

SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: THE FALL



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

GOD'S BIG STORY:

God Never Gives
Up on Us
(Genesis 3)

GOD'S BIG STORY 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?

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

- 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?

Curiosity Activity: “The Longest” Challenge

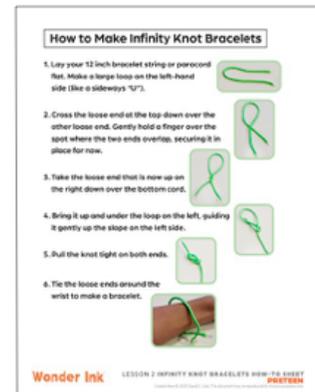
- **If you could hold any world record in something, what would it be?** Invite kids to respond.
- **Wow! It’s amazing to think about being the best or fastest in the world at something! Let’s do some “longest” challenges now! We might not set any world records today, but we can have fun trying!**
-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

Word of Wonder Activity

- 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.

Responding in Worship: Infinity Knot Bracelets

- 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.
- 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](#).
- 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.**



SMALL GROUP PRAYER

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!

Invite kids to join you in a circle to spend time talking to Jesus. Ask whether anyone has a question, something they would like to share with Jesus, or a prayer request. Give each kid a chance to participate, then close in prayer, remembering to thank Jesus for loving us!