

SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: GOD GIVES US THE BIBLE TO KNOW WHO HE IS



WORD OF WONDER:

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my
mother's womb. I praise you
because I am fearfully and
wonderfully made; your works are
wonderful, I know that full well.
- Psalm 139:13-14

GOD'S BIG STORY:

God's Word is a
Lamp to My Feet
(Psalm 119:97-105)

POST-LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

- What does the author of Psalm 119 say that he loves? *(Possible answers: God's Word, the Bible, God's Law.)*
- What two things does the writer of Psalm 119 compare God's Word to? *(a sweet, delicious treat like honey and a lamp/light)*
- The writer of Psalm 119 says that knowing God's Word and doing what it says makes us wise. What do you think it means to be wise? *(Possible answer: To be wise is to have knowledge and understanding from God that helps us make good decisions.)*
- How might learning God's Word make us wise?
- How is God's Word like a lamp? *(Possible answers: It shows us God's good way; it guides us; it helps us know what God is like.)*
- What is something you've learned about God from the Bible?

Welcome Question

- What do you do when you want to learn something new?
- We all learn new things all the time by listening to teachers, practicing new skills, and reading about new things! God gave us His Word to teach us about Him and show us the best way to live. I can't wait to talk more about all that God teaches us.

Curiosity Questions

- How can we learn about God when we can't see Him?
- What makes the Bible different from other books?

Curiosity Activity: Hidden Treasure

- Hide the slips throughout the room where kids will be able to find them. In this activity, kids will use light from flashlights to search for the hidden slips. The room will need to be dimly lit but not so dark that it could be scary for kids. If needed, use night-lights or small lamps to achieve the ideal level of dimness.
- Help kids form groups of 3–4 and give one flashlight to each group. Also give flashlights to the leaders, including yourself. **Today we're going to look for hidden treasure! There's only one catch: We'll have to search in the dark! To make everyone's search easier, I've given each group a flashlight. When I say, "Go," you'll use your flashlight to find three hidden slips of paper around the room. Each slip of paper has a number on it, and you'll want to make sure that your three slips have different numbers on them.**
- **On each slip is a treasure from God's Word! So, once you've found three different slips, you'll read them together using the flashlight to see! Once everyone has discovered and read their three slips, you'll have a chance to share your treasure with the whole group!**
- Turn the lights low (make sure that exits are lit and the room isn't pitch black) and then say, "Go!" Invite leaders to help any groups that need help finding three slips and then reading them.
- Once all the groups have found and read three slips, turn the lights back on and invite each group to read their favorite treasure (Bible verse slip) to the group.
- **It wasn't easy finding your treasure in the dark, was it? However, when you shined your flashlight on the treasure, you were able to see and read treasures from the Bible. Did you notice anything similar about all the verses on the treasure slips? Invite responses. All the verses came from Psalm 119! Today we're going to explore more of Psalm 119 as we learn that God's Word is like a flashlight that shows us what God is like.**
- Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD GIVES US THE BIBLE TO KNOW WHO HE IS.**

Word of Wonder Activity

- **Our Word of Wonder for the Wonderfully Made series comes from Psalm 139. Let's say the verse together.** Open your Bible to Psalm 139:13–14. Read Psalm 139:13–14 several times together.
- **When we examine, or look closely, at God's Word, we learn more about God and His great plan for His creation. God's Word is a lamp to our feet! We're going to examine God's Word in the Bible today using a magnifying glass.**
- Set out a magnifying glass and the paper slips from the Word of Wonder Sheet. Invite kids to take turns using the magnifying glass to put the slips in verse order. If there are pre-readers in your group, read each section of the verse aloud for them (using the magnifying glass!).

Responding in Worship: The A-B-Cs of G-O-D

- Write the 26 letters of the alphabet in a vertical line along the left side of a long sheet of butcher paper or a whiteboard, like this:
 - A
 - B
 - C
 - D
 - E
 - ...
- If using a whiteboard, write the letters where kids can reach them. If using butcher paper, lay it on a long table or the floor where it's easy for kids to write on.
- **Today we learned that God gives us the Bible to know who He is. The writer of Psalm 119 explains many reasons that God's Word is wonderful. We read nine verses today, but Psalm 119 is actually 176 verses long! The writer of this psalm made an acrostic poem, starting each section of this poem with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. He used the whole Hebrew alphabet, and in doing so shows that God's Word is for every area of our lives.**
- **Let's spend time working together to write an original acrostic poem about God. Our goal is to look in the Bible for one word or phrase to describe God that starts with every letter of the alphabet!** Give each kid a copy of the Bible References Sheet and a Bible. If needed, give kids a quick tutorial on how to look up verses in the Bible. Show them how to use the Table of Contents to look up books and then how to use the large chapter numbers and the small verse numbers to find specific verses. Encourage them to work together, likely in groups of 2–3, to find descriptions of God in the Bible that start with each of the 26 letters. As kids discover words or phrases that describe God, they can add them to the acrostic poem on the butcher paper or whiteboard. They can include exact words and phrases from the Bible as well as ideas about God that the Bible tells us about, even if the Bible doesn't use those exact words. The Bible References Sheet provides a verse reference to help kids find a description of God for every letter of the alphabet. They can use those references or look up other verses.
- Below are descriptions of God for every letter of the alphabet and a corresponding reference. Let kids take the lead on filling in the letters of the poem but share ideas when they need them!
 - A: almighty (Genesis 17:1); B: builder (Psalm 127:1); C: compassionate (Psalm 103:8); D: defender (Psalm 18:2); E: everlasting/eternal (Deuteronomy 33:27); F: faithful (Psalm 145:13); G: good (Psalm 107:1); H: holy (Isaiah 6:3); I: infinite (Psalm 147:5); J: just (Deuteronomy 32:4); K: kind (Luke 6:35); L: loving (Psalm 103:8); M: merciful (Luke 1:50); N: near (Psalm 145:18); O: omnipresent (Psalm 145:18) (To be omnipresent is to be everywhere); P: protector (Psalm 121:7); Q: quick to forgive (Nehemiah 9:17); R: righteous (Psalm 145:17); S: shepherd (Psalm 23:1); T: trustworthy/true (Psalm 33:4); U: unchanging (Malachi 3:6); V: victorious (1 Corinthians 15:57); W: wise (Romans 16:27); X: eXcellent/ eXalted (Psalm 145:3); Y: Yahweh (Isaiah 42:8); Z: Zealous (Isaiah 9:7) (To be zealous is to be full of passion and power)

SMALL GROUP PRAYER

When we understand God's instructions, we understand what's important to Him and how much He loves each of us. Let's talk with God in prayer now.

Invite kids into a time of prayer and encourage them to share prayer requests. Ask for a volunteer to lead a prayer to thank God for giving us the Bible so we can know Him. Other volunteers can pray for the requests kids shared during this group time.