



DAY 1

THE WONDER OF HIS BIRTH

BIBLE PASSAGES

Jesus Is Born
Matthew 1–2; Luke 2

APOLOGETICS CONTENT

Was there ever a person born who was more important than Jesus?

MEMORY VERSE

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory . . . full of grace and truth. John 1:14

NAMES OF JESUS

Creator, Immanuel

LESSON FOCUS

The baby King's birth was a wonder. What amazing happenings surrounded it?

ANIMAL PAL

Tiny the Cougar Kitten

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Introduce It!
Wonder Junction Chapel and Train Depot
- Teach It!
Part 1: Wonder of Jesus' Birth
Part 2: Animal Pal Review and Game
- Apply It!
Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time
Part 2: Go and Do
Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Matthew 1–2 and Luke 2 several times.
- Read this lesson thoroughly and prepare the materials.
- For more information on Jesus' birth, visit AnswersVBS.com/wonderfaq.
- Pray.



- ☐ Wonder Junction Poster
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Old West costumes for teachers
- ☐ Mounting putty or tape for posters

★ Think of fun names for yourselves: Cactus Kate, Cowboy Joe, Prospector Pete, Rattlesnake Rachel, or Doc Henry.

★ The Bible is listed just once daily in the supply list but is used throughout, so keep it handy and marked at the correct passages.

★ Be familiar with the lesson, but don't memorize it. Place it on a clipboard to use as a reference.

★ Mounting putty or tape is listed just once daily, but will be used whenever you hang up posters. Hang them up as you talk or just hold them up while teaching and hang them up after class.

- ☐ Wonder-filled Birth Poster
- ☐ 4 sheets of copy paper-and tape

INTRODUCE IT!

At the start of each lesson, you will introduce the kids to different places in Wonder Junction. Today it's the chapel and train depot.

Wonder Junction Chapel and Train Depot

Prep: Prepare your costumes. Bookmark the Scripture passages in your Bible for the whole lesson.

Well howdy, y'all! It sure is good to meet ya. I'm _____. This week we're going to pretend we're living in the olden days in the Old West where we'll find cowboys and gold mines and horses and old towns like Wonder Junction. Show the **WONDER JUNCTION POSTER**. We'll meet right here for the high point of our day at High Point Chapel (point to chapel on the poster), a mighty important building in town.

And over here is the train depot (point to it on the poster). We're right proud of the new-fangled train depot and locomotive that have just opened. In the Old West, the train was quite a wonder! It took about six years and 100 million dollars to build it, but it was worth it! Before the train arrived, it could take six months to get here by wagon, but now it takes just a few days.

The West is full of wonders, like gold and gems and land and beauty. But you know what? As amazing as the wonders are out here, they're nothin' compared to what we're gonna be talkin' about this week—the wonder of Jesus!

TEACH IT!

Part 1: Wonder of Jesus' Birth

Prep: Cover each section of the **WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER** with a piece of paper.

Our first wonder-filled thought is this: Jesus, who is God, became a baby! Think about it: Jesus *creates* babies because he's the Creator of every person! But then Jesus *became* a baby himself, the most special baby ever!

Do any of you have younger brothers or sisters? What kinds of things did they need when they were babies? Allow responses. Jesus came as a tiny, helpless baby. Like the kind that cry and spit up and need to be fed and changed and cared for. It's a wonder, that's for sure!

Let's go back to the beginning to figure this out. We just said Jesus was the Creator. How do we know that? It says so right here in the Bible. Point to John 1. And remember, the Bible's the only book that's completely perfect and trustworthy because it's given to us by God.

I'm gonna read from the Bible, and every time I say "the Word," you jump up and say "Jesus," then sit back down. Here we go. Read John 1:1–3.

Do you see? This tells us that *Jesus* created the sun and stars and plants and animals and people! Jesus didn't start out as a baby. He has existed for all of eternity and has always been God. When it was time to start creating the universe, Jesus, God the Son, was right there creating with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible says that at one point in time, Jesus the Creator came down from heaven to *live* in his creation. *That* is a wonder! Let's think through some of the wonderful events that happened when Jesus came to earth.

Wonder 1. Angel

We'll begin just before Jesus came when the angel Gabriel appeared to a woman named Mary. Angels are God's messengers from heaven. We can see already that Jesus' birth was going to be different.

Read Luke 1:28. Well, this made Mary afraid. Can you imagine an angel in the room with you? Uncover the **WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER 1**. Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid

because God had chosen her to give birth to a Son whose name would be Jesus. This doesn't normally happen, but it did for Jesus' birth, and it was a wonder!

Just as the angel said, Mary became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. She married a man named Joseph, and they traveled to a city called Bethlehem because the government wanted to count how many people lived in each area.

While they were there, it was time for Jesus' birth. Because their family's home was filled with people, they were given an area in the lower level of the house where they sometimes kept animals.

There wasn't any crib or cradle for the baby to sleep in. Who knows where Mary laid her baby? [In a manger](#). She laid him in an animal's feeding trough called a manger. Remember, we're talking about the King of the world here. He could have been born in a palace, or had fireworks, or a big parade. Instead, the King's first bed was a manger.

Wonder 2. Shepherd

The Bible also tells us on the night Jesus was born, the shepherds were watching over their sheep nearby. Suddenly, they saw something that scared them. What do you think it was? [Take responses](#). It was an angel who said not to be afraid because the Savior, Jesus, was born. What wonderful news!

The angel told them they would find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes (strips of cloth), lying in a manger. Then another wonder appeared in the sky. Guess what it was? [Uncover the WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER 2](#). Angels filled the sky, celebrating Jesus' birth! What a wonder!

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see the baby. When they got there, it was just as the angel said. They found baby Jesus in the manger, and they worshipped him. Does this sound like a normal birth? No. This was Jesus' birth!

Wonder 3. Wise Men and Special Star

Unusual, amazing things continued to happen. Anyone know what happened a while later? [Allow answers](#).

In the East around that time, some important people called wise men had been watching as a special star appeared in the sky. When they saw it, they followed it to find the newborn King. [Uncover the WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER 3](#).

Now that's a wonder—Jesus even had his own special star in the sky. Do you think there's ever been a special star for anyone else's birth? [Pause for responses](#). No, only Jesus!

The star they saw went before them until it stood over the place where Jesus was. They came into the house and saw Jesus, who was a little older now, and his mother, Mary. The wise men fell down and worshipped Jesus and gave him expensive treasures—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What a wonder!

It's incredible if you stop and think about it. Jesus' birth was different from the very beginning. He had angels. He had shepherds. Later, he had wise men bringing gifts. He even had his own special star!

Wonder 4. Jesus Came

God himself came to earth and was born. He took on skin! He had elbows! He had toenails! [Uncover the WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER 4](#).

But you know the biggest wonder of all is that he *wanted* to come. Remember, Jesus was in heaven in a beautiful, perfect place, and he left that for our world. That might be like us leaving a nice home—like a mansion—to go to a dirty, smelly place. Picture that in your mind.

Does anyone know why Jesus came? [Allow answers](#). Jesus came because he loves you and knows you need him. We'll hear more about that this week.

But let's end by cheering for Jesus and his amazing birth! [Do so](#). There has never been a more important birth or more important person, and there never will be again. God himself came to us. Jesus is called Immanuel, which means God with us. Say that with me,

★ Gospel Opportunity

“Immanuel means God with us.” [Repeat](#). If you ever feel scared or alone, remember—Jesus is always with his children, who have placed their trust in him. Even though you can’t see him! He’s right here.

We can trust Jesus and everything he has told us in his Word, the Bible. Did you know that all those wonders about Jesus’ birth had been promised in the Bible hundreds of years before they happened? [Show each section of the PROPHECY POSTER as you say the following](#). For instance, the Bible promised Jesus would be born in a town called Bethlehem, and . . . he was! God promised that Jesus would be born as a baby, and . . . he was! God promised wise men would come and bring gifts, and . . . they did! God even promised Jesus would have his own special star, and . . . he did! It’s a wonder that all these things came true, but they did!

So you can be sure that Jesus and the Bible are promise keepers. Jesus left the beauty of heaven to come to earth because he loves us. Jesus really is a wonder!

Part 2: Animal Pal Review and Game

- ☐ [Day 1 Animal Pal Poster](#)
- ☐ Wonder Junction maps and Tiny stickers, 1 per person (1220780)

Share the [DAY 1 ANIMAL PAL POSTER](#) to summarize the teaching of the day. Pass out the Wonder Junction maps and Tiny stickers (available to purchase from [AnswersVBS.com](#)), one set per person. Each day, the kids will add that day’s animal pal. If you have a large group, don’t put names on them—passing them out goes faster without names. Or, another option is to review daily but to wait until the last day to pass out the sticker sets.

[Show the DAY 1 ANIMAL PAL POSTER](#). Let’s take a look at our animal pal poster to remember what we talked about today. Our animal pal is a cougar kitten. What’s her name? [Take answers](#)—Tiny. What does her name have to do with Jesus’ birth? [Take answers](#). Jesus came as a tiny baby. What are some things you learned today about the wonder of Jesus’ birth? [Take answers](#). Why does Jesus’ birth matter? [Take answers](#). Mention the following if they don’t.

- It matters because thinking on the wonder of Jesus can strengthen our faith.
- It matters because Jesus’ *coming*—Immanuel, God with us—means you are never, ever, ever alone again. If you’re a child of God and are lying in bed feeling anxious, Jesus is with you. If you’re having a bad day, Jesus is with you. Jesus is right there, and he cares. Talk to him!
- It also matters because we don’t have to wait or search for someone or something that is the answer. *Jesus* is the answer! No other religion or person or system is the answer—only Jesus. People try to find happiness in any number of things—sports, hobbies, buying stuff—or in people. Although those things can be good, and God gives us all those wonderful good things to enjoy, the best thing by far is Jesus. He’s the real treasure and the one we should live for.

★ Gospel Opportunity

Tiny’s Yes or No Game

Continue reviewing with the following questions. Be sure to give the correct answer for any “no” questions. Have the kids meow like a cougar kitten if the answer is yes and pretend to sleep if the answer is no.

1. Yes or no: Our animal pal is named Teeny. No—pretend to sleep like a cougar kitten. It’s Tiny. Tiny reminds us of Jesus coming as a tiny baby.
2. Yes or no: Jesus started when he was born. No—sleep. Jesus is eternal; he has been alive forever—even before he came to earth as a baby.
3. Yes or no: Jesus is the Creator of the world. Yes—meow like a cougar kitten.
4. Yes or no: It’s a wonder that Jesus the Creator became part of his creation. Yes—meow.
5. Yes or no: Jesus is not God. No—sleep. Jesus IS God. He is both God and God’s Son.
6. Yes or no: Jesus’ birth was just like everyone else’s birth. No—sleep. He’s the most important person to ever be born and his birth was the most special birth ever. He even had wise men bow down to him!

7. Yes or no: Jesus had angels, shepherds, and an earthquake involved with his birth. No—sleep. There wasn't an earthquake, but there were the rest of those.
8. Yes or no: We should be in wonder when we think of Jesus and remember he is the greatest treasure of all. Yes—meow.

APPLY IT!

★ The front page of each day's student guide is a review of today's lesson. The back page matches this section in the teacher guide.

For the remaining class time, complete one or more of the following ideas. These are also on the back of the *Primary Student Guides* and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time. If you send them home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good stuff! (The Go and Do section applies today's lesson to real life. It's important!) Have the group guides check with the kids tomorrow to see how they did on them, and consider giving contest bonus points to the groups for their hard work.

Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time

Today's Verse: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory . . . full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Practice this verse a couple times using the **DAY 1 MEMORY VERSE POSTER** as a reference, then try the challenge.

Challenge: Move like a baby while saying the verse. First, roll over and over and over while saying it, then crawl around while saying it.

Tomorrow's Verse: And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52

Theme Verse: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised! Psalm 113:3

Say the new verse together several times and try the challenge again. Try the theme verse as well.

Part 2: Go and Do

1. Take a walk and marvel at what Jesus, the Creator, has made. Check out all parts of his creation you see or hear or smell or touch.
2. Ask an adult who has taken care of babies (maybe even you!) what they needed to do to care for the babies. Isn't it a wonder to think of the care Jesus would have needed as a baby, yet he cares for you and the entire universe?
3. Talk to God (pray) and thank him for sending his Son, Jesus, from heaven to earth as a person yet still God. Thank him for loving you that much. Thank him for understanding what you go through, because he went through it too.
4. Check AnswersVBS.com/wonderkids for more fun information!

Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

End each day with this thought. It's an important minute or two, so be sure to allow time for it daily. Cut something else if need be.

Never stop marveling at the creation Jesus made. Here's an idea to get you started:

- When you're at the beach, think of this: Jesus knows how many grains of sand there are. *And* he knows where every crab is hiding under that sand. *And* he knows exactly how many grains of sand and crabs will be there in 8 years and 342 days from now.
- Now your turn! What can you think of? Keep marveling!



DAY 2

THE WONDER OF HIS CHILDHOOD

BIBLE PASSAGE

Jesus at the Temple
Luke 2:39–52

APOLOGETICS CONTENT

Is Jesus God or man—or both?

MEMORY VERSE

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature
and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52

NAME OF JESUS

Carpenter

LESSON FOCUS

The young King's childhood was a wonder. What
was he like as a child and teen?

ANIMAL PAL

Junior the Wolf Pup

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Introduce It!
Wonder Junction Schoolhouse
- Teach It!
Part 1: Jesus at the Temple
Part 2: Wonder Bingo
Part 3: Animal Pal Review and Game
- Apply It!
Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time
Part 2: Go and Do
Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Luke 2:39–52 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- For more information on Jesus' childhood, see AnswersVBS.com/wonderfaq.
- Pray.



- ❑ Wonder Junction Poster
- ❑ Bible
- ❑ Old West costumes for teachers
- ❑ Mounting putty or tape

INTRODUCE IT!

Wonder Junction Schoolhouse

Howdy again, partners! Glad to see ya back. Today I want to show you where kids in Wonder Junction go to school. [Show the schoolhouse on the WONDER JUNCTION POSTER.](#) Right here in the schoolhouse, all the grades learn together in one room. Miss Winnie Griggs is the teacher. She used to live out East but she took the train here and arrived with her trunk full of books and papers and even a globe!

Yesterday, we talked about Jesus, the Creator, coming to his creation as a baby. But y'all know that babies grow into little kids, right? And kids go to school. Even kids during Bible times would have been learning. Jesus himself, although he was God, was learning things, because he was also a kid! Isn't that a wonder?

It's incredible that, at one point, Jesus was the same age you are now. And Jesus was like you in other ways, too. For instance, stand up if you like to eat yummy food. [Do so.](#) Turn around if you like to play. [Do so.](#) Wave your hand if you like to get a nice hug. [Do so.](#) Jesus would have liked to experience things like that, too.

But there was one huge difference. Jesus wasn't just a kid—he was also God! That made his childhood quite different than any other. Let's hear more about it!

TEACH IT!

Part 1: Jesus at the Temple

- ❑ Jesus at the Temple Posters

Prep: Bookmark the Bible passages that will be used today. Cut apart the JESUS AT THE TEMPLE POSTERS.

Who remembers the place where Jesus was born? [Bethlehem.](#)

Just after Jesus' birth, an angel warned Joseph to move to Egypt to get away from King Herod, who wanted to kill Jesus. So Jesus lived in Egypt for a while.

After it was safe again, his family moved back to Jesus' home country of Israel to a town called Nazareth. Jesus grew up in Nazareth. His dad, Joseph, was a carpenter. Jesus would have learned carpentry skills from him. Have any of you ever tried to make anything out of wood, metal, or stone? [Take quick responses.](#) It's pretty cool!

Jesus was a regular boy in many ways. The Bible tells us he grew and became strong and full of wisdom. Of course, he talked throughout his childhood. But the Bible only tells a few words he said one time when he was 12 years old.

Let's find out what happened. [Read Luke 2:41–42.](#) Jesus' parents were Jewish people who loved God. They celebrated the religious festivals, such as the Feast of the Passover.

[Show the JESUS AT THE TEMPLE POSTER 1.](#) Joseph, Mary, and Jesus traveled about 80 miles from Nazareth to Jerusalem, where the temple was, to celebrate Passover.

[Read Luke 2:43–45.](#) Jesus' parents couldn't find him for *three days*! Can you imagine how panicked they must have felt? Imagine if you or your brother or sister got lost for *three days*!

They finally found Jesus in the temple. [Read Luke 2:46–47.](#) [Show the JESUS AT THE TEMPLE POSTER 2.](#) What was he doing there? Asking the religious teachers good questions. But they were also learning from him. This 12-year-old boy was amazing them with the questions he was asking and the wise answers he was giving!

This is because Jesus was not only a person. He was also God. What a wonder!

Jesus had been in the temple for three days with the religious leaders when his parents finally found him after their frantic search. Listen to what they said. [Read Luke 2:48.](#)

Jesus replied: [Read Luke 2:49–50.](#) Jesus shows here he already knows his mission in life, even at age 12. He had to be about his Father God's business.

Then: [Read Luke 2:51.](#) Submissive means Jesus obeyed his parents and their authority. Jesus always obeyed perfectly, which is another wonder!

★ The word carpenter (“texton” in Hebrew) refers to a craftsman, so he may have worked with wood, metal, and/or stone.

This account ends with our memory verse: [Read Luke 2:52](#) and have them say it with you. It's a wonder-filled thought to think of Jesus growing up as a kid.

Let's talk more about how he grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man as we play Wonder Bingo.

- ❑ [Wonder Bingo Cards](#), 1 different card per person
- ❑ 1 pencil per person
- ❑ [Wonder Bingo Call Cards](#), 1 set (2 pages) for reference

Part 2: Wonder Bingo

Prep: Print the WONDER BINGO CARDS, a different one for each person. Print one set of the WONDER BINGO CALL CARDS. Do not cut apart, keep pages for your reference.

Directions: Give each child a WONDER BINGO CARD and a pencil to mark the spaces. As you read each of the following comments, have the students mark an X in the appropriate space on their card (show the picture from your reference pages if necessary). The first person to get 5 across, down, or diagonally wins. If time, play again (marking cards with a different shape) until all the comments have been read.

1. **Jesus grew**—The Bible says Jesus grew. He didn't start out in a full-sized, grown-up body. He had to grow. What a wonder to think of *God* growing up! He went through all the stages of life—baby, toddler, child, teen, and adult—like you're doing.
2. **Grew (increased) in wisdom**—This means Jesus grew spiritually in knowing how to live a godly life among other people. And he learned mentally. Just like you, he had to learn to read and do math and everyday things.
3. **Grew (increased) in stature**—That means Jesus grew physically. He got taller, bigger, and stronger. Although he was fully God, he didn't have super-human strength because he was also fully human. Jesus gave up some of his power during this time.
4. **Grew (increased) in favor**—Jesus grew in favor with God and with man. This means as he got older, God was pleased with him and people thought well of him.
5. **Wasn't rich**—Jesus' parents, Joseph and Mary, weren't rich, ([Luke 2:22–24](#), [Leviticus 12:8](#)), so Jesus' home was probably somewhat poor.
6. **Birthdays**—Jesus would have had birthdays just like you. But his birthday wouldn't tell us his true age because he is God, so he's been alive *forever*.
7. **Siblings**—Jesus had half-brothers and sisters. Four brothers and at least two sisters are mentioned in the Bible.
8. **Oldest**—Jesus was the oldest child in his family. Because Jesus was perfect, he never would have treated his younger siblings badly.
9. **His looks**—The Bible doesn't tell us what Jesus looked like, except that Isaiah 53:2 says he didn't have any special form or majesty, and there was no special beauty about him. Basically, he was a regular-looking guy. Of course, in heaven, he will be magnificent!
10. **Parents' faith**—Jesus' parents had strong faith in God. They would have taught him about God and the Scriptures. Jesus had to grow in knowledge. He willingly gave up the power of knowing everything while he was on earth. Sometimes God the Father revealed special things to him, so he knew more than others.
11. **Joseph**—Jesus' true Father was God the Father, but the man who raised him was named Joseph. The Bible says Joseph was a good man, and he taught Jesus about God and life.
12. **Carpenter**—Some people called Jesus "the carpenter's son." So that confirms that Joseph was a carpenter, or craftsman, who may have worked with wood, metal, or stone. Jesus is also called a carpenter in the Bible.
13. **Nazareth**—Nazareth was a small town where Jesus grew up.
14. **The name "Jesus"**—This name means "He saves" or "The Lord is salvation." Jesus did come to save us. When he told his mom he had to be about God's business, that showed he already knew his purpose on earth even as a child.
15. **Emotions**—Jesus had emotions like we do, such as pain, sadness, laughter, and joy. He was different from us, though, because he never had sinful, selfish emotions, like complaining or wanting things his way. He didn't get scared or worried or depressed.

16. **Hungry**—Jesus got hungry like we do, and he needed to eat. He didn't complain about his food or eat too much.
 17. **Sleep**—Jesus needed to sleep just like we do. The Bible records lots of times when he was tired or sleeping. In heaven, he never sleeps but keeps constant watch over us.
 18. **Listened and learned**—Seeing how he answered the religious men at the temple, we know Jesus listened to his teachers and parents and learned a lot. He took learning seriously, which is what we should do as well.
 19. **Obedied**—Because he was perfect (without any sin), he perfectly obeyed his parents and God's commands. We can't perfectly obey, but we should ask God to give us humble hearts that *want* to obey.
 20. **Luke 2:51**—This verse says Jesus was submissive to his parents—he always obeyed and respected them. He never would have complained or talked back.
 21. **King of the world**—Jesus is the King of the world—the one who made it all—including making his parents—and yet, even as King, he obeyed his imperfect, ordinary, average parents.
 22. **Jesus at 12**—Religious men marveled at him even at 12 years old!
 23. **Jesus at 13**—Nowadays, at age 13, Jewish boys go through a ceremony called a bar-mitzvah, which symbolizes becoming an adult. Jesus may have gone through something like this at age 13.
 24. **Passover lamb**—Jesus and his parents went to the Feast of Passover at the temple. At that feast, a lamb would be killed and sacrificed, reminding people of the shedding of the lamb's blood hundreds of years earlier when God saved the Israelites from Egypt. This was a picture of the sacrifice Jesus would make on the cross to save people from sin.
- So you see, the childhood of the young King Jesus' was definitely a wonder!

★ Gospel Opportunity

- ☐ Day 2 Animal Pal Poster
- ☐ Wonder Junction Maps and Junior Stickers, 1 per person
- ☐ Phone timer

Part 3: Animal Pal Review and Game

Share the [DAY 2 ANIMAL PAL POSTER](#) to summarize the teaching of the day. Pass out the Wonder Junction Maps and Junior stickers to each person and have them add today's animal as you discuss it.

Our animal pal today is a wolf pup named Junior. What does the name Junior have to do with what we talked about today? *Take responses.* Junior the wolf pup isn't an adult yet. In today's account, Jesus wasn't an adult yet. He grew up. Notice Junior's dad in the picture. What does it look like they're doing together? *Howling at the moon.* Wolf fathers teach their young pups lots of things, just like Jesus' father would have taught him lots of things, too, including teaching him about God and carpentry. What's something you learned about Jesus as a child today? *Take responses.* What amazes you most about Jesus being both God and man? *Take responses.*

Why does it matter that Jesus grew up as a child? *Take answers.* Mention the following if they don't.

- It matters because Jesus was tempted just like you are. The difference is he never gave in to temptation, like we all do. You can trust him with your life because he's perfect.
- It matters because Jesus experienced both joy and sadness, happiness and pain, like you do. He understands you and cares about you! In fact, he loves you outrageously!
- It matters because Jesus obeyed not just on the outside but on the inside too. He freely chose to obey out of love. What an example for us!

Beat the Clock Game

Put 60 seconds on a phone timer. On "Go," ask a question and have everyone shout out the answer. As soon as you hear the correct answer, acknowledge it and move to the next question. The goal is to get all ten questions answered correctly before the 60 seconds are up. Remind kids to be quiet when you read the questions or you will have to repeat it, which takes longer.

1. What kind of animal is today's animal pal? A wolf pup

2. **Why is he named Junior?** Junior reminds us that Jesus was a child at one point—he didn't arrive as a full-grown adult.
3. **Finish the memory verse:** And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with _____. God and man
4. **What were Jesus' parents like?** Godly, faith-filled, carpenter, went to the festivals, taught Jesus, etc.
5. **Was Jesus' family rich or poor in material things?** Poor
6. **Did Jesus have siblings?** Yes, half siblings (the same mother but not the same father)
7. **How old was Jesus when he went to the temple in today's account?** 12 years old
8. **Jesus was fully God and also fully ____.** Man
9. **Did Jesus understand his mission, even at age 12?** Yes
10. **Why does it matter that Jesus was a child?** He understands you as a child. He cares.

- ☐ Day 2 Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Optional: Student Guides and supplies

APPLY IT!

In the remaining class time, complete one or more of the following ideas. These are also on the back of the *Primary Student Guides* and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time. If you send them home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good stuff! Have the group guides check with the kids tomorrow to see how they did on them, and consider giving contest bonus points to the groups for their hard work.

Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time

Today's Verse: And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52

Practice this verse a couple times using the **DAY 2 MEMORY VERSE POSTER** as a reference, then try the following challenge.

Challenge: Challenge: Play the Popcorn Game. Squat and say the first word of the verse. Pop up ("grow") as you say the next word. Continue squatting and growing through the whole verse. Get taller each time you "grow" up.

Tomorrow's Verse: Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. John 21:25

Try the challenge again, this time with tomorrow's verse.

Part 2: Go and Do

1. Jesus was taught the Scriptures when he was young like you. Jesus wants you to learn his Word. What questions do you have about God? What book contains the answers? How can you know the Bible better?
2. Jesus knew God's Word, and he always obeyed God's Word. Ask someone to read Romans 12:9–21. How can you obey God today?
3. Tell God what amazes you about Jesus. Ask him to help you to love him and his amazing Word more with each passing day.
4. Check AnswersVBS.com/wonderkids for more fun information!

Ask yourself these questions: What amazes me about Jesus being a child? Do I like to learn about Jesus and God's Word?

Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

Remember to allow time to end on this important thought.

Never stop marveling that Jesus, even though he was God, was also a child at one point. Here's an idea to get you started:

- Kids have belly buttons, right? But do you think Jesus had a belly button? Yes! He grew as a baby inside Mary and would have needed a belly button to be attached to his umbilical cord. But Adam, the first man Jesus created from the dust, wouldn't have had a belly button!
- Now your turn! What's another marvel you can think of about Jesus as a child? Keep marveling!



DAY 3

THE WONDER OF HIS MINISTRY YEARS

BIBLE PASSAGES

Jesus Does Wondrous Things
Selections from the book of Mark

APOLOGETICS CONTENT

Has anyone else had the power to raise himself
from the dead?

MEMORY VERSE

Now there are also many other things that Jesus
did. Were every one of them to be written, I
suppose that the world itself could not contain
the books that would be written. John 21:25

NAME OF JESUS

Almighty

LESSON FOCUS

The adult King's ministry years were a wonder.
What astonishing things occurred during
that time?

ANIMAL PAL

Mighty the Bison

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Introduce It!
Wonder Junction General Store
- Teach It!
Part 1: Wonder-Working Power
Part 2: Animal Pal Review and Game
- Apply It!
Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time
Part 2: Go and Do
Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read all or part of Mark 1–6.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- For more information on Jesus' wondrous ministry years, check AnswersVBS.com/wonderfaq.
- Pray.



INTRODUCE IT!

Wonder Junction General Store

- ☐ Wonder Junction Poster
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Old West costumes
- ☐ Mounting putty or tape

Teacher 1: Welcome back, partners! I've got a question for you. When you need something, like a new pair of shoes or some flour and sugar for cookin', where do you get those things? [Take a few responses.](#)

And if you lived in the Old West where do you think you'd go for supplies? [Take a few responses.](#) You'd go to the general store, or mercantile, as we sometimes call it.

The general store has everything under the sun you might need. Wonder Junction's general store owner is Mr. Percy Jones. Good ol' Percy, he always wants to help ya out. If yer sick, he has medicine. If you need food, he has flour, sugar, and other important food items. If you need clothing, he has material.

But as helpful as that can be, it's nothing compared to all the ways Jesus was able to care for people while he was on earth. Jesus could work wonders. Whatever people needed, he could supply it! Nothin' is too hard for Jesus! And I mean nothin'! Let's look a little closer at Jesus' wonder-working power.

TEACH IT!

Part 1: Wonder-Working Power

- ☐ Wonder-Working Power Poster
- ☐ 4 pieces of copy paper and tape to cover each section of poster

Prep: Bookmark all Bible passages used in today's lesson. Cover each section of the **WONDER-WORKING POWER POSTER** with the copy paper.

Directions: Four accounts follow reflecting four categories of Jesus' power that demonstrate he is God. If you are low on time, choose one or two to act out, then simply read and discuss the other accounts.

When Jesus was about 30 years old, he chose some men to be his students. He taught them amazing truths, and they were filled with wonder at who Jesus was. One of those amazing truths is that Jesus said he is God. Listen to this amazing statement. [Read John 8:58–59.](#) Jesus is saying that he is the “great I AM,” which is a title God had used for himself. So Jesus is claiming to be God!

Now, if you or I claimed to be God, people would think we were crazy, right? But Jesus *showed* he is God by doing miracles that only God can do. Let's take a look at a few of those miracles that show Jesus is who he claimed to be—God the Son.

★ Practice a signal for when they should get instantly quiet.

- 1. Wonder-Working Power 1—Power over Sickness and Disease (Mark 1:29–31):** Ask if they've ever had a fever and what it felt like (hot, chills, achy, etc.). Have kids slump in their chairs as if they feel feverish. Have them quietly listen and imagine they are there as you read Mark 1:29–31. Uncover the **WONDER-WORKING POWER POSTER: SICKNESS**, then have kids jump up from their seats as if healed at the appropriate time. Jesus has power to heal sickness and disease, which is a wonder! Nobody else has power over sickness and disease. Only Jesus—he is God the Son!
- 2. Wonder-Working Power 2—Power over Nature (Mark 4:35–39):** Have the kids sit close together as if in a boat. Read the Bible account, uncovering the **WONDER-WORKING POWER POSTER: NATURE**. Have kids make a fierce storm (clapping for rain, saying, “whoosh!” for waves, and stomping their feet for thunder). At the appropriate time, have kids get completely still. Discuss Jesus' power over nature. What a wonder! Nobody else has power over nature. Only Jesus—he is God the Son!
- 3. Wonder-Working Power 3—Power over Sin (Mark 2:1–12):** Explain what it means to be paralyzed and have kids try not to move at all. Tell the Bible account, uncovering the **WONDER-WORKING POWER POSTER: SIN**. Kids can stand up and walk in place at the appropriate time. Discuss how Jesus forgave the man of his sins (disobeying God's commands). What a wonder to be able to forgive sins! Nobody else has power to do that. Only Jesus—he is God the Son!

★ Gospel Opportunity: We all need forgiveness because we are all sinners. Sin separates us from God.

4. **Wonder-Working Power 4—Power over Death (Mark 5:21–24, 35–42):** Have a teacher/adult lie down and be still, as if she had died. You can make this a fun challenge by seeing just how still she can be! Have everyone else gather around and act as if they're sad. Tell the Bible account, uncovering the **WONDER-WORKING POWER POSTER: DEATH**, having the teacher/adult rise at the appropriate time. Discuss how Jesus has power over death. **What a great wonder!** Nobody else has power over death. Only Jesus—he is God the Son. He even had the power to bring himself back to life, as we will hear more about tomorrow.

These four amazing miracles are just a drop in the bucket of all the wonder-filled things Jesus did. He also walked on water, and he fed 5,000 men plus women and children with only two fish and five little loaves of bread. And . . . there were even lots of leftovers! More than what he started out with! Jesus sure is a wonder! And get this—the Bible says he has done so many miracles that the world couldn't even hold all the books that would be written about him.

Part 2: Animal Pal Review and Game

- ❑ Day 3 Animal Pal Poster
- ❑ Wonder Junction Maps and Mighty stickers, 1 per person

Share the **DAY 3 ANIMAL PAL POSTER** to summarize the teaching of the day. Pass out the Wonder Junction maps and Mighty stickers and have the kids cover today's animal pal.

Our animal pal today is a bison. What's his name? Take responses—Mighty. Why do you think our bison is named Mighty? Bison are powerful, mighty animals. Jesus is the most powerful, mighty person who ever has lived or ever will live. He is called Almighty. Nothing is too hard for God. What's something that blew your mind today about Jesus' power? Take responses.

Why do Jesus' ministry years matter (because they do!)? Take answers. Mention the following if they don't.

- It matters because he's powerful enough to calm a storm, so he's powerful enough to care for you.
- It matters because nothing is too hard for him. God always knows the best course of action (he can only make perfect choices), so we can trust him.
- It matters because he is mighty, and yet he cares about the smallest details of your life.

Cowboy Yes or No Game

Read each statement, allowing students to answer with the specified motions. If the answer is yes, have the kids put on a cowboy hat. If it is no, have them ride a horse (in place). Demonstrate motions. Tell them to make a guess if they don't know. Be sure to add explanations for any "no" answers.

1. Did Jesus come into existence when he was born? No—ride a horse. He is eternal. He doesn't have a beginning, he has always been.
2. Did storms obey Jesus and get quiet? Yes—put on your hat.
3. If Jesus told a dead person to get up, would they stay dead? No—ride a horse. He had the power to bring people back to life!
4. Does Jesus have the power to forgive people of their sins? Yes—put on your hat.
5. Did Jesus get married? No—ride a horse. The Bible gives us permission to marry or to stay single. Jesus never married.
6. Did Jesus have a home of his own during his ministry/teaching years? No—ride a horse. Matthew 8:20 tells us he had no place to lay his head.
7. Did most of the religious leaders respect Jesus? No—ride a horse. The Bible tells of two leaders who did, but most did not.
8. Can Jesus understand you and care for you? Yes—put on your hat.
9. Does Jesus really have power over nature, sickness, sin, disease, and even death? Yes—put on your hat.
10. Because Jesus is God, is it true that he never got tired or hungry? No—ride a horse. The Bible says that he was often tired and that he ate food.

APPLY IT!

In the remaining class time, complete one or more of the following ideas. These are also on the back of the *Primary Student Guides* and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time. If you send them home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good stuff! Have the group guides check with the kids tomorrow to see how they did on them, and consider giving contest bonus points to the groups for their hard work.

- ☐ Day 3 Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Optional: Student Guides and supplies

Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time

Today's Verse: Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. John 21:25

Practice this verse several times using the **DAY 3 MEMORY VERSE POSTER** as a reference, then try the following challenge.

Challenge: Get an armful of books. Stack a book on the one under it with every word as you say the verse. Can you make it to the end of the verse before the book tower falls over? All the books in the world can't tell all the amazing things Jesus has done if they were all written down.

Tomorrow's Verse: But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

Try the challenge again using tomorrow's verse.

Part 2: Go and Do

1. Tell a friend one of your favorite wonders that Jesus did.
2. Ask someone to read Mark 6:30–44. Jesus used his power to take care of others. How does he care for you? How can you care for someone else?
3. Praise God for being mighty—nothing is too hard for him.
4. Check AnswersVBS.com/wonderkids for more fun information!

Ask yourself these questions: What amazed me about Jesus' grown-up years? Why do Jesus' ministry years matter?

Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

Remember to allow time to end on this important thought.

Never stop marveling at Jesus' power. Here's an idea to get you started:

- Jesus has the power to change people's lives. Nobody is beyond his power—not even the worst thief or meanest person you can think of. He delights to save sinners—like you!
- You may want to quickly share a specific, age-appropriate way Jesus has changed your life.
- Now your turn! What's something to marvel at about Jesus' power? Keep marveling!

DAY 4

THE WONDER OF HIS DEATH & RESURRECTION

BIBLE PASSAGES

Jesus Dies and Lives Again

Select verses; Matthew 27–28

APOLOGETICS CONTENT

Could Jesus experience pain and sadness?

MEMORY VERSE

But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
John 20:31

NAME OF JESUS

Savior

LESSON FOCUS

The risen King's death and resurrection were a wonder. How were they like no other?

ANIMAL PAL

Champ the Grizzly Bear

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Introduce It!
Wonder Junction Gold Mine
- Teach It!
Part 1: Nuggets of Truth Gospel Presentation
Part 2: Sin and Salvation
Part 3: Animal Pal Review and Game
- Apply It!
Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time
Part 2: Go and Do
Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read "Leading a Child to Christ," found on the inside back cover of this guide.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- For more information on Jesus' death and resurrection, check AnswersVBS.com/wonderfaq.
- Pray.



- ❑ Wonder Junction Poster
- ❑ Bible
- ❑ Old West costumes for teachers
- ❑ Mounting putty or tape

INTRODUCE IT!

Wonder Junction Gold Mine

Welcome back, partners. Good to see you again! Have any of you hiked out to the old gold mine? It's way over yonder. [Show the mine on the WONDER JUNCTION POSTER.](#) That was quite the exciting place a while back—until Carson got stuck.

Yep! Carson went into the mine and started digging for gold. Suddenly, big rocks fell down all around him. There was nothing he could do to get out on his own. Carson was stuck—for three days—waiting for someone to rescue him. Thankfully, Fearless Abner volunteered to save Carson. And whoo-whee, there was a whole lot of celebrating that night! Carson was lost and in trouble, but then he was found. What a rescue!

Today, we'll hear about another rescue mission—the most exciting one ever—and we find it right here in the Bible. [Point to your open Bible.](#)

We've already talked about how Jesus came to earth as a baby, grew into a man, and lived a perfect, wonder-filled life. Now let's hear more about why he came to earth on a special rescue mission that includes you and me.

TEACH IT!

Part 1: Nuggets of Truth Gospel Presentation

- ❑ Nuggets of Truth Poster Set (8 posters total)
- ❑ Nuggets of Truth Cards
- ❑ 8 yellow/gold plastic Easter eggs
- ❑ Optional: burlap sack

Prep: Cut apart the NUGGETS OF TRUTH POSTER SET. Print and cut apart the NUGGETS OF TRUTH CARDS. Fold each card and place it inside a plastic egg. Number the eggs from 1–8 with a permanent marker in the following order: 1) Adam & Eve, 2) snake, 3) hourglass, 4) manger, 5) hammer, 6) Jesus, 7) cross, 8) tomb. If you have time, hide the eggs for students to find, otherwise place the eggs in a burlap sack.

With a mine so close by, we know there's gold in these here parts. We've got eight nuggets that will help us today. So let's get started. [If you hid the eggs, allow kids to find the eight eggs and bring them to you. If not, pour them out of the sack onto a table.](#)

Nugget One: Garden

Who wants to open the first nugget for us? [Choose a student to open egg #1 and tell the class what the picture is. Show the GARDEN POSTER.](#)

Remember Jesus has always existed. He created time, the universe, and everything in it. After he created the earth, he placed the animals and people in a beautiful, perfect garden called Eden. Jesus is perfect and everything he does is good, so his creation was very good.

Anyone know the names of the first two people he created? [Adam and Eve.](#) God gave Adam and Eve a perfect world to live in and everything they needed. God also gave them a rule—not to eat from one tree in the garden. God warned them if they ate from that tree they would die. Well, let's see if Adam and Eve obeyed God.

Nugget Two: Snake

[Choose a student to open egg #2 and tell the class what the picture is. Show the SNAKE POSTER.](#) Now God created snakes, so they were good, just like all of his creation. But this time, Satan took the form of a snake in the garden and tempted Eve. He got her to doubt God's warning, and Adam and Eve both ate a piece of fruit from the forbidden tree. When Adam did that, he sinned. As a result, God placed a curse on his creation, and it was no longer very good.

Adam and Eve didn't obey God, and the perfect world wasn't perfect anymore. God sent them from the garden of Eden. But he promised that one day he would send someone who would save them and bring them back into fellowship with him.

Nugget Three: Waiting

Let's move on to the next nugget. Choose a student to open egg #3 and tell the class what the picture is. Show the [HOURGLASS POSTER](#).

As time went on, Adam and Eve had children, and they had children, and so on. And all of them—every person since then—has been born a sinner. We all disobey God.

Adam and Eve's grandchildren and great-grandchildren began waiting for someone to fix the mess the world was in. Over the next several thousand years, God guided his people to write about this perfect someone, the Messiah, who would come. Those writings are collected into one book we call the Bible. That means long ago they knew a Savior was going to come.

Nugget Four: Baby in a Manger

Did the Messiah come? Yes, indeed, he did! Let's open the next nugget to find out more. Choose a student to open egg #4 and tell the class what the picture is. Show the [BABY IN A MANGER POSTER](#).

Shout "Yee-haw!" if you knew this Savior was Jesus. Allow students to shout. Jesus was the long awaited Messiah—the perfect child who came in a wonder-filled way! Remember the angels and the shepherds? Remember the wise men who bowed down to him and the special star? And remember the wonder that Jesus actually wanted to come? It was all part of Jesus' rescue mission.

Nugget Five: Hammer

What nugget of truth is next? Choose a student to open egg #5 and tell the class what the picture is. Show the [HAMMER POSTER](#). Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man, and he learned carpentry from his dad, Joseph. He was completely God and completely man at the same time. What a wonder!

Nugget Six: Calmed the Sea

Now for the next nugget of truth. Choose a student to open egg #6 and tell the class what the picture is. Show the [CALMING THE SEA POSTER](#).

When he was around 30 years old, Jesus began his ministry of teaching and showing people who he is. This only lasted three years, but during that time, he did many marvelous miracles, like calming the sea. Can you remember any others? Take responses.

Nugget Seven: Cross

Who will open the next nugget? Choose a student to open egg #7 and tell the class what the picture is. Show the [CROSS POSTER](#). Most of the religious leaders didn't like Jesus. He said he is God, and they didn't like that. So they had him put to death on a cross. Jesus allowed this because it was all part of his rescue mission. He died to pay the penalty (punishment) for our sins so we could be with God one day.

Jesus' death was like no other. The book of Matthew tells us darkness came over the earth for three hours while Jesus was on the cross. There was an earthquake too. And some believers in God who had died were raised from the dead! As you can see, even Jesus' death was filled with wonders! But that wasn't the end. There was still an even more amazing wonder to come.

Nugget Eight: Empty Tomb

Who will open the last nugget? Choose a student to open egg #8 and show the class that it's empty. Why is this nugget empty? Take responses. Jesus rose from the dead and left the tomb empty. Show the [EMPTY TOMB POSTER](#).

We know that Jesus did actually die. He didn't just faint or go into a coma or fake it. His body was placed in a tomb. But on the third day, he rose from the dead! This is called the resurrection. It shows us that God the Father accepted Jesus' payment for our sins and that Jesus conquered death. This is the wonder of all wonders!

- ❑ Wild West Bad Guys Poster
- ❑ Admit, Believe, Forever-Receive Posters

Part 2: Sin and Salvation

Prep: Cut apart the ADMIT, BELIEVE, FOREVER RECEIVE POSTERS.

So what exactly is sin, and why is it so important to understand? The Bible tells us that the punishment for sin is death. Because of sin, when we die, we are forever separated from God in a terrible place called hell. The Bible says each of us is born a sinner. We're all lost and in trouble—kinda like Carson in the mine. And we all need a Savior to save us from our sin.

Speaking of sinners, let me tell you about some of the bad guys out in the Old West. [Show the WILD WEST BAD GUYS POSTER](#). Billy the Kid started out stealing laundry and went to jail. But when he got out, Billy kept stealing and even killed some people. He and his gang robbed banks, stagecoaches, and trains. Other bad guys, like Jesse James and Butch Cassidy, also robbed banks and killed people. God says not to steal or kill. So we could definitely say these guys disobeyed God.

Now, I'm sure you're not going around killing and stealing. But whether you realize it or not, we all disobey God every day. For example, God says children should obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1). When you disobey your parents, you're sinning. God tells us to be truthful (Ephesians 4:25). When you tell a lie, you're sinning.

Just one sin is enough to separate you forever from God! God is holy, which means he's perfect and has no sin. He can't allow sinners into heaven because heaven is perfect. But God loves us so much that he had a rescue plan to save us. That plan was sending Jesus to die on a cross to pay for our sins. Now our sins can be forgiven, and we can have fellowship with God again. That's why Jesus came! But you aren't automatically saved and going to live with God someday in heaven. You need to become part of God's family for that to happen.

[Show the ADMIT POSTER](#). If you don't like your sin, you need to admit to God that you do sin—tell him you know that you don't obey all the time and that you're sorry for it and want to turn away from it (repent).

[Show the BELIEVE POSTER](#). Then you must believe what the Bible says, that Jesus is God, and he died on the cross to pay the punishment for your sin. Then he rose from the dead, the champion over death!

[Show the FOREVER RECEIVE POSTER](#). And finally, you need to forever receive Jesus by asking him to forgive you and make you part of his family. It's an amazing gift to be God's child and to live with him in heaven someday.

Isn't that a wonder?! We can become children of God. If you want to learn more about becoming God's child, make sure you talk to your parent or leader or me today. It's the most important thing ever!

Part 3: Animal Pal Review and Game

Share the [DAY 4 ANIMAL PAL POSTER](#) to summarize the teaching of the day. Pass out the Wonder Junction Maps and Champ stickers and have the kids add today's animal pal.

What kind of animal is our animal pal today? [A grizzly bear](#). And what's our grizzly bear's name? [Champ](#). Champ is short for the word *champion*. Why do you think our bear is named Champ? Champ is a champion. He's the king of the forest. During cold months, he sleeps in a cave, and in the spring he wakes up and comes out. Jesus is a champion. He died and was put in a tomb (like a cave), but he was not just asleep like Champ. He was dead and came back to life. Nobody else can do that—only Jesus! He's the ultimate champion. He is the Son of God. Why does Jesus' death and resurrection matter? Take answers. Mention the following if they don't.

- It matters because his death and resurrection made a way for us to be part of God's family! That means we can not only know *about* Jesus, but we can know him personally!
- It matters because we don't have to fear eternity. When we become part of God's family, we can know we will live with Jesus some day!

- ❑ Day 4 Animal Pal Poster
- ❑ Wonder Junction Maps and Champ stickers, 1 per person

Beat the Clock Game

Put 60 seconds on a phone timer. On “Go,” ask a question and have everyone shout out the answer. As soon as you hear the correct answer, acknowledge it and move to the next question. The goal is to get all ten questions answered correctly before the 60 seconds are up. Remind kids to be quiet when you read the questions or you will have to repeat it, which takes longer.

1. What kind of animal is today’s animal pal? A grizzly bear
2. Why is he named Champ? To remind us that Jesus is the ultimate champion. He defeated death!
3. Finish the memory verse: But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life _____. In his name
4. Yes or no: Every person is a sinner. Yes
5. We can become part of God’s family if we truly admit to God we are a sinner, believe in Jesus, and then forever _____. Receive
6. Which of these happened when Jesus died—it was a sunny day, there was a blizzard, or there was an earthquake? There was an earthquake.
7. What happened with the daylight around the time of Jesus’ death? It turned dark all over the land—another wonder.
8. What happened to the bodies of some dead people who had believed in God? They came out of their graves—another wonder!
9. What’s the most amazing wonder of all that we talked about today? Jesus rose from the dead. He is God, and he conquered death. It’s a marvel!
10. Why does it matter that Jesus died and rose again? His death paid the penalty for sin and his resurrection showed that God accepted his payment. He defeated death for all who place their faith and trust in him.

APPLY IT!

In the remaining class time, complete one or more of the following ideas. These are also on the back of the *Primary Student Guides* and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time. If you send them home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good stuff! Have the group guides check with the kids tomorrow to see how they did on them, and consider giving contest bonus points to the groups for their hard work.

Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time

- ☐ Day 4 Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Optional: Student Guides and supplies

Today’s Verse: But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

Practice the verse several times using the **DAY 4 MEMORY VERSE POSTER** as a reference, then try the following challenge.

Challenge: Make a gold nugget by crumpling a yellow piece of paper. Find a spoon. Put the nugget on the spoon and walk across the room, saying your verse the whole way. If the nugget falls off before you finish the verse, start over. Can you make it the whole way through the verse before it falls off?

Tomorrow’s Verse: Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

Try the challenge again with tomorrow’s verse.

Part 2: Go and Do

1. While we were sinners, God loved us and sent his Son. Say today’s Bible verse. Have you admitted your sin, believed in Jesus as your Savior, and forever received the gift of eternal life?
2. Thank God for sending his only Son to be the Savior of the world.

3. Tell a friend about Jesus and the wonder of his death and resurrection.

4. Check AnswersVBS.com/wonderkids for more fun information!

Ask yourself these questions: What amazes me about Jesus' death or resurrection? Why does Jesus' death and resurrection matter?

Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

Remember to allow time to end on this important thought.

Never stop marveling at Jesus' death and resurrection. Here's an idea to get you started:

- Imagine walking through a cemetery and seeing people come out of their graves, alive and well? That's not normal, but people *did* come back to life—when Jesus died!
- Now your turn! What's something else you can marvel at about Jesus' death and resurrection? Never stop marveling!



DAY 5

THE WONDER OF HIS RETURN

BIBLE PASSAGES

Jesus is Coming Back

Select verses; Matthew 25:14–29

APOLOGETICS CONTENT

How will Jesus return?

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 6:10

NAME OF JESUS

King of Kings

LESSON FOCUS

The return of the King of kings will be a wonder.
What should we be doing in the meantime?

ANIMAL PAL

Mission the Horse

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Introduce It!
Wonder Junction Bank
- Teach It!
Part 1: Jesus' Return and the Parable of the Talents
Part 2: Animal Pal Review and Game
- Apply It!
Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time
Part 2: Go and Do
Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Matthew 25:14–29 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- For more information on Jesus' return, see AnswersVBS.com/wonderfaq.
- Pray.



- ☐ Wonder Junction Poster
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Old West costumes for teachers
- ☐ Mounting putty or tape

- ☐ Jesus Returning Poster
- ☐ Parable of the Talents Poster
- ☐ Post-it notes
- ☐ Optional: coins

★ Gospel Opportunity: Are you ready?

★ Answers in Genesis, the producer of Answers VBS programs, is a non-denominational ministry and doesn't hold to a specific endtimes position. As you have time, feel free to share your church's position on end times.

INTRODUCE IT!

Wonder Junction Bank

Well, here we are, partners, on our last day at Wonder Junction. It sure has been a mighty fine time, hasn't it? Yesterday we talked about the gold mine just outside of town. A lot of people came West to search for gold from mines like ours.

And when miners found gold, guess where they took it? To the bank, of course. Here in Wonder Junction, Mr. Daly is the banker. He weighs the gold and puts it in the vault for safe-keeping.

Finding gold is one way to make money out West. But there are other ways, too! Some people run the store, own a laundromat, or start a railroad. People can use their talents and skills well and make more money than when they began.

Today, we'll be talking about how to wisely use what God has given us as we wait for Jesus to come back. Did you know he's coming back? Jesus came the first time as a baby, lived a perfect life, died on a cross, and rose again. And someday, he will come again as the King of kings.

TEACH IT!

Part 1: Jesus' Return and the Parable of the Talents

Prep: Bookmark all Bible passages used in today's lesson. Cover each square of the PARABLE OF THE TALENTS POSTER with a Post-it note. If time, you may want to also count out three stacks of coins as you tell the story.

Let's look in the Bible to see what happened after Jesus rose from the dead. [Fold the JESUS RETURNING POSTER in half to show the first picture.](#) Imagine standing there as you listen to Acts 1:8–11. [Read the verses.](#) What a wonder that was! Jesus went back up to heaven in a cloud! Whoosh!

That's where Jesus is now. He continues to be both fully God and fully man in heaven—forever. He represents us to God and is praying and getting things ready for his children to live with him someday ([John 14:1–3](#); [Hebrews 7:25](#); [1 John 2:1–2](#)). Then, at some point, Jesus will come back down to earth, but we don't know when. If someone says they know exactly when he will come back, they aren't telling the truth. The Bible says nobody knows except God the Father ([Matthew 24:36](#)).

But the Bible does tell us how. He'll come back to earth just like he went up—in a cloud! [Show the second picture on the JESUS RETURNING POSTER.](#) What a wonder that will be! The Bible says it will be like lightning—fast and bright. And it will happen because Jesus promised he will return, and he always keeps his promises.

While we're waiting for him to come back, what should we be busy doing? Well, the Bible leaves us some clues. Let's talk about one clue in a story Jesus told right here in Matthew chapter 25.

This poster will help us follow the story. [Show the PARABLE OF THE TALENTS POSTER with squares covered.](#) A man was going on a journey and leaving his servants in charge of his stuff. Before he left, he called his servants together.

He gave one servant five coins. [Remove the first Post-it note to show the first square on the poster.](#) Let's count to five. [Do so, optional: use actual coins.](#) He gave another servant two coins. Let's count. [Do so.](#) [Show the second square on the poster.](#) And he gave the other servant one coin. Let's count again. [Do so.](#) [Show the third square on the poster.](#)

Then the man went away. While he was gone, Servant 1 got busy. He worked hard and got five more coins. [Show the first square in the second row on the poster.](#) Let's count five more. [Do so.](#)

Servant 2 also got busy and earned two more coins. [Show the second square in the second row on the poster.](#) Let's count two more. [Do so.](#)

What do you think happened with Servant 3? Do you think he worked hard and earned more coins too? [Take responses](#). How many coins do you think he earned? [Take responses](#). [Show the third square in the second row on the poster](#). Actually, he didn't work hard to double his money like the others. This servant dug in the ground and buried his master's money! So his one coin—was still one coin.

Now, after a long time, the master came back. Servant 1 told his master that he was given five coins, and he made five more. [Show the first square in the third row on the poster](#). The master said, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Let's say that together. [Do so](#).

Next, the master called Servant 2 who explained that he was given two coins, and he made two more. [Show the second square in the third row on the poster](#). The master said, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Let's say that together. [Do so](#).

Finally, Servant 3 came to the master and said he was given one coin and buried it. Do you think the master was happy about that? [Show the third square in the third row on the poster](#).

No! The master told him he should have put it in the bank where it could have made a little more money. The master took the one coin from him and gave it to the first servant. Servant 1 had been faithful with what his master gave him. Servant 3 had not. The end.

Just as these servants were expected to keep working for their master while he was away, we also have a mission until our Master, Jesus, returns.

The first part of our mission is to get to *know* God. We do this by becoming part of his family by believing in Jesus and then learning about him and the Bible. The second part is to *grow*. Once we are part of God's family, we need to grow in our love for Jesus and all the things he loves. That includes loving others because Jesus loves them too. He wants us to obey his commands and follow him each day.

The third part is to *go* and live for God's glory. We get to use our talents and abilities for God! We can honor God by telling others how Jesus came to save them from their sins. Show others you care so they can see how wonderful Jesus is!

So partners, what are some ways you can do that? Do any of you love to bake and cook? [Pause for show of hands](#). How can you bake and cook to the glory of God and use those abilities to share the love of Jesus to others? [Take quick responses](#). Do any of you like playing a sport? [Pause for show of hands](#). How can you use the time spent playing your sport to share the love of Jesus with others? [Take quick responses](#). What are things you're good at or like to do? How can you live to bring God glory in school or home or wherever you are? [Take quick responses](#), and remind them to live like Jesus matters, for God's glory!

Part 2: Animal Pal Review and Game

Share the **DAY 5 ANIMAL PAL POSTER** to summarize today's teaching. Pass out the Wonder Junction maps and Mission stickers and have kids add today's animal pal. They can take these home today.

Our animal pal today is a horse. What's his name? [Take responses](#). Why do you think he's named Mission? [Take responses](#). Circuit riders came to towns in the Old West to share the good news of Jesus. They would ride on horses from town to town to tell people about Jesus and to care for people's spiritual needs. They were on a mission and we should be, too!

Why does Jesus' return matter? [Take answers](#). Mention the following if they don't.

- It matters because Jesus will come back, so we should live expecting his return and investing what he has given us in furthering his kingdom until then.
- It matters because Jesus gave us a mission to share the gospel (the good news that he offers salvation through his death and resurrection to all who repent and believe in him) and care for others.
- It matters because we have a purpose. We all have interests and abilities God has given us to use for him. If you are a child of God, you need to live for his glory, which means that you live all of life in awe of who Jesus is and what he's done for you, and

- ☐ Day 5 Animal Pal Poster
- ☐ Wonder Junction Maps and Mission stickers, 1 per person

you desire to obey his commands (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Some practical commands that Jesus has given us are these. Read Romans 12:9–21 if time. Discuss briefly. The possibilities are endless of how you can serve God!

Cowboy True or False Game

Read each statement, allowing students to answer with the specified motions. If the answer is true, have the kids ride a horse (in place). If it is false, have them twirl a lasso. Demonstrate motions. Be sure to add explanations given.

1. One of the wonders that occurred in connection with Jesus' birth was a volcano. False—Wonders included angels announcing his birth, wise men bringing gifts and bowing down to him, and Jesus wanting to come to earth.
2. The first day's memory verse was about Jesus putting on flesh and coming to live among us. True—Recite John 1:14 together.
3. One reason it matters that Jesus came to earth is it means God is with us and we are never alone. True—Jesus is Immanuel. This is comforting to believers.
4. On the second day, we talked about Jesus as a child. Our animal pal Junior reminded us that Jesus learned things from his father. True.
5. Jesus was part man and part God. False—He was fully God and fully man at the same time!
6. Our second day's memory verse reminds us that Jesus had to grow in wisdom. True—Recite Luke 2:52 together.
7. One reason it matters that Jesus was a kid is he was tempted just as you are, but he never gave in, so Jesus understands what you're going through. True.
8. On the third day, we talked about Jesus' mighty power and the animal pal was a wolf pup. False—It was Mighty the bison. Mighty reminds us that Jesus had mighty power.
9. Jesus has power over all things, including nature, sin, sickness, disease, and death. True—Jesus is almighty.
10. Jesus has power to calm the sea. True—Even nature obeys Jesus.
11. Our Day 3 memory verse reminds us all the books in the world couldn't contain all the miracles Jesus did. True—recite John 21:25 together.
12. One reason it matters that Jesus is almighty is that because he's powerful enough to calm a storm, he's powerful enough to care for you. True.
13. On the fourth day, we talked about Jesus dying and coming back to life. The animal pal that day was a prairie dog. False—It was Champ the grizzly bear. Champ reminds us Jesus is the champion over all, including death.
14. One wonder that occurred in connection with Jesus' death and resurrection was when the sky got really, really bright. False—It got completely dark. There was also an earthquake, people coming back to life, and Jesus himself rising from the dead.
15. To be part of God's family, you have to admit, believe, and work hard. False—Forever receive.
16. The Day 4 memory verse reminds us if you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, you may have life in his name. True—Recite John 20:31 together.
17. One reason it matters that Jesus died and came back to life is we can continue to live in fear of what lies ahead. False—You don't have to fear death and eternity if you are a child of God.
18. We know the exact time Jesus is coming back. It's in the summer. False—No one knows but God the Father.
19. One reason it matters that Jesus is coming back again is because we should live to obey and glorify him with our talents and abilities. True—We're here for him and have great purpose.
20. Today's memory verse reminds us that we should do God's will while we are here on earth. True—Recite Matthew 6:10 together.

APPLY IT!

In the remaining class time, complete one or more of the following ideas. These are also on the *Primary Student Guides* and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time.

- ☐ Day 5 Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Optional: Student Guides and supplies
- ☐ Optional: Follow-up Bible study and/or bookmarks

Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time

Today's Verse: Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

You may want to show the **FOLLOW-UP BIBLE STUDY** or **BOOKMARKS** that are available if you plan to give these out.

Practice the verse several times, using the **DAY 5 MEMORY VERSE POSTER** as a reference, then try the following challenge.

Challenge: Get ready to gallop! Start at one side of the room and, while galloping, try to say the verse perfectly before reaching the other side.

Part 2: Go and Do

1. God made you *on* purpose *for* a purpose, with your own special abilities and talents. What do you like to do—draw, do math, build things, sing, bake, talk to others, etc.? How can you use what God has given you to please Jesus?
2. How can you fulfill the mission to tell others about Jesus? Make a list of people who need to hear about the salvation God offers through Jesus. Pray for them and look for opportunities to share the gospel with them.
3. Ask God to help you to live in wonder of him and to live your life for his glory.
4. Check AnswersVBS.com/wonderkids for more fun information!

Ask yourself this question: I've marveled at Jesus this week. Now, how can I live for his glory?

Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

Note: Remember to allow time to end on this important thought.

Never stop marveling that Jesus will return as the King of Kings. Here's an idea to get you started:

- Jesus, who wore a crown of thorns, will wear a crown of gold! Jesus, who was in a tomb, will be on a throne! Jesus, who was rejected and disrespected, will be Ruler over everyone and everything.
- Now your turn! What's something to marvel at about Jesus being the King of kings?
- Never get used to Jesus. Keep marveling!