



“WHAT A WILDLY WONDERFUL WORLD, GOD!
YOU MADE IT ALL, WITH WISDOM AT YOUR SIDE,
MADE EARTH OVERFLOW WITH YOUR
WONDERFUL CREATIONS.”

PSALM 104:24 (MSG)

ABOUT WILD WONDER

Wild Wonder invites children to delight in God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all things by immersing them in the wonders of the created world. Through daily devotions, nature study, and play, children will learn that all of God’s works are good and that they themselves are beloved creations.

Year One, “Wonder,” is rooted in Psalm 104:24 and dives deep into this scripture each day, exploring how its truths are evident in all of God’s creation. Lessons point to the overarching theme of wonder for all of the good gifts of creation that God has freely given. The lessons provided not only spark curiosity but also move campers beyond wonder to gratitude and praise to the Father.

The Wild Wonder lessons and activities are designed to minister to the whole child—body, mind, and spirit. Children study the science of creation through experiments and observation, they spend time being still and listening for God’s voice, and they laugh and play and eat good food. Children are reminded that they are wonderfully made, and that it is good and pleasing to the Father when they enjoy his good gifts of creation with their whole being.

The Wild Wonder curriculum assumes that campers have some baseline knowledge of Jesus and the Gospel, so our lessons are designed accordingly for further discipleship and spiritual formation. However, if your church would like to integrate the curriculum into your outreach programming, the lessons are fully adaptable. We encourage you to read the curriculum through the lens of your particular place, your church mission, and, of course, the Gospel as you seek to minister to the children in your congregation.

BUNDLE CONTENTS:

- » 4 songs with singing/teaching and instrumental tracks included
- » Featuring “God Made Me,” written by Randall Goodgame and Andrew Peterson (Slugs and Bugs), and “God Makes Everything,” written by Sandra McCracken and Sally Lloyd-Jones (Rain for Roots)
- » Teacher scripts and lessons
- » Welcome and closing activities for each day
- » Materials and resource lists
- » Supplementary images, activity sheets, games, and other materials

CURRICULUM INCLUDES:

- » Bible devotions
- » Art projects
- » Hands-on science experiments
- » Guided nature observation & exploration
- » Games

LOGISTICS

- » This is a 5-day camp with lessons and activities designed for a 3-hour day (i.e. 9am-Noon).
- » Camp works best outdoors, but many stations are adaptable for an indoor setting.
- » The curriculum is designed for a total of 30-50 children with smaller groups of 10-15 children that rotate through three stations during the camp day.
- » Wild Wonder costs approximately \$500-700 + curriculum (based on a camp size of 30 campers). To help offset your group's cost, you might want to consider charging a small registration fee per camper. We strongly suggest reusing and recycling as many items as possible. Think sustainably as you plan your materials.
- » For a group of 30-50 campers, we suggest 12 volunteers:
 - Camp director
 - Materials coordinator
 - 1-2 feast coordinators
 - 3 station leaders
 - 6 group leaders (2 per group)

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

8:45	Arrival and sign-in
9:05	Welcome Activity
9:30	Station Rounds
10:00	Station Rounds
10:30	Daily feast
11:00	Station Rounds
11:30	Free Play
11:45	Closing Activity
12:00	Dismissal



CAMP ACTIVITIES

- » Welcome activities set the tone for the camp, both for the week and for each day. This is also when campers sing their camp song and recite the camp verse. You may also choose to use this time to facilitate guest speakers.
- » Nature Break is a daily station that encourages rest as well as observation, discovery, wonder, and praise as campers engage with the world around them and the God who made it all.
- » Science experiments spark curiosity as campers learn to investigate their world, ask questions, and get their hands dirty.
- » Games and art projects foster playfulness and creativity as campers learn more about their place.
- » The Daily Feast is our version of snack time. We set a table with real tablecloths, cloth napkins, silverware, and good food (bread, fruit, cheese, etc.). Campers break bread together, pass food to one another, and enjoy each other's company. This is not a rushed snack time, but, rather, an opportunity to gather at the table together and to experience the gifts of God—good food, a beautiful setting, and the company of each other.
- » Closing activities wrap up and review from the day, tie the station activities back into the theme of wonder, and share a bonus challenge with campers to help them learn more at home. This is also a time to review the verse and sing one of the camp songs.

SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Daily Theme	1 Soil & Water	2 Plants & Trees	3 Insects	4 Animals	5 People
Welcome Activity	Nature's Wonders	Nature Sun Prints	Chirping Crickets	Who Am I?	Song and Verse Recap
Station 1 Nature Break	Psalm 104	Sleepy Seeds	A Beetle is Shy	Songbirds	Be Still and Know
Station 2	Soil Painting	Rainbow Hike	Shake-a-Tree	Forest Faces	God's Gallery
Station 3	Can a Penny Hold Water?	Strawberry DNA Extraction	Honeybee Waggle	Owl Pellet Discovery	Made to Enjoy Creation
Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Family Feast and Presentation

DAY ONE: SOIL & WATER

- » **Welcome Activity** - Campers are introduced to the verse and one of the camp songs, and they begin to think of God as the creator of our “wildly wonderful” world.
- » **Nature Break** - Campers close their eyes, listen to the world around them, reflect on Psalm 104, and learn about the ways God speaks to us.
- » **Soil Painting** - Campers learn about all the life forms that exist in soil, see what it looks like magnified, and paint a picture using a mixture of soil and water.
- » **Can a Penny Hold Water?** - Campers learn about the cohesiveness of water and experiment with how many drops of water can stick together over the brim of a full cup of water or on the surface of a penny, and they learn about the ways God holds all things (even water) together.

DAY TWO: PLANTS

- » **Welcome Activity** - Campers use sun-sensitive paper to make a nature print for their journal cover.
- » **Nature Break** - Campers are still in nature, learn about the seed process by reading *A Seed is Sleepy*, demonstrate the process of a seed “waking up” through an imaginative role-playing activity, and learn about the ways God cares for all of creation.
- » **Rainbow Hike** - Campers go on a scavenger hunt for leaves, flowers, twigs, etc. of varying colors, using the Color Grid Journal Sheets (included) to track what they find.
- » **Strawberry DNA Extraction** - Campers learn about how God made DNA as instructions for life and participate in extracting DNA from a strawberry.

SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE CONTINUED...

DAY THREE: INSECTS

- » **Welcome Activity** - Campers play a game that builds up to asking them if they've seen a tiny, bright green thermometer with two big black eyes, two antae, six legs, and wings. Campers learn that crickets can tell us how cold or warm it is outside by how slow or fast they chirp.
- » **Nature Break** - Campers are still and pay attention to the world around them, and they learn about the life cycle and some characteristics God gave beetles through reading *A Beetle is Shy*.
- » **Shake-A-Tree** - Campers learn about the characteristics of an insect and how to identify five common insects, and then they shake a tree with a white sheet spread beneath and look at the sheet to discover what insects fell out.
- » **Honeybee Waggle** - Campers learn how God made worker bees to communicate through a special dance and that they are pollinators, and then they play a game mimicking the way honeybees waggle to communicate with each other.

DAY FOUR: ANIMALS

- » **Welcome Activity** - Campers play "Animal Who Am I" as they ask questions to try to figure out what animal picture is pinned or taped to their back.
- » **Nature Break** - Campers learn the calls for several North American birds while taking time to rest, be still, and encounter God.
- » **Forest Faces** - Campers learn about some of the animals that are native to North America and create "Forest Faces" (masks) to take home.
- » **Owl Pellet Discovery** - Campers dissect barn owl pellets, examine their contents, learn about what kinds of animals owls eat, and learn that God provides food for all the creatures he made.

DAY FIVE: PEOPLE

- » **Welcome Activity** - This activity is shorter to make time for the Family Feast at the end of the day. Campers review the verse and sing one of the camp songs.
- » **Nature Break** - Campers rest and are still as they learn the story of Elijah and how God's voice sometimes comes in whispers.
- » **God's Gallery** - Campers look through wooden picture frames at the world and each other, learn that God's world is his art and we are his masterpiece, and decorate the frame to hold their camp photo.
- » **Enjoying Creation** - Campers smell and eat sample foods from the Daily Feast, using their senses of taste and smell to explore creation.
- » **Family Feast** - Parents and other family members are invited to join campers for their final Daily Feast. Campers can use this time to sing a camp song for their families and share some of what they learned at camp. This is also a great time to share a slideshow.

SAMPLE SCRIPT:

DAY 4: ANIMALS | STATION 3: OWL PELLET DISCOVERY

SAY: We have been talking a lot about Psalm 104:24 this week and how God made a “wildly wonderful world.” But God did not just create a beautiful world and then leave it alone. He takes care of the world and all of the creatures that he made. Psalm 104:27 (MSG) says:

“All the creatures look expectantly to you to give them their meals on time.”

Good gifts come from God—even good gifts of food, as we remember in our Daily Feast. God provides food for you and me, and he also provides food for the fox, for the fish, and for the owl. Today, we will look inside of an owl’s lunch to see what kinds of things it eats.

I have a question for you: when you eat your dinner, do you chew it up first? Or do you swallow it whole? I hope you don’t swallow it whole! God gave us teeth for chewing up a variety of food. But the barn owl does not have teeth. The barn owl eats everything whole—including skin and bone. It just gobbles it right up!

All those bones and feathers and fur have to go somewhere, and they cannot be digested. A couple of times a day, the owl coughs pellets back up. These pellets contain bones and all the parts of its dinner that the owl was not able to digest.

A barn owl can’t go to the grocery store or a restaurant to eat dinner. But it is fed and cared for anyway. Who cares for this owl? Who provides its daily food?

That’s right! God gives the barn owl what it needs—Psalm 104 reminds us of that. And even when the barn owl can’t digest all the parts of its food, God makes an interesting way for it to still get the nutrients it needs. The owl coughs up the parts it doesn’t need, and the food it does need stays and nourishes its body.

God, our creator, came up with this design. How creative, how interesting, how amazing! And the same God who cares for these barn owls cares for you too. We are going to look through some barn owl pellets. Looking through owl pellets is kind of like a treasure hunt—you never know what you might find!

AVAILABLE NOW

FOR YOUR CHURCH OR GROUP

Visit arocha.us/camp for information & pricing.

Questions? Email us at camp@arocha.us.

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