

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

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Activity: Drumming for God

SUPPLIES: unsharpened pencils or pens with lids on them (2 per kid), scissors (prep only), crayons

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

Leader Tip: The pencil drum works best if the drum coloring sheet is on a hard surface, such as a tabletop. If you don't have tables, and kids are on a carpeted floor, put hardcover books or clipboards under the sheets.

Ahead of time, print and cut out a Drum Sheet for each kid. When kids arrive, pass out the sheets and put crayons where kids can all reach them.

Welcome to church! I'm so glad you're all here today! We're going to talk about how, why, and when we can praise God! One way we can praise God is with singing and music. We're going to make drums we can play to praise God! First, we need to add more color the drums.



Encourage toddlers to add more color the drum in the picture. Watch for toddlers who try to eat the crayons and redirect them back to the Drum sheet. When all the kids are done coloring, give each kid two unsharpened pencils. **Now we're going to use the pencils to bang on our drum. Let's bang our drums together and make a joyful song for God!**

Allow some time for kids to play their drums.

That sounds great! I'm sure God loves hearing your praise song! Let's learn more about when, how, and why we can praise God.

Activity: What Sound Is It?

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [What Sound Is It? Pictures](#), What Sound Is It? Sound Effects

Ahead of time, print a set of the [What Sounds Is It? Pictures](#) and cue the sound effects.

Spread the pictures out on the floor, mixing up the order. Gather the kids in front of you near the pictures on the floor. **We're going to listen to some sounds. When you hear a sound, go stand by the picture of what you think makes that sound.**



Play each sound effect, waiting after each one for kids to move to the matching picture. Be ready to help if needed. The Sound Effects are:

Water Waves

Piano

Popping Popcorn

Train Whistle

Barking Dog

Drum

Storm

Roaring Lion

Cat

Donkey

What sound did you like hearing the most? Allow the kids to respond.

What do you think God likes to hear? Allow the kids to respond. **God is so amazing, and we can tell Him all the time how amazing He is! How can we tell God we think He's great?** Allow the kids to respond. **We can tell Him He's great by singing to Him, making music, or clapping our hands. He loves to hear our praise! Praise means we tell God how awesome He is!**

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD IS WORTHY OF PRAISE.

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

GOD—*Point up.*

IS WORTHY—*Put hands up over head and pump them up and down.*

OF PRAISE—*Wave hands over your head.*

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Wonderfully Made Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we're learning that God is worthy of our praise. That means God is amazing, and we can tell Him how wonderful He is! Let's sing together to God and praise God.

Play songs from the [Wonderfully Made Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [I Can Praise God with a Joyful Heart God's Big Story Video](#), [Bible Story Picture](#) (optional)

Our God's big story today is from the book of Psalms in the Bible, written by David. Can you say, "David"? Pause and encourage the kids to repeat you. Good job! David wrote poems that were like songs telling God how awesome He is.

Let's find out more from the Bible as we read some of the song poems.

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read [Psalm 63:1–8](#) and [108:1–5](#) from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also print the [Bible Story Picture](#) to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

When I say, "Praise God," wave your hands in the air. Allow kids to practice.

Throughout his whole life, David went through a lot. He was sure to praise God (wave hands in the air). God protected David from wild animals in the desert, and David was sure to praise God (wave hands in the air). David was chased by bad guys who wanted to hurt him, but God kept him safe, and David made sure to praise God (wave hands in the air). God also made David king over all Israel, and David made sure to praise God. (wave your hands in the air).

David wrote one of his song poems to God when he was having a hard time in the desert. He was so thirsty, but instead of a drink, he said that all he wanted was God! He said he thought about God at night, and about how we can praise God (wave your hands in the air) any time of the day or night. He also said it's good to praise God (wave your hands in the air) in church or the place where His people come to learn about God and worship Him.

David was sure to praise God (wave your hands in the air) because he had felt God's amazing love. David said he would joyfully praise God (wave your hands in the air) all the time, as long as he lived—and that there's nothing better in life than to praise God! Wave your hands in the air.

In another song poem ([Psalm 108](#)), David was sure to praise God (wave your hands in the air) joyfully because of all that God has done. David said he would play music for God to praise God (wave your hands in the air). He would wake up early so he could praise God (wave your hands in the air) all day long! David was sure to always praise God (wave your hands in the air) with a happy heart when things were going well and when things were hard because God

was always there for him. God is so amazing. He deserves our praise all day long! *Praise* means telling God how awesome He is—and we can do it at any time and in any place.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

How God made me is amazing and wonderful.

—from Psalm 139:14

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.

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.*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

Dear God, thank You that You are always there for us. You protect us and watch over us, and we want to thank You and say that You're awesome! We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands 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 a good work when He created every one of you. He is good, and He deserves our praise all the time. As you leave today, may you remember to celebrate God and tell him how great He is!

Activity: Musical Praise Parade

SUPPLIES: toy musical instruments (or toys that make noise) plastic containers with dry beans or rice (optional), tape (prep only, optional)

Leader Tip: If you don't have enough musical instruments, encourage kids who don't have one to clap and cheer.

Line kids up and give each one a musical instrument or a toy that makes noise. You can also make your own noisemakers by filling plastic containers with dry beans or rice and taping them closed.

We're learning about how David praised God. We can praise God any time. Praising God doesn't just mean singing or making music. Praising God means telling Him that we love Him and He's amazing. We're going to make a musical parade for God! Have any of you ever been to a parade? Allow kids to respond. **Did you hear music at the parade?** Allow kids to respond. **I love hearing music at a parade. I think God loves hearing music that we make for Him too! David played music for God, and we can too. Let's all walk around the room in a line like they do at a parade. As we walk, we'll make music together for God and tell Him we think He's awesome!**

Invite the kids to join you in a praise parade around the room.