



AUGUST 3, 2025

WONDER TRUTH:

God Wants Us to Worship with Our Whole Selves

GOD'S BIG STORY:

Moses reminds the Israelites of God's good instructions as they enter their new land. They are to love God with all their heart, soul, and strength, worshiping Him with their whole selves. (Deuteronomy 6)

WORD OF WONDER:

Worship the Lord with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy. —Psalm 100:2

- ❑ During the week, look over the lesson plan. Ensure you are familiar with the Bible story, the main theme of the lesson, and what we want the kids to take away this Sunday.

DID YOU KNOW?

WHO?

Moses was a Hebrew man who grew up in Pharaoh's household. God worked through Moses to lead God's people out of slavery in Egypt. Moses received God's law at Mount Sinai and led the people during their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

WHAT?

Before they entered the promised land, Moses proclaimed God's law to the Israelites and reminded them of their covenant relationship with God. The people were to love God with their whole selves, carrying His commands in their hearts. This command became part of the Jewish prayer called the Shema (shuh-MAH).

WHERE?

When Moses began speaking to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 5, the people were east of the Jordan River in the valley near Beth Peor, northeast of Mount Nebo.

This area was opposite Jericho, which was 15 miles west of the Jordan River.

WHEN?

Moses' exhortation to the Israelites came at the end of their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. This was soon before the death of Moses and before Joshua led the people across the Jordan River to take possession of the promised land.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

The command given to the Israelites to love God with their whole selves is commended by Jesus as the greatest commandment. Life in God's kingdom is a life of worship and complete surrender. The Holy Spirit empowers Jesus' followers to live this way.



LEADER GUIDE:

- ☐ Kid City Meeting **(9:15/11:15)**
- ☐ Classroom Team Meeting **(9:30 AM / 11:30 AM)**
 - If you are the lead teacher for that Sunday, please ensure that all tasks are assigned. You can find the job descriptions on your cart when you arrive.
 - If you are the helper for the Sunday, please choose one or two volunteer tasks to assist with. We are a team, and it is important that everyone shares the load to ensure things run smoothly.

REMINDERS: *When you're not engaged in one of your assigned roles for that morning, please assist in the following areas:*

- Sit with the kids and help them engage in the lesson.
- Pay attention to the room:
 - Is the teacher having trouble getting the kids' attention?
Help by sitting with a child who might be disrupting the group.
 - Is the teacher giving out prizes?
Assist by taking the kids aside and helping them choose their prize.
 - Are there any children struggling to sit and participate in the lesson?
Help by guiding them to the calm corner and offering support. Ensure the child feels seen and heard, and check if there is an unmet need.
 - Is a child misbehaving or being disrespectful?
Use a "Fair," "Firm," and "Friendly" voice to remind them of the expectations. If the behaviour escalates and intervention is needed, notify the parents or let the Ministry Lead know so everyone can decide the next course of action.

9:30 AM / 11:30 AM – ATTENDANCE

- One volunteer at the door. Be sure to look over the job description for this task. (Attached to the cart)

9:30 AM / 11:30 AM – WELCOME AND RULES

- One volunteer to do the welcome and rules. Look over the job description for this task. (Attached to the cart)
- Consider putting this question on the whiteboard when the kids walk in.



9:35 AM / 11:35 AM – BIBLE STORY INTRO & VIDEO

Gather everyone together and let them know that you're glad they're there and that you get to worship Jesus together today. Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **What is something you look forward to doing every day? We have so many things we get to look forward to each day!**

Leader Tip: For *Younger Kids*. Each time you talk about "whole selves," consider touching the top of your head and then reaching down toward your toes as though motioning to your entire body.

Today we're going to learn about something God wants us to do with our whole selves every day.

What people in your life do you need to listen to?

Who is someone you love a lot? Tell us why.

Today we are going to learn about how God wants us to love and worship Him with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our strength. This means honouring and worshiping God with all that we are, not just with our physical hearts. God is worthy of our worship, and He deserves *all* of us.

Before we watch our video for today, I want to introduce you to something new that we will be reciting each week. It's called a declaration. A Declaration is something we proudly saying to the

Leader Tip: For *Older Kids*. Have them read it together with you.

Lord. We are Declaring God's promises aloud for all to hear.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

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

Thank You for letting me worship You; (Kids repeat.)

I want to worship You with my whole self! (Kids repeat.)

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

Invite kids to turn in their Bibles to Deuteronomy 6 or have the verse ready to read it yourself *be sure to read directly from the Bible*. Let them know that Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Bible, so it will be pretty close to the front of their Bibles. **The Shema (shuh-MAH) is a prayer that Jewish people in the Old Testament (and many today) said twice a day. It is a declaration of who God is and our response to Him, and it includes the words of Deuteronomy 6:4–9.**

Leader Tip: If you have kids who know their Bibles well, invite them to say the first five books of the Bible aloud: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story! Invite a volunteer or yourself to read Deuteronomy 6:4–9 aloud.

PLAY LESSON VIDEO

- Turn off the lights. Play the lesson video. [The Shema God's Big Story Video](#)



9:45 AM / 11:45 AM – BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Today's "WONDER TRUTH" is **"GOD WANTS US TO WORSHIP WITH OUR WHOLE SELVES"**

After watching the Bible story, did you notice where we saw examples of our "Wonder Truth"?

Allow kids to answer freely.

Many years after Moses told the people God's command to love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength, Jesus repeated Moses' words and called them the "first and greatest commandment" (Matthew 22:38, NIV). Living life in God's kingdom means living a life of worship, and the Holy Spirit—God's presence with followers of Jesus—helps us live this way!

What did you notice about God in God's Bible Story today? Invite the kids to respond and share your thoughts as well.

God wants us to know Him with everything we are. What does that show you about Him?

Encourage kids to think about God's good character and the fact that He invites us to know and love Him with our whole selves.

9:50 AM / 11:50 AM – WORD OF WONDER

Write the Memory Verse on the White Board. **The Word of Wonder (Memory Verse) for this month is Psalm 100:2. Today we learned about how God wants us to worship with our whole selves, and our Memory Verse encourages us to worship God with singing and joy. Let's read it together!**

Encourage the kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 100:2 or read it from the white board. As a group, read the verse aloud. Then invite everyone to read the verse in their most joyful voices. Then encourage everyone to sing the verse loudly to any tune.

Make It Inclusive! If any kids in your group are sensitive to loud noise, invite everyone to sing the verse quietly rather than loudly.

For an optional discussion, gather kids to talk about these questions:

What are some reasons we can worship God with gladness?

What are some ways God has brought you joy?



9:55 AM / 11:55 AM – SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCOVER GOD'S WORD

Leader Tip Tip: Younger kids might not be able to look it up themselves, consider you looking it up and Help the Kids Find the Verse & Read it together: **DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9**

God gave His good law to show His people how to live for Him and show others what He is like. We can do the same. When we worship God with our whole selves, He is honored, and we show others who our God is. Let's take some time to pray, asking God to help us worship Him with our whole selves at home and school and with our friends.

- How long did the Israelites wander before entering the land God had promised Abraham? (40 years)
- Who did Moses say they should teach God's commands to? (*their children*)
- Moses said the people should love God with three things—what are they? (*heart, soul, strength*)
- Why does God want us to worship Him with our whole selves?
- What do you think it means to love God with your heart, soul, and strength? (*If needed, help kids understand that loving God with "all their hearts" means with all their feelings and passion, "all their soul" means the part inside them that's alive and full of energy, and "all their strength" means with all their might and will and power. To love God with all their heart, soul, and strength is to love Him with their whole selves!*)
- What are some parts of your day that you want to give to God in worship?

PRAYER TIME

Invite the kids to share some ways they can worship God with their whole selves, even when it's hard. For example, they might need help at school or with their siblings or parents. Spend some time praying together, thanking God for His love and forgiveness and inviting the Holy Spirit to help kids worship God with their whole lives.

Leader Tip Consider allowing a child to pray for the group, or you could ask everyone to say something. Use the following example prayer or consider using your own words.

Example Prayer: **Dear God, thank You so much for the chance to be together today to worship You. As we learn more about You and Your Word today, please teach us through Your Holy Spirit. Help us to love You with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our strength. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

10:05 AM / 12:05 PM – ACTIVITY TIME

ACTIVITY ONE: MAKE A MEZUZAH

SUPPLIES: Jumbo craft sticks (2 per kid), markers, crayons, writing utensils, yarn or string (about 6" per kid), clear tape, scissors (prep only), glue (1 bottle per several kids), mezuzah case and scroll (optional).

RESOURCES: Responding in Worship Slide, Shema Sheet (1 per kid) Ahead of time, print a copy of the [Shema Sheet](#) for each kid. Cut one 6" length of string or yarn for each kid.

Gather kids together and display the Responding in Worship Slide. **God gave His people instructions to love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength—with their whole selves. He said He wanted them to remember to do this all the time—to talk about it with their families at home and on trips, to think about it when they got up and went to bed, even to post His words on their doorframes!**



The Jewish people took this to heart because they knew God’s instructions were so important. Even today, many Jewish people post little metal holders called **mezuzahs** (meh-ZU-zahs) **on their doorposts**. Display the Mezuzah Slide and invite everyone to say, “Mezuzah” with you. **Great job!**



If you have an actual mezuzah case and scroll, show it to the kids. **Inside the mezuzah is a small scroll with God’s words about loving Him with our whole selves. When the Jewish people pass through the doors of their homes, they see the mezuzah or touch it as a reminder to love and worship God with everything that they are. Let’s make our own mezuzahs as a reminder that God wants us to worship Him with our whole selves.**

Pass out the Shema Sheets and read the page together. Set out crayons and writing utensils, and invite kids to take some time to write or draw ways they can worship God with their whole selves in the different areas of their lives. Consider sharing some practical ideas from your own life to get kids started: **How can you worship God when you are at home, with your friends, at church?** While kids work, play songs such as “Hear, O Israel” and “Here I Am to Worship” from the [Worship with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

After a few minutes, invite kids to tightly roll their Shema Sheets and secure them with clear tape. Give each kid a piece of yarn or string and invite her to tie it around her scroll. (Be available to help younger kids and kids who need help with fine motor skills.) Then encourage the kids to use markers to decorate two jumbo craft sticks. Next they can carefully glue their scrolls between their craft sticks. Invite them to take their mezuzahs home and put them some place where they will see them often as a reminder that God wants us to love Him with our whole selves.



Leader Tip: To ensure the craft sticks adhere to the rolled Shema Sheets, consider using low-temperature hot glue. Invite an adult leader to use the hot glue gun and have kids take turns having the adult glue their mezuzahs.



ACTIVITY TWO: CAPTAIN'S ORDERS

In this game, kids listen to the captain's orders and do the corresponding actions. Calls and actions get faster and faster.

Today we're playing a game called Captain's Orders. You're all the crew, and I'm the captain. Line kids up to face you. I'll call out one of the seven actions. When you hear the order, you'll do the action for that order. Let's practice the orders and actions first.

If you are physically able, model each action for the kids and have them follow your lead. Otherwise, recruit an active leader or older kid to model the actions:

Make It Inclusive! Encourage kids with physical restrictions or disabilities to join the leader as a captain calling out orders.

Scrub the deck! Lay on your stomach on the floor.

Clear the deck! Stand tall with hands on hips

Up periscope! Lay on back with one leg lifted up in the air.

Captain's coming! Stand to attention and salute with fingers touching forehead.

Climb the rigging! Pretend to climb a rope.

To the island! Run the left side of the room.

Once kids have practiced all the actions, call out orders one at a time with the crew members (the kids) doing the corresponding actions. Speed up the calls and actions as you go.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Demonstrate the corresponding action (or have another leader demonstrate it each time an order is given).

After several minutes of playing, gather kids together. **As crew members, you had to listen closely to the captain's orders and remember which action to do. In God's Big Story today, Moses told the Israelites what it means to live as God's people – how to worship God with their whole lives by showing Him honour, remember His ways, and following His commands.**

10:15 AM / 12:15 PM – FREE TIME / PICK UP

- One volunteer per responsibility. Look over the job description for this task. (Attached to the cart)

CLEANING CHECKLIST

- Kids' Supply Bins: Ensure all used bins and supplies are neatly put away.
- Tables & Chairs: Clean and reset the tables and chairs.
- Floors: Vacuum if necessary (vacuum located in Kid City tech booth).
- Green Carts: Return any extra supplies, attendance records, and nametags to Kid City in the green carts.