



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees the Big Picture

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 11; 1 Samuel 16

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

What if we could see the image of God in people like we can see freckles, dimples, or other family traits? Would it be easier for us to say, “That’s a child of God”? Would it help us treat people the way God wants us to treat them?

Well, God doesn’t give us the ability to physically see His image in others. Instead, He asks us to trust His sight. Read [1 Samuel 16:7](#). God reminds us that while we are attracted to outward characteristics, God looks for traits of the heart. And God is constantly looking for hearts with traits like His.

When God looked at David, Jesse’s youngest son, He saw the future king. Read [Isaiah 11:1–2](#). Years later, when their enemies closed in and the future of David’s line appeared dire, God looked at Jesse’s family and saw the Branch sprouting from it—Jesus, the One who would change everything.

God sees beyond what we see. So, next time we encounter a new person or a challenging situation, let’s ask Him to help us see beyond outward characteristics and circumstances. May God give us spiritual eyes to see people’s hearts and increase our faith to trust His will.

—Callie Bogle

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DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The author of the Book of [1 Samuel](#) is anonymous. It is part of the same work as [2 Samuel](#), and together these books tell the story of how God worked in the life of King David to raise him from the position of a lowly shepherd to the ruler of Israel.

WHAT?

[1 Samuel 16](#) tells of how God sent the prophet Samuel to anoint one of Jesse of Bethlehem's sons to be Israel's next king. Jesse and Samuel both thought God would pick one of the older sons, but God had His eyes set on David.

WHERE?

The setting of the story is Bethlehem, a town fewer than 10 miles from Jerusalem. This is the city of King David's birth, and in fulfillment of prophecy, this is also the city of Jesus' birth ([Micah 5:2](#)).

WHEN?

This story takes place after Saul had acted out of pride, disobeying God and failing his final test. God was displeased with Saul's actions and promised that Saul would lose his kingdom. God then sent Samuel to find a new king to rule over Israel.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesse's son David was known as Israel's greatest king and was the ruler to emulate. Yet even David failed, sinned, and disappointed. But the offspring of Jesse and David—King Jesus—eventually came to show us what the reign of God looks like in person!



Curiosity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Hidden Colors

SUPPLIES: paper towel; washable, colorful markers; black permanent marker (leader only); droppers; cup of water; paper plate

Before kids arrive, draw a simple picture of a Christmas tree outline on a paper towel using colorful, washable markers. Carefully use the permanent black marker to cover all the lines you drew in color, so it looks like just a black outline of a tree. No color should be visible. Set the paper towel on a tray with a few plastic droppers and a cup of water nearby.

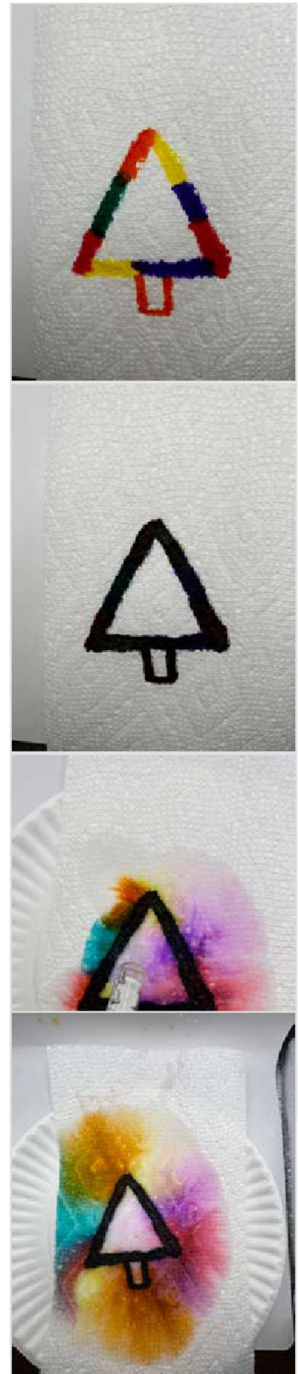
When you are ready to begin the activity, gather kids around the tray and ask them what they see on the paper towel.

Leader Tip: Always practice experiments ahead of time to ensure they work with your supplies and situation.

What do you think I have drawn on this paper towel? Allow the kids to respond: a Christmas tree! **What color is the tree?** Allow the kids to respond—it should only be in black and white. **We're going to do an experiment, and I need your help guessing what will happen. What do you think will happen if we get the tree wet?** Let kids respond and consider what might happen.

Let's try it and see! Using a plastic medicine dropper (or a spoon), gently let a droplet of water fall onto one of the black lines of the tree. The colors hidden beneath should begin to appear and spread throughout the paper towel. Let kids take turns dropping water onto the paper to see the colors appear.

Did you correctly guess what would happen or were you surprised to see the colors appear? Allow the kids to respond. **Sometimes we are surprised at things that happen, but God is never surprised! He always knows what is going to happen, and He always sees the big picture! Today, we're going to hear a part of God's big story where people were surprised at what happened, but God knew exactly what He was doing—because God sees the big picture!**





Belief

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:
God, help us listen to what You have to say to us today. Help us to be good listeners as You speak Your truth to us. Help us understand that You see the big picture and, even when we don't understand what is going on, help us to trust that You do! In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Beginner's Bible p168

A Good Heart

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

He will be called Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14 (NIRV)

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **HE WILL BE**—*Point up.*
- **CALLED**—*Cup hands around mouth.*
- **IMMANUEL**—*Make prayer hands (with palms pressed together).*
- **ISAIAH 7:14**—*Hold your hands in front of you with palms together, as if opening a book.*

Our Word of Wonder reminds us that God promised through Isaiah that a baby would be born who would be called Immanuel. This baby was Jesus. Just like your parents might call you by a nickname sometimes, Jesus also had many names—including Immanuel. Immanuel means “God with us”! God told Isaiah about this baby and that He would be called Immanuel a long time before he was ever born, because God sees the big picture.

10:45 Service

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Who was the baby that God promised would be born and called Immanuel? (Jesus)**
- **Why do you think Jesus was called Immanuel?**



Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Human Christmas Tree

SUPPLIES: bows, tinsel, garland, basket

Before kids arrive, fill a basket with bows, tinsel, and garland.

We've been talking about family trees, but this time of year we hear a lot about a different kind of tree: Christmas trees. We are going to play a game where you get to decorate me as a human Christmas tree!

Set out the basket with bows, tinsel, and garland in it.

This basket is full of things that you might see on a Christmas tree. When I say "Go," you can use all the things in this basket to decorate me like a Christmas tree!

Let the kids use the items in the basket to decorate you (or another leader) like a Christmas tree.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for seeing the big picture.

God, sometimes we don't understand why things happen or why You do what You do, but we know we can trust You because You see the big picture. Help us to remember all the time that You love us and care for us and will always do what is best. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you always remember that, even when you don't understand why something happens, God sees the big picture! May you find comfort in knowing that God always sees your heart and always sees the way to make all His plans come to pass.