Our differences are less than the things we share.**

**Paul also explains that Jesus' followers are like the different parts of a single body and that Jesus is the head that leads and guides the whole body. While the parts are different, they're all valuable! Let's pause to illustrate! Stand up with your group and create a human illustration of the body of Christ. Remember that Jesus is the head who leads the body, and each person is a different and valuable part!** Encourage groups to be creative and have fun with this one. Assure them there is no one right way to illustrate this idea! Groups with younger kids might need a little extra help. Affirm all the groups for their creativity and invite kids to sit back down.

**Without feet, we couldn't walk; without eyes, we couldn't see. Many differences between us are actually gifts from Jesus that help us serve each other better. Some of those gifts are the unique roles Jesus assigns to His disciples, like being pastors and teachers. These roles are not about ruling over Jesus' other disciples but serving them. Together all the parts of the body help one another share Jesus' story with the world. As we work together like one body, we become more loving, and together we begin to be more like Jesus.**

**God made all of us different, and our differences are not meant to divide us. We are all part of God's family—united as one because God brings us together. Let's create one final illustration!** With your group, create a human illustration to show that you're all united as God's family! Give kids 20–30 seconds to create their human pictures. Admire each illustration and thank all the kids for helping tell God's big story!

**Make It Inclusive:** As you explain what it means that we're the body of Christ, be sensitive to kids with unique needs or physical limitations. For example, if a child in your group is legally blind or vision impaired, consider using a different body part (rather than eyes) as an example.

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Unity Wonder Truth Slide

Display the Unity Wonder Truth Slide. **Our Wonder Truth today is GOD BRINGS US TOGETHER. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.



David was a shepherd, king, and poet who lived during the Old Testament. David wrote many song poems called psalms. In Psalm 133:1, David wrote, “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” (NIV). Hundreds of years later, Paul wrote similar words to the Ephesians. “The Holy Spirit makes you one in every way,” he told them, “So try your best to remain as one” (Ephesians 4:3).

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Be Like Jesus Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

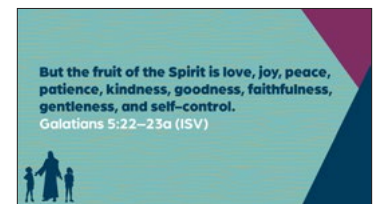
### WORD OF WONDER

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

—Galatians 5:22–23a (ISV)

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Be Like Jesus series is Galatians 5:22–23a. Let’s practice saying the Word of Wonder together.** Practice the verse with the kids.

**As children of God and part of His family, we have the Holy Spirit to help us be like Jesus. Do you remember what Paul wrote that helps us get along when we come together?** Allow kids to answer. (If needed, you can read Ephesians 4:2–3 again: “Be completely gentle. Be patient. Put up with one another in love. The Holy Spirit makes you one in every way. So try your best to remain as one. Let peace keep you together.”)



**Some of these words sound like our Word of Wonder! Gentleness, patience, love, and peace are all part of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. Let’s see if we can remember our Word of Wonder about all the things the Holy Spirit helps us to have. That way, when we’re together, we’ll be able to treat each other like Jesus does.**

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

- **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS**—Draw a large “S” into the air.
- **LOVE**,—Pat your hands on your heart.
- **JOY**,—Put your arms up as if celebrating.
- **PEACE**,—Place palms together by cheek and ear to indicate “sleep.”
- **PATIENCE**,—Point to a pretend watch on your wrist.
- **KINDNESS**,—Pretend to give someone a hug.
- **GOODNESS**,—Make a thumbs-up.

- **FAITHFULNESS**,—Make two fists and start with the right fist on top, hitting the left fist, then switch and pound the left fist on top of the right.
- **GENTLENESS**,—Pretend to gently rock a baby.
- **AND SELF-CONTROL**,—Point to yourself with your thumbs.
- **GALATIANS 5:22–23a**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

**We call all these things the fruit of the Spirit, because the Holy Spirit helps us have all these things.**

**Let's play a game to help us remember the fruit of the Spirit! The fruit of the Spirit helps us have unity and get along together, just like Paul wanted for his friends. We're going to go on a journey, but we're going to see if we can all go as "one," all together! We're going to follow the leader around the room, and when we get to each place in our journey, we're going to stop and say the verse together. Are you ready?**

Invite the kids to follow you to one corner of the room. When you reach the corner, stop and have the kids help you check that everyone is together. Then have all the kids say the verse and do the motions with you. Then continue your "journey" to another corner of the room. Repeat several times, leading the kids together to different places around the room and saying the verse with the motions.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How can the fruit of the Spirit help us when we're with other people?**
- **Which of the fruit of the Spirit do you think is the hardest for you?**

## 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 Brings Us Together

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 4

**WORD OF WONDER:** Galatians 5:22–23a

## Discussion Questions

Gather the kids in a circle.

**Do we all look the same?** Allow kids to respond. **No, we all look different, and we're all a part of God's family. God brings us together. We're going to play a game that will help us see that even though we're different, we're all known by God.**

**If you have on sneakers or tennis shoes, stand up.** Once kids are standing, ask one of the discussion questions below and allow them to answer together.

After they answer, have them sit down and repeat with the following prompts and the other qualifiers, such as:

**If you go to school, stand up.**

**If you like to dance, stand up.**

**If you like to eat pizza, stand up.**

**If you like to play outside, stand up.**

**Leader Tip:** The goal of this activity is not to single out kids for what they look like or what they have. Try to remind them that they're all special and unique.

**Even though some kids go to school and others don't, and some kids like to eat pizza while others don't, we're all part of God's family! He brings us together.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What did Paul want the Ephesians to know?** (They're all important in the family of God.)
- **How do we become part of God's family?** (By trusting Jesus as our Savior and following Him)
- **Who does Paul say is the head of the body of Christ?** (Jesus)
- **Why is it good that each person in God's family is special and different?**
- **What is the same about all of us?**
- **What is one special way you can serve others or share Jesus' story?**
- **How can we work together as part of God's family?**
- **How do you feel about being part of God's family?**

**Let's come together now and pray to thank God for bringing us together.**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for hearing us and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

## Craft: One Heart

**SUPPLIES:** marker (prep only), large piece of white posterboard or butcher paper (1 per small group), scissors (prep only), coloring utensils, glue, ink pads (optional), rubber stamps (optional), wet wipes (optional)

**WONDER INK RESOURCE:** Part of God's Family Sheet (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the Part of God's Family Sheet. Use the marker to draw an outline of a large heart on the posterboard or butcher paper, then cut it out. Then cut the heart into several smaller pieces, to create a homemade jigsaw puzzle. Put the puzzle back together before the kids arrive. Make one puzzle per small group of kids.



Gather the kids around the table. Point out the heart puzzle. **Who can tell me what shape this is?** Allow the kids to answer. **That's right, it's a heart! What do we normally think of when we see a heart?** Allow the kids to answer. **Yes! We think of love. Today we've talked about how God brings us all together to love each other as one family, and each one of us is an important part of God's family. This heart looks pretty plain and boring now. But each one of us can play a part in making this heart beautiful.**

Give each kid a piece of the heart puzzle. Let them decorate their puzzle piece using the coloring utensils. They can also use ink pads and stamps, or they can put their fingers on the ink pads and press their fingerprints onto their puzzle pieces. As they're decorating, go around and write each kid's name on the back of their puzzle piece or have older kids write their own names. When everyone at the table is finished, put the heart puzzle back together using the pieces they've decorated. Have wet wipes available for the kids who use the ink pad.

**Great job, everyone! This heart looks really beautiful! Do any of the pieces of the heart look the same?** Allow kids to answer. **Do any of the pieces look different?** Allow kids to answer. **God made each one of us different and unique. He also brings us all together in His family, and together we can share His love with the world.**

Give the puzzle pieces back to the kids who decorated them, and give each kid a copy of the I am Part of God's Family Sheet. Have kids or a leader write kids' names on the line next to "I am \_\_\_\_\_" at the top of the sheet. Then let the kids glue their puzzle piece inside the heart on the sheet. If time allows, let them color in the rest of the heart around their puzzle piece. Encourage kids to take these home to remind them that they are an important part of God's Family!

**Leader Tip:** As you prepare this activity, you can draw the individual pieces on the heart before you cut it out and number the back of each piece to make it easier to put it back together. Each individual puzzle piece should be large enough that kids can enjoy decorating it but small enough to fit inside the heart on the Part of God's Family Sheet.

## Game: Hoop Pass

**SUPPLIES:** large plastic hoop

Have the kids stand in a circle. Place the hoop between two kids and then have everyone join hands. The hoop should now be between two kids with their hands held inside the hoop. Continue to hold the hoop as you explain the game.

**In God's big story today, we heard about how each of us has a special job in God's family. Every person in God's family is important, and every person has a special purpose. The Holy Spirit gives each person a special way to serve and help one another. That's called a spiritual gift. Some people teach, some help, some lead, and some share stories. Together, all the parts of the body help share Jesus' story with the world. As we work together like one body, we become more loving, and we grow to be more like Jesus.**

**In this game, we'll work together to move this hoop all the way around the circle and remember that God brings us together. The hoop can go over your head, or your feet can go through it, but you can't let go of anyone's hand. We'll keep going until the hoop makes it all the way around the circle.**

**Leader Tip:** Be ready to help move the hoop up and over kids at times, especially if a kid is having a hard time with the coordination needed to move the hoop past him.

**Make It Inclusive:** If a kid in your group is physically unable to participate in the circle, consider having her hold the hoop while you explain the game. Then have her start the game off by giving the hoop to someone in the circle (if needed, a leader can take the hoop from her and pass it to a kid in the circle). Once the hoop has been passed all the way around, the last kid in the circle can give the hoop back to this kid at the end, so she can be the start and finish of the game.

### 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 Brings Us Together

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 4

**WORD OF WONDER:** Galatians 5:22–23a

### Responding in Worship: Family Album

**SUPPLIES:** coloring utensils, stickers

**WONDER INK RESOURCE:** Family Album Photo Sheet (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the Family Album Photo Sheet.

**God made every one of us unique. There's no one in the world who is exactly like you! He made each one of us with differently. We each have different things we're good at and different personalities. Just like in Paul's letter, some people teach, and others tell stories. Some people are good at sports, while others are good at singing or playing an instrument. Some people like to be loud and full of energy, and other people like to be quieter and think things through. Some people like pizza or ice cream, and other people don't like those foods. We're all unique!**

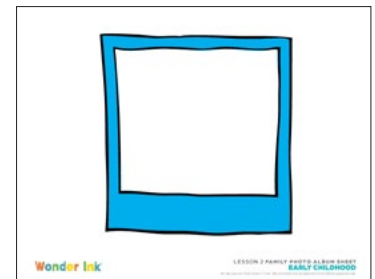
**What's one of your favorite things to eat?** Allow kids to answer. **What's your favorite game to play?** Allow kids to answer. **What's your favorite color?** Allow kids to answer.

**We're going to take some time to thank God for how He made us and how we can use the things about us to help others in His family!**

Set out the coloring utensils and stickers. Give each kid a Family Album Photo Sheet. Have kids draw their own "photo" of themselves. Then have them decorate around their photo by attaching stickers and drawing things they are good at, foods they like, activities they enjoy doing, people in their family, etc. If possible, choose stickers for this activity that display various foods, interests, and activities.

Once kids are finished, let them share about how they decorated around their photo. Remind them that God made every one of us unique. Then invite the kids to bring their pictures together on the floor to make a circle as they pray and thank God for making each one unique, and ask God to help us become unified as one body.

**Great job, everybody! This reminds us that God made every one of us on purpose, for a purpose. And we can use all the things about us to worship God and to share His love with others in God's family. Together, all the parts of the body help share Jesus' story with the world.**



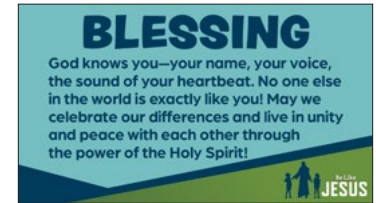
As we work together like one body, we become more loving, and we grow to be more like Jesus. God made each of us different on purpose. We're all part of God's family—united as one because God brings us together.

**Leader Tip:** Instead of kids drawing their photos, you could take a photo of each kid using an instant camera. Once the photo has developed, kids can glue their photos onto the Family Album Photo Sheet and then decorate around it using coloring utensils and stickers. Make sure you have photo releases for each kid in your group if using an instant camera.

## Blessing Your Kids

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Unity Blessing Slide

Display the Unity 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:** God knows you—your name, your voice, the sound of your heartbeat. No one else in the world is exactly like you! May we celebrate our differences and live in unity and peace with each other through the power of the Holy Spirit!

## Closing Game: Unity Tag

Today we learned that God brings us all together. He wants us to love everyone, no matter who they are or what they look like. Even if they are different from us, they're still a child of God.

We're going to play a game of tag, but when you get tagged, instead of freezing where you are, you'll hold hands or link elbows with the tagger. Together, you'll run and try to tag someone else. When someone else is tagged, that person will also join your chain. Keep going until everyone in the room is part of one big chain. And remember, we're all part of God's family, and we can work together to serve God and share His story!

Play as time permits, allowing different kids to be the first tagger.

**Leader Tip:** Instead of having the kids join hands as they are tagged, have the tagged kids run to a certain spot in the room and stay there. The goal is for the tagger to try to get all the kids gathered in one spot.

**Make It Inclusive:** For kids who are physically unable to run, give them a small soft ball or a pair of socks folded together. These kids can help the tagger by throwing the ball or a pair of socks to tag others. If kids get hit with the ball or socks, or if they are tagged, they gather together in the area with the kid who is throwing the ball or socks. Play until all players are gathered in one spot. Play multiple rounds if time allows.