

# WEEK 4

## LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

We can worship by living for God.

### BIBLE

Way to Live: Psalm 112

## WELCOME TIME

### MUSIC | Wonder-Full Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "You Created Me" (Totally Tangerine)
  - "Super Wonderful" (Yancy)
  - "Wonderful" (Seeds Family Worship)
  - "Wonderfully Made" (Seeds Family Worship)

### ACTIVITY | Just Keep Swimming

- Has anyone seen the movie, "Finding Nemo?" In this movie, a fish named Nemo gets separated from his dad, Marlin. Let's pretend that all of us are trying to help them find each other, but different ocean creatures are blocking our way!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Line the kids on one side of the room. Kids have to try to get to the other side of the room, but as they do, they must move in a specific way. Demonstrate that when you say, "whale," they have to "swim" slowly and carefully. When you say, "jellyfish," they have to bounce around in circles. When you say, "shark," they can "swim" in a zigzag pattern. The first person to reach the other side of the room wins!
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide both verbal and visual cues for important rules to games like this. Have a volunteer signal verbally how the kids should move in addition to saying the character's name. Have a few volunteers also play with the kids, modeling for them how to move throughout the game.

### ACTIVITY | Belly Flop or Float

- I like being in the water. And when I'm in the water, I love to just relax and float around. But I know some people love the noisy, silly, belly flops — that's when you do a big splash in the water on your belly!
- **Which do you prefer — flop or float?**

- Let's play a game where you get to relax one minute and then belly flop the next . . . but whatever you do, just don't get spotted by the lifeguard or you have to get out of the water for good!
  - **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to lie down on the floor like they're floating in the water. Have a kid volunteer be the "lifeguard" and walk around the room watching. The kids have to try to switch from a floating position on their back to a belly flop position on their stomach without getting caught by the lifeguard. If the lifeguard sees them moving, they have to sit up criss-cross until the lifeguard says they can get back in the water. Play for as long as time allows.
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of a kid volunteer as the lifeguard, use an adult volunteer.

## STORY TIME

### SCRIPTURE | Psalm 112

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Gather kids on the carpet and share the Bible story with them. Mirror to a TV or use a tablet device to display the [Great Barrier Reef](#). As you read the verses from the Bible, make the motions in parenthesis for the kids to follow along to. Feel free to read the entire passage or a few verses you want to emphasize in an easy-to-understand Bible translation of your choice.
- We've gotten to see some of the world's biggest wonders during our time together this month! We saw the Northern Lights, Mount Everest, and the Grand Canyon. Today, we're going to see the Great Barrier Reef! [Show image or video.]
- **Isn't it wonder-full?** The Great Barrier Reef is a huge area in the ocean where all sorts of wonderful sea creatures and plants are! **Can you name some things that live in the ocean?**
- **Do you know who created the Great Barrier Reef and everything in the world?** God! And we can learn more about God from the very best adventure book ever written . . . the Bible! And I need your help to read from this true and exciting storybook.
- **Are you ready?**
- Today, we are reading Psalm 112 in the Bible. Remember, a psalm is like a song or a poem that talks about God! As we read it, follow my motions to help us better understand what the author of this psalm is saying.
- [Read verse 1.]
  - (Wave hands in the air. Put hands on heart.)
- [Read verse 2.]
  - (Flex muscle. Bring palms up to the ceiling.)
- [Read verse 3.]
  - (Make a money motion with your hand. Move finger in a circle.)
- [Read verse 4.]
  - (Stretch both hands up and out toward the sun. Put hands on heart.)
- [Read verse 5.]
  - (Make a "come here" motion with hands. Do a thumbs up.)
- [Read verse 6.]
  - (Shake head. Point to head like remembering something.)
- [Read verse 7.]
  - (Wag finger, "No." Put hands on heart.)
- [Read verse 8.]
  - (Hands on hips like a superhero. Wring hands together like you won something.)
- [Read verse 9.]
  - (Pretend to pass out something. Move finger in a circle. Bring palms up to the ceiling.)

- [Read verse 10.]
  - (Cross arms across chest. Make a crying motion with hands. Make an 'X' with arms.)
- This psalm talks about "righteous" and "wicked" people. Righteous people love God and follow God. Wicked people disobey God.
- God wants us to be righteous because that means we are being close to God. Living without God or far away from God makes God sad and it's not good for us either. Living for God is the best choice!

### BIG IDEA | We can worship by living for God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using a Lite-Brite [marquee board](#), write the word "live" as you have kids repeat the Big Idea after you.
- We worship God because God made this whole world, and it's full of so much wonder. What's more wonder-full is God made us and loves us very much!
- One way we can worship God is to live for God. That means every day, we choose to do the things that make God happy.
- Let's say the Big Idea together: **We can worship by living for God.**

### VIDEO | Wonder-Full, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

### ACTIVITY | Beach Party

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this clip](#) from "Octonauts and the Great Barrier Reef." Then, turn on some beach-y music and toss out inflatable pool floats and beach balls. Have a dance party!
- **Did you know the Great Barrier Reef has more than 1,500 kinds of fish and sea life?** From the smallest "little bits" to the huge whale sharks, God made them and watches over all of them, just like God made and watches over me and you!
- **We can worship God by living for God.** Living for God doesn't mean that everything is going to be easy, but it does mean that God will always help, watch over us, and bless us.
- With a promise like that, you don't need to worry! To celebrate, let's have a beach party!

### PRAYER

- Dear God, you do wonderful things. Just like how you designed and take care of the Great Barrier Reef, you made me and take care of me. Help me to live for you every day. I know life will not always be easy, but I know you will always be with me. We love you. Amen.

## SHARING TIME

### SNACK | Seafoam Smoothie

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make a blended punch by adding ice, blue Hawaiian Punch, and frozen lemonade in a blender. Serve in small, plastic cups with a Swedish Fish candy on top. Serve with a side of Goldfish crackers.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Substitute the beverages with less sugary options. Consider making a natural [blueberry banana smoothie](#) or [blue milk](#) for kids without dairy allergies.
- While we are enjoying our oceanside snack, I'm wondering . . . **would you rather swim in the ocean or in a swimming pool? Why?**

### ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass around a beach ball and play music. When the music stops, the person still holding the ball will answer one of the following questions:
  - **What are the different ways we can worship God?** [Review this month's Big Ideas: We can worship God by putting our hope in God, asking for God's help, remembering what God has done, and living for God.]
  - **What is your favorite way to worship God?**
  - **How can we live for God?**

### ACTIVITY | Coral Reef Sponge Painting

- Underneath the ocean lies a beautiful world of all kinds of living things, from plant life to animals. Let's make our very own coral reef art piece and remember God made everything on Earth and underwater. God does wonderful things!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut sponges into the shape of a coral reef. Lay out all materials, a pre-made example, and pictures of the Great Barrier Reef for reference. Provide aprons and baby wipes for quick clean up. Check out [these instructions](#) for more detail.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Replace the sponge activity with simple handprints and washable tempera paint.

### MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

- "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Review the memory verse with kids by playing the game, "Remote Control." Point a remote at the kids and say one of these general controls: Fast forward, slow motion, volume up, volume down. Instruct kids to repeat the memory verse based on the "button" you press (e.g., When you say, "Fast forward," they have to try to say the verse as fast as they can.).

## PLAY TIME

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.

### ACTIVITY | Underwater Sensory Bin

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up an underwater sensory bin filled with smooth rocks and sand. At the bottom of the bin, place [ocean animals figurines](#), [coral reef figurines](#), and other [aquarium decor](#). Give the kids handheld fishing nets to explore this sensory activity.

### ACTIVITY | Pipe Cleaner Coral Reef

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Paint a large styrofoam block blue and stick pipe cleaners into it, securing them with hot glue. Invite kids to twist and shape the pipe cleaners to look like a coral reef. Provide colorful beads for the kids to string onto the pipe cleaners. (See a worked example [here](#).)