

DAY 3 LESSON GUIDE

i wonder...

THE BIG IDEA

I wonder what I can learn from others?

THE BIBLE

Loving Like God:
I John 4:11; I Peter 4:8

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 the following to your praise-list: ["Love the Lord"](#) and ["When I Look."](#)*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Consider adding ["Love One Another"](#) for preteens, or show the kids the [music video](#) before you start your program.*

ACTIVITY | Numbers Game

- Welcome to Day 3 of *I Wonder!* Today we are going to wonder about how and why God wants us to get along with and learn from each other.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split your group into two teams, and have each team choose one player to be their "game piece." This person will move around the room by taking as many steps as they're instructed. Write the numbers 1 to 12 on small strips of paper, fold them up, and put them in a container. Each team will send up two players who will be given three dice. You will draw out a number from the container, and each team will roll their set of dice and try to match that number using any combination of dice. The first team to do so will get to advance their "game piece" one step. Continue play until one team gets their token to the finish line.*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Use five dice instead of three and increase the number range to 24. Also, you can award as many “steps” as dice used to make a number. (For example, if the number is 6, the team would get one step if they used one die showing 6, and three steps if they used three dice showing 2 each.)

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Time for parachute play! Have preschoolers sit in a circle around a [parachute](#). Have a leader role a large die. Instruct preschoolers to lift the parachute as many times as appears on the die. After the final lift, they can run inside the parachute and try to sit down together. Repeat as many times as time allows.

- Great teamwork, everyone! This game showed us that the sum is greater than the individual numbers! We are going to talk more about how winning is about more than just one or two people. From God’s point of view, working together and learning from each other is what helps us grow. That’s what a real win looks like!

ACTIVITY | Bubbling with Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids make the following mixture in a small cup: baking soda (1 teaspoon), dish soap (2 drops), and food coloring (3 drops). Pour the mixture into the center of two coffee filters and stuff it into a test tube. Over a drip tray, have kids use pipettes to add vinegar to their test tubes until the mixture stops reacting. Alternatively, provide a stopper for the test tube and encourage kids to try adding the vinegar when they get home.

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Have all ingredients pre-measured for preschoolers. You may also want to use larger test tubes for preschoolers. Another option for preschoolers is to make playdough volcanoes [like these](#).

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have items pre-measured in larger tubes or beakers. Alternatively, give kids a tube of bubbles and have them play in a separate area.

- Wasn’t it so neat to see what happens when you added the vinegar to your test tube? This experiment reminds us we can overflow with awesome things when we work together and show one another God’s love!

POLL | What is unconditional love?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have everyone line up single file in the middle of the room. Have them take a step to the right if they think the statement is true and to the left if they think it’s false.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Create a visual for unconditional love, like a full heart, and a visual for conditional love, like a heart in a circle with a line through it. Hang these visuals on the wall so the kids see which heart to move to when given the statements.

- **Which of these statements are true?**

- Unconditional love means loving someone who . . .
 - Is the complete opposite of you.
 - Shares their toys with you.
 - Said something unkind behind your back.
 - You find annoying.
 - Sticks up for you in an argument.

- Argues with you all the time.
- Always finds encouraging things to say to you.
- Loves Jesus.
- Doesn't know Jesus.
- All of the above statements are true! God gave us unconditional love through Jesus—a love that's not based on anything good or bad we did. No matter who we are or what we've done, love is given from God . . . and love can be given from us, too!

BIG IDEA | I wonder what I can learn from others?

- **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 I can learn from others?**

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 | Loving Like God

- It's another research day in the Bible lab! I've never had more fun working together to find evidence that helps us answer the question of the day. Once we collect all our data, we can draw a conclusion about our initial question. Are you ready?
- **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 John 4:11 and I Peter 4:8 in a robotic voice when prompted.*
- Step one. Today's Big Idea is: **I wonder what I can learn from others?** *[Write the Big Idea on the board next to "Question."]*
 - There are tons of things we can learn from others. Our church leaders teach us about the Bible. Our school teachers teach us things like science and math. Hopefully you've already learned something new today!
 - But today's question is not just about learning things that make us bigger thinkers. It's about what we can learn by spending time with others, listening to their stories, and sharing God's love with them!
- Step two. Let's collect some data! For that, we turn to the Bible. *[Write I John 4:11 and I Peter 4:8 next to "Data."]*
 - **Bible Bot, I John 4:11, please!** The way we can be open to learning from others is by remembering that God wants us to love them. The apostle John gives us a very straightforward explanation for why we need to love others—because God loved us first!

- **Next, we need I Peter 4:8, Bible Bot!** This verse tells us how to love. And not just with words. To love one another deeply, we have to allow our love to be greater than the mistakes we or others make. Sure, we might not get along sometimes, but if God's love is at the center, we can say we're sorry, forgive, and not hold it against each other.
- The way we show our love to God is not just by what we say and do for God. It's also about what we say and do for others. We express our thankfulness for God's love by giving love away to those around us.
- Step three. What can we conclude about our question: **I wonder what I can learn from others?** [Write the word "Love" next to "Conclusion."]
 - Even the early Christians back in John and Peter's time struggled with loving one another. In fact, that's why they wrote letters—to keep reminding them!
 - We can sometimes forget things, too. We forget how much God loves us. We forget that everyone is made in God's image. When we do this, we tend to focus on other people's flaws. We forget we are forgiven and we can grow.
 - If we pay attention, we can learn so much from each other, especially about God's big love for all of us.
 - **I wonder what this will look like when we extend God's love to our family? Our friends? Our neighbors?**

ACTIVITY | Stop Motion Movie

- Stop motion animation is a film-making technique that makes inanimate objects appear like they're moving on their own! You do this by taking a bunch of photos of something, moving them only a tiny bit each time. Let's give it a try!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you might want to assign a leader to a group of three or four kids. Each group should have a device with [Stop Motion Studio](#) downloaded on it and a stand or tripod. Supply each group with a bucket of supplies: foam core to set up a backdrop (or they can use a wall), index cards, sticky notes, markers, crayons, paper, scissors, toys, playdough, and anything else you have lying around. Designate some time during today's programming to show everyone's movies (each movie should be about 30 seconds in length).
- Working as a team, produce a movie that presents today's Big Idea: **I wonder what I can learn from others?** Flex your creative muscles and have fun!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Recruit a team of preteens to put together a 30-second stop motion video as an example you can show the kids for what their final project can look like. As a bonus, film a short "behind the scenes" video of fun ideas and helpful tips for making stop motion movies.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Include friends with a one-on-one and give them one specific task, preferably something that allows some type of movement. Playdough would be a great option here.

OBJECT LESSON | Loving Others Silly

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask for a volunteer to come help you and give them a can of silly string to hold. Depending on the size of your group, get cans for the rest of the group to play with afterward.
- Do you guys know that this? This is the *greatest* invention ever made . . . silly string! It is fun to spray, it comes in so many colors, and it is cheap! Can you name a better invention?
 - Ok, [volunteer's name] and I are going to have the best silly string fight, right here! Ready? I'm totally going to win!
 - [Aim the can of silly string at the kid without taking the cap off and dramatically "spray" the volunteer. Wait for some kids to tell you that the cap is still on the can.]
 - Silly me! In order to have fun with this silly string, I have to take the cap off and spray it from the can.
- You know what, love is like silly string! If it stays inside of us, it can't do its job. It needs to be set free. When we let love flow outward to others, it will grow and expand. It can even be fun to love others!
- But unlike this can of silly string, God makes sure that our supply of love never runs out, so we can go on and love others silly!

PRAYER

- God, help me love my family, friends, neighbors, teammates, and even my enemies the same way you love me. Open my heart to accept others and listen to their stories, struggles, and feelings. Thank you for all the people you have placed in my life that I can learn from. 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:** Kids will work in groups of two to three to make the tallest tower they can using marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti. The trick is they can only use one hand, so they really need to work together! Prepare s'mores kits for kids to munch on after this activity.

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Encourage preschoolers to work in groups of two to three kids to build tall towers with the giant marshmallows, using frosting as “glue.”

- **Can you imagine how much more challenging it would be if you had to build this tower all by yourself with only one hand?**
- Whether it’s science, technology, engineering, or math, teamwork is so important. Working in a team means we have people to bounce ideas off of and to rely on for information.
- So in a way, teamwork is admitting that we don’t know everything . . . and that’s ok! That’s why God gave us people we can learn from and share God’s love with!

REFLECTION | What I Can Learn from Others

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a few magnetic doodle boards. Hand them out to a few kids, and have them write or draw something about themselves that not everyone would know (e.g., My favorite animal is lizards, I am afraid of bees, or I want to be a pilot when I grow up). The next kid looks at their doodle, erases it, then adds their own. Keep going until everyone has had a chance to add their response.
 - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Place preschoolers in smaller groups of five to seven and have them sit in a circle with a leader. Leaders will say “I wonder what I can learn from [kid’s name]? What is your favorite [fill in the blank]? Once everyone has shared, leaders will ask group members if anyone can remember what they learned from their friends.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have kids fold a piece of paper three times to make eight rectangles. Have each kid neatly print their first name in the first box and write or draw something about them that others may not know. Have kids swap papers, and repeat the writing or drawing inside another box on the new paper. Repeat this until the papers are full or everyone has participated.
- Learning from others starts with having God’s love toward them in our hearts. When we can see someone through God’s eyes, we want to know more about them and what God is doing in their lives. And learning those things can help us love them even more!
- As a people who are loved so much by God, it’s very important that we ask ourselves, **I wonder what I can learn from others?** Because the answer is . . . a lot!

RESPONSE | Many Faces to Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a [small box](#) and six different colored [sticky notes](#). Kids will write or draw on each of their six sticky notes and cover all the surfaces of the box. Invite everyone to come to the front and stack their boxes together to make a giant Rubik’s Cube (27 boxes = 1 Rubik’s Cube). You can stack them so that each side has the same color showing or stack them randomly. If your group is comprised of less than 27 kids, make extra boxes to fill empty slots. For larger groups, make more than one large Rubik’s Cube.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** If you have a preteen who can solve a Rubik’s cube, have them demonstrate their ability live or record a video. You can also show them [this video](#) of a three-year-old solving it in less than a minute!
- Today’s Big Idea is **I wonder what I can learn from others?** We talked about how we can learn from others by loving them like God loves them.

- **Have you ever tried solving a Rubik's Cube before?** Loving others is kind of like solving a Rubik's Cube. It's tough, but not impossible.
- On each of the sticky notes, write or draw a way you can show love and kindness to someone. Each color represents a different person in your life:
 - **Purple** = a friend
 - **Yellow** = a family member
 - **Pink** = someone at church
 - **Orange** = a teammate or classmate
 - **Green** = a passerby
 - **Yellow** = a neighbor
- Place one sticky note on each side of the box so all the sides are covered. It's ok to leave some of them blank if you can't think of something right away. Pray to God during the week and ask for ways you can love and learn from those people!

MEMORY VERSE | Coded Verse

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute the printable. Each number in the code refers to a letter's position in the English alphabet (i.e., 1 = A). Using the key provided, have kids decode the memory verse.*
- ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *Let preschoolers play the game "Telephone" to practice saying the verse to each other.*

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What should we do because God loved us?
- Look at I Peter 4:8. What does it mean that love "covers a multitude of sins"?
- Why do you think God wants us to show love to everyone?
- Read John 3:16. How does this verse relate to today's Bible story?
- How can learning about and learning from others help us love them?
- Who is someone you know that is challenging to love?
- What can you do this week to love that person?

ACTIVITY | Animated Action

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a thick stack of sticky notes. Instruct kids to start drawing on the last page and move toward the top of the stack. Kids will draw an act of kindness. When they're finished, have kids swap with one another other to view each other's flipbooks. Watch [this video](#) to get an idea of what this might look like.*
- ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *Have preschoolers draw a picture of how they can show God's love. You can also invite them to draw a picture to give to someone who could use some love.*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *In addition to this activity, have preteens reflect on how they can love someone who might be challenging to love by writing their name on one side of an index card and a specific action to show them love on the other side.*

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Have some pre-made flipbooks for kids to color.*

- In response to today's Big Idea—**I wonder what I can learn from others?**—let's animate an action that we can do to show God's love to another person.

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 40:5a (NIV)

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