

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is Worthy of Praise

SCRIPTURE: [Psalm 63](#); [108](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Psalm 139:14](#)

Have you had a wilderness experience?

When my family moved to our “new” house, we had a bug problem. The home had been vacant for months; spiders and insects were all too glad to take up residence. You can predict the reactions of my children.

I eradicated the bugs and cleaned the cobwebs, but I also thought the family needed a camping trip. See, I figured if we were out in nature—where the kids would see lots of bugs—maybe they would overcome their phobia. Unfortunately, our excursion did not have the desired effect.

David’s wilderness experience had more serious challenges. In the Judean desert, he had to locate water and forage for food. Even though David was God’s anointed king, he had to run from people who wanted him dead. He could have accused God of deserting him.

Yet even in the wild, David recognized God’s provision. Perhaps while observing a winged eagle sheltering its young, David compares himself to the eaglets under a protective wing ([Psalm 63:7](#)). As you prepare for teaching this week, I invite you to read [Psalms 63](#) and [108](#). Ask yourself, “Do I ever find it difficult to give praise to God?” Perhaps the next time you are in the wilderness—physically or otherwise—you might remind yourself that God is worthy of praise, no matter the circumstances.

—Jason Hitchcock

Theology Editor and Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

SUPPLIES: Tac the Cat Picture or puppet

For this section, you can use the cat picture provided, or a stuffed animal cat, or a cat hand puppet.

Leader: Here's our friend, Tac the curious cat! Hi Tac! How are you today?

Tac the Cat: Hi! I'm doing well. How are you all doing today? *(Pause to allow kids to respond.)*

Tac the Cat: I was just thinking about how I can't wait until it's time to praise God during the worship song time at church! I love worshiping God and telling Him how awesome He is!

Leader: Oh, I do too, Tac! But you know ... We don't have to wait until we sing a worship song at church to tell God how awesome He is.

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Tac the Cat: Wait, what? We don't? I thought that was called praise and worship for a reason.

Leader: You're right. That's a great time to praise and worship God! We can definitely worship God through singing with others at church. But we don't have to just wait for that time!

Tac the Cat: OK ... I'm really curious. What do you mean? How else can we worship God? Do we always have to sing when we worship God?

Leader: We're going to learn more today about how we can worship God all the time—all day, every day!

Tac the Cat: Even when we're eating breakfast? **Leader:** Yep!

Tac the Cat: Even when we're in the car?

Leader: Yep!

Tac the Cat: Even when we're at daycare or school?

Leader: Definitely!

Tac the Cat: Wow! I never knew that! But that makes me even more curious. What can I say to God to praise Him if I'm not singing a worship song?

Leader: That's a great question, Tac! There are all kinds of things we can tell God to praise Him.

Tac the Cat: Really?

Leader: Of course! We can thank Him for all the ways He helps us. We can praise Him for how He's made us. We can praise Him for making a new day!

Tac the Cat: Can we praise Him for giving us our family, friends, and all the people we love?

Leader: Absolutely!

Tac the Cat: Can we tell Him how big, strong, and amazing He is?!

Leader: Yes! I think God would love to hear that, Tac! You know, that reminds me of our story for today. We're going to learn that we can praise God with joyful hearts, and we can praise Him any time.



Tac the Cat: I can't wait to learn more about this! God is so amazing. I just want to tell Him all day long how awesome He is! I'm going to go think of all the things I want to tell God to praise Him!

Leader: That sounds like a great idea. Bye, Tac!

Have you ever been curious about something? Have you ever been curious about when and how you can praise God? Allow the kids to respond. **Have you ever been curious about why we praise God?** Allow kids to respond. **We can praise God any time, for anything. There are lots of different ways we can praise Him. We can tell Him how much we love Him and how wonderful He is.**

Today's Wonder Truth is GOD IS WORTHY OF PRAISE. Today we'll discover how amazing God is and how we can praise Him and tell Him!

Word of Wonder

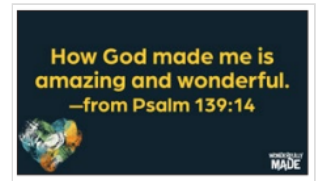
SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

How God made me is amazing and wonderful.

—from Psalm 139:14

Open your Bible to [Psalm 139:14](#). Show kids where it is in your Bible. If they have Bibles with them, leaders can help kids look it up in their Bibles.



Our Word of Wonder for the Wonderfully Made series is from [Psalm 139:14](#). Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together. Practice the verse with the kids.

Our Word of Wonder was also written by David. David wrote this as a poem to God, much like our part of God's big story for today. David may have sung these words as a song to God!

Today we're learning about praising God for things He has done and created, and one of those things is us! God made us! David knew that too, so he wrote this song poem to praise God. Listen to me read the verse, and then we'll say it together a few times. Then we're going to make songs and sing them to each other, just like David might have done when he wrote this.

Say the verse slowly with the kids several times. Let them listen to an example of you (or another leader who might be more musically inclined!) singing the verse to them in any tune you choose. It doesn't have to be perfect to be beautiful!

Put kids in groups of four or five and encourage them to work with their group to create a song with the Word of Wonder. Let them take turns singing it together for the leaders or other groups. Be intentional to clap, cheer, and encourage each group's effort! For those who aren't comfortable singing, they can dance, clap, or use musical instruments if you have them.

David wrote and sang lots of praise songs to God that we can read today. We can sing David's songs to God, and we can make up our own any time we want. There is so much to be thankful for when we think about God. He's worthy of our joyful songs all the time!

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

- **HOW GOD**—Point up with both hands.
- **MADE ME**—Point to yourself with two thumbs.
- **IS AMAZING**—Put one arm out to your side for each word.
- **AND WONDERFUL.**—Burst both arms up and out to the sides at the same time.
- **FROM [PSALM 139:14](#)**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if holding a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **When you look around, what are some amazing things God made that make you want to praise Him?**

- **What are two things about yourself that you're thankful to God for?**

Craft: Paper Plate Tambourines

SUPPLIES: disposable plates (2 per kid, plus extras), hole punch (prep only), yarn or string (or ribbon), scissors (prep only), bells (about 5 per kid), coloring utensils, stickers (optional)

Leader Tip: Make a tambourine ahead of time to show the kids. To make it easier, each kid can make the craft with only one plate. Use the hole punch to make holes along the edge of the plate. Then tie string to bells and tie the strings to the holes in the plate.

Ahead of time, use a hole punch to make holes along the edges of plates, a few inches apart. Put two plates together, facing each other, and punch the holes with the plates together so the holes align. Then cut about five pieces of yarn or string for each kid (just long enough to tie the bells onto the plates). Set the bells and string on the extra plates (without holes) out for the kids.



Give each kid two plates and invite them to decorate the bottom of each plate using colored pencils or stickers.

We're learning in God's big story about how David praised God. David was so thankful to God that he wanted to sing to God! God is amazing and is worthy of praise. That means He deserves praise and celebration. We're going to make our own tambourines that we can use to make a beautiful sound to worship and praise God, just like David did! When kids are done decorating the plates, help them line up the holes and put the string through the holes. Put a bell on the string before tying it. Each plate should have about five bells.

Show kids how to shake their tambourines against the palm of their hands to make the bells ring. **Those tambourines all look great! They look as good as they sound. Let's use them now to praise God! You can sing or cheer and shake your tambourine. God loves to hear any noise that we make to praise Him and tell Him He's awesome! You can take this home with you and use it to praise God any time you want. When you do, remember how we can praise God all the time because He's worthy of our praise.**

Game: Freeze Dance

Gather the kids in the middle of a big, open space. Have someone ready to cue the music and press pause.

David praised God with joy. God was faithful to David. God loved David and cared for him, and God kept His promises. God does the same for us. God loves us so much, like He loved David. We're going to play Freeze Dance! When you hear music playing, you can run around and dance, jump, and move. But as soon as the music stops, you must freeze. If I see anyone

move, that person must do five jumping jacks to get back in the game! Ready, cue the music, and go!

Play music for the kids to sing and dance along to. Pause the music periodically for a few seconds at a time, and if any kids move after the music pauses, have them jump.

Make It Inclusive: Instead of having kids do jumping jacks to get back in the game, you could have them sit on the sidelines and help look for people who move when the music stops.

Let the music play for varying lengths of time. Be sure to model crazy dance moves for the kids while music is playing and while moving around the room! You can play as long as you like, or for as long as the kids are interested.

Those were some amazing dance moves! David danced for joy while he worshiped God. We can dance in praise of God too!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, being sure to praise and thank God for who He is and what He has created.

As we pray and talk to God, when I say, “praise,” clap your hands to show that you’re cheering to praise God.

God, we thank You and praise (clap) You for being so awesome! We praise (clap) You because You are faithful and good! Help us always remember to praise (clap) You throughout the day! We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God did good work when He created each of you. He is good and worthy of our praise all the time. May you go with a heart of celebration and excitement, praising God often!