

DAY 2 LESSON GUIDE

i wonder...

THE BIG IDEA

I wonder what gifts
God gave me?

THE BIBLE

Using Gifts from God:
I Peter 4:10; II Timothy 1:6-7

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

VIDEO | Countdown to Wonder

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play today's intro video to pump kids up before your program begins!*

MUSIC | Worship in Wonder

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Lead kids into wonder-filled worship with our I Wonder theme songs! Consider also adding "[2 Timothy 1:7](#)" to your praise-list.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Here are some fun worship songs for your preteens: "[You Will Never Run](#)", "[My Lighthouse](#)" and "[Rescuer](#)"*

ACTIVITY | There's an App for That

- Welcome to Day 2 of *I Wonder*! Today we are going to wonder about the gifts we've all been given and how we can use those gifts to serve others.
- Something that has served humans well is technology! Contrary to what you might think, technology isn't really about invention. Tech is actually about solving problems and finding new and better ways to do things.
- Before smartphones came along, it would take multiple devices to complete even a simple task. So today we're going back in time to look at some throwback tech!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print or project the images from the There's an App for That printable provided. (Bonus points if you can bring in the real things!) Have kids guess what each item does, then talk about which apps on the phone image can perform the tasks of these throwback tech products.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Work this out ahead of time to have two or three preteens who can demonstrate these apps on devices. You can connect them to a TV with a simple adapter to make it easier for everyone to see.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Give kids the printable of the phone with the apps, and a second copy with all the apps cut out. Have kids glue on the apps on the corresponding space on the printable as it is talked about.*
- What a world we live in, right? For nearly everything you can think of, there's an app for that!
- But the one thing no app could ever replace is you! When creating you, God installed some "apps" of your own to help you serve God and others. These apps are called gifts!

ACTIVITY | Build-a-Bot

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the group into teams of three to four kids. Give each team a bin filled with a variety of items (e.g., straws, popsicle sticks, modeling clay, string, paper, balloons, plastic spoons, LEGO pieces, and rubber bands).*
 - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *Before your preschoolers build-a-bot, play a round of Robot Says. It's just like Simon Says, except you would give instructions in a robot voice and kids have to do everything like a robot!*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *For kids who would rather work individually, provide sheets [like these](#) so kids can build sticker robot.*
- Using the items provided, work in teams to make your own robot! Here's the catch: your robot needs to perform a function that helps people. After everyone's finished, you will get to show us your invention. Don't worry, we know they won't really work. Just pretend your creations are prototypes for ones that could!
- **What does your robot do to help people?**

QUESTION | What makes it the best gift ever?

- Let's pretend that you have to go out and find the best gift ever for someone. Or think about if someone gave you the best gift ever.
- **What are the qualities of a gift that makes it the best gift ever?**
- For some people, the best gift ever is something they've always wanted. Some people might think the best gift ever costs a lot of money. For others, it's something thoughtful or handmade. It just goes to show, "the best gift ever" is different for each person.
- Today's Bible story tells us about the gifts God has given us. And whatever those gifts are, they are the best ever—even if we're not exactly sure what they are yet.
- God's gifts are things that we may not even know we need or have, but each of us have been given these gifts in order to serve others. And that makes them the best gifts ever!

BIG IDEA | I wonder what gifts God gave me?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Distribute the Big Idea printables and have kids color and decorate the airplane template. Then fold the paper airplane together step-by-step. The completed airplane should show the day's Big Idea. Have kids shout the Big Idea together as they throw their airplanes into the air!*
- Today's Big Idea is: **I wonder what gifts God gave me?**

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SKIT | Adventures in Wonder Lab

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Perform or play a pre-recorded video of today's theme skit.*

BIBLE STORY | Using Gifts from God

- Welcome back, Bible lab researchers! Once again, we are going to work together to find evidence that will help us answer the question of the day. Once we collect our data, we can draw a conclusion about our initial question. Here we go!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Put on a lab coat, goggles, and nitrile gloves for each week's Bible teaching. Place or project an image of a chalkboard behind you with the following words on it: Question, Data, Conclusion. Ask for an adult or kid volunteer to be "Bible Bot" and read I Peter 4:10 and II Timothy 1:6-7 in a robotic voice when prompted.*
- Step one. Today's Big Idea is: **I wonder what gifts God gave me?** *[Write the Big Idea on the board next to "Question."]*
 - When we say "gifts," we're not really talking about presents that come in a box or a bag. I'm talking about the abilities, talents, and even experiences that each person has. They're usually things we are good at or really enjoy doing.
 - **Can you name some gifts that people might have?**
- Step two. Let's collect some data! For that, we turn to the Bible. *[Write I Peter 4:10 and II Timothy 1:6-7 next to "Data."]*
 - **Hey, Bible Bot! Can you tell us what it says in I Peter 4:10?** This verse tells us to use our gifts as "stewards of God's grace." Remember, we learned about grace last time. Grace is a gift we get that we don't deserve, right? That means the gifts from God should be used in the same manner they have been given to us—freely and **graciously. God gave us our abilities for a reason . . . to help others.**
 - **Bible Bot, what does II Timothy 1:6-7 say?** This Bible passage says that we should keep practicing and working on the gifts we have because God wants to use us and our gifts. Which makes sense, because God gave us those gifts!
- Step three. What can we conclude about our question: **I wonder what gifts God gave me?** *[Write the word "Serve" next to "Conclusion."]*
 - Maybe you've never thought of abilities like being a good athlete, being good at math, or even being great at tidying up as gifts that come from God, but they do! And no matter what your gift is, God wants you to use it to serve others.

VIDEO | “The Present “

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Watch [“The Present”](#) with the group.
- **Why do you think the boy was unhappy with the present from his mom?**
- **Can you think of a reason why the boy’s mom gave it to him?**
- Sometimes, we might feel like we have no gifts. But did you know that even you just living your life is a gift? When you share an experience with someone else, you start to understand how someone else feels, which helps you comfort someone or cheer them up.
- Are you thinking, **I wonder what gifts God gave me?** The answer just might be . . . you!
 - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Provide an assortment of images (e.g., playing, giving hugs, helping clean, baking, smiling, dancing) that preschoolers can choose from. Then have them glue the pictures on a piece of paper with the Big Idea written on it. Talk about how preschoolers are a gift to their families, their friends, to you and to the world at large!

OBJECT LESSON | Use It or Lose It

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask for an adult volunteer to come up and help you with this object lesson. Light a small tea candle and ask the volunteer to not let the candle go out. Provide them with a small piece of cardboard to help fan and/or protect the flame.
- **Have you ever seen a campfire? What do you do to start a campfire?**
- Do you know how to keep the fire going? You have to stir it up and rekindle the flame from the ashes. To rekindle the fire means you stir it up and keep it alive. You have to fan the flame. Do you know what happens when you don’t do that? It will burn out.
- We already know that God has given all of us gifts and we are to use them to serve others. In II Timothy 1:6–7, Paul is writing to remind Timothy of his gift and for him to “stir it up” or “fan it back to life” just like we fan a fire back to life. Paul didn’t want Timothy’s gift to burn out!
- Just like a campfire can go out if you don’t fan the flames, you can lose out on your gifts if you don’t use them.

PRAYER

- God, you’ve given each of us wonderful gifts. Some of us have similar gifts and some of us have very different ones. We are thankful for all of them. Show us how we can use every last one for you and for the people in our lives. Amen.

ACTIVITY | Play Stations

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** See the “Play Stations” section for some ideas for this free play segment. You can set up the same stations every day or change them up for each session. Let kids float around between stations freely, but designate leaders to supervise. Some ways to monitor the flow is to tell the kids that each station cannot exceed a certain number of kids (e.g., 5-6), so if they see a station that is full, they can go to another one. If you feel there is a station that is more popular, set a timer for how long kids are allowed to stay, or ensure them that the station will be back the next day.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

VIDEO | Countdown to More Wonder

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play today's teaching video to give kids a little bit of a break before continuing on with the program.

SNACK | STEM Appétit!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Follow [this recipe](#) and have kids layer on treats, like sedimentary rocks do in nature! Alternatively, you could slice store-bought Rice Krispies treats or snack bars in half and use frosting or marshmallow spread to "glue" treats together in layers. Show a video about sedimentary rocks (like [this one](#)) some time during this segment.
- **Do you have a favorite type of rock?**
- There are many different types and shapes of rocks, but one of the coolest ones are sedimentary rocks. Sedimentary rocks form when bits of dirt and rock layer on top of each other over time . . . a lot like our snack!
- Even if you are not sure what your gifts are yet, God will reveal them to you at the perfect time. Maybe God is preparing you to use the gift that's in store for you and you just have to wait for all the layers to form!

REFLECTION | What Gifts God Gave Me

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Label five different areas on a table: Leading, Serving, Giving, Encouraging, and Searching. You could also use a LEGO baseplate or paper plates to section off each area. Give each kid a few blocks of your choosing. Indicate each area of the table as you describe them to the kids. You could also add images to each label such as a superhero for "leading," two hands cupped for "serving," a present for "giving," friends giving a high-five for "encouraging," and a magnifying glass for "searching."
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens try [mind-mapping](#) as an extension of this activity. After writing their name in a circle in the middle of a piece of paper, have them draw branches from the circle to the words Mental, Physical, Natural, Learned, Words, and Music. From each of these new branches, they are to add more branches that have a word or short phrase describing something about them that fits that branch.
- Today's Big Idea gets us thinking: **I wonder what gifts God gave me?**
- The Bible tells us there are different kinds of gifts God gives us. But the neat thing about these gifts is that they are not meant to be enjoyed all by ourselves. Our gifts are meant to be used for others.
- I am going to mention a few of the gifts you might have. Listen to each gift and what they mean; then decide which one fits you. If you think this is a gift God has given you, go ahead and stack a block in the area with that label.
 - **Leading:** I like taking charge when there's a job to do.
 - **Serving:** I like helping others.
 - **Giving:** I like sharing the things I have.
 - **Encouraging:** I like caring for people and making them feel included.

- You might find that you have more than one gift. Stack as many blocks as you feel is right. Or you might not be sure you have any. That's ok! You can go ahead and put your block on a gift you'd like to have or in the area that says, "Searching." We can pray together and ask God to show you your unique gift!

RESPONSE | Gift Guide

- Recognizing what gifts you have been given by God is important. And knowing what to do with those gifts can be a challenge.
- **Let's re-read | Peter 4:10. What are we supposed to do with these gifts?**
- God gives us gifts so we can use them for others.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare four pieces of poster board with these words written in the center: *Leading, Serving, Giving, and Encouraging*. Separate your group into each of the four gift categories. You could sort them according to their perceived gifts from the previous Reflection module or team them up randomly. Give each kid a few sticky notes and something to write with.
 - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Give your preschoolers a chance to act out each of the different types of gifts that are listed in this module. For leading, they can be the leader in a game of Follow the Leader. For serving, they can pretend to serve their friends food or drink. For giving, they can find their favorite toy in your environment and pass it to a friend. For encouraging, prompt your preschoolers to say something nice about the person sitting to their left or right.
- On a sticky note, jot down or draw an idea of how someone could use the gift that your team is assigned to do. Get creative and come up with as many ideas as you can! Stick them on your poster board and share your gift guide with the rest of the group.

MEMORY VERSE | Memorable Gifts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split the group into five teams. Cut the memory verse graphic (provided in your Programming folder) and cut out each of the words and the Scripture reference so that you have 17 separate pieces of paper. Repeat this four more times. Put the five sets of memory verse pieces into five different boxes, then gift-wrap them. Give a box to each team, and, on your mark, have them unwrap the box and arrange the words of the memory verse in order as quickly as possible!
 - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Print or write the memory verse on an index card and put it in a tiny box. Wrap that tiny box in a bigger box, wrap that box in a bigger box, and repeat several times. Make enough gift boxes for every four or five kids to unwrap together when you say, "GO!". Once they open the last box, have kids recite the verse after you.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens do all preparation work for the "gifts" ahead of time. Preteens can use their gifts to help others learn about using their gifts!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Write the words of the memory verse on gift boxes, one word per box. Line up the boxes and have the kids recite the verse. Then turn a box around so that the word doesn't show, and have kids say the verse while supplying the missing word. Keep turning boxes around until they can recite the verse without any words showing.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- Who receives gifts from God?
- What are we supposed to do with the gifts God gives us?
- Read I Peter 4:10. What do you think it means to be a “faithful steward”?
- Read II Timothy 1:7. Why do you think we need “power, love, and self-discipline” when we exercise our gifts?
- Why do you think God has given you certain abilities?
- Is there a gift or ability that you don’t have but would like to have?
- What could you do to develop that gift or ability?

ACTIVITY | Gifts Shouldn’t Be Hidden

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids write the Big Idea on a piece of paper in large letters, except for the word “gifts.” Squeeze lemon juice into a bowl and add a spoonful of water. Mix gently. Dip the cotton swab into the liquid and write “gifts” with the mixture. Let the liquid dry completely so the message is invisible. To share your secret, set the paper in sunlight or hold it close to a lightbulb.
- Today we learned that God has given each one of us special gifts that we are supposed to use to serve others.
- These gifts are not to be kept hidden to ourselves. We are to be good stewards of what God has given us and use those gifts!

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 40:5a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice the memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we’ve provided.