



## 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.*

## Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** green and brown pipe cleaners, craft sticks, puzzles, coloring utensils

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas what we'll be learning about today?**

### **Play Station: Make a Tree**

**Set-up:** Set out craft sticks and pipe cleaners. Consider making an example tree for kids to try to copy.

**Play:** Kids can use craft sticks and pipe cleaners to design different types of trees with lots of branches.

### **Play Station: Puzzles**

**Set-up:** Set out various puzzles for kids to play with.

**Play:** Let the kids put the puzzles together. Remind the kids that when all the pieces are put together, we see the big picture!

### **Play Station: Jesse and David Coloring Sheet**

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the coloring sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of someone in their family.



## 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.

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?



## Faith

### LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.*

#### Circle Time: Pick a Leaf

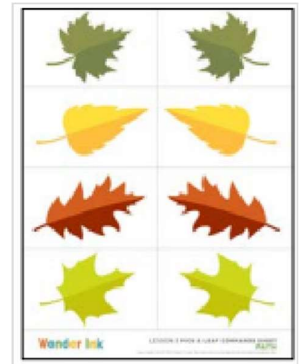
**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Pick a Leaf Sheet](#)

Before the kids arrive, print a copy of the Print [Leaf Sheet](#) and cut it apart.

Gather kids together in a circle and place the cards with the leaf side facing up in the middle of the circle.

**Do you remember what kind of tree we talked about in God's big story today? Allow kids to respond. Right, a family tree! We are going to play a game with something that grows on real trees—leaves! You can each take a turn to pick a leaf card, and I will read it. The card will either ask a question or command you to do something. Let's play!**



Allow kids to pick cards one at a time. Read the questions or commands on the cards and encourage the kids to answer the question or act out what's on the card. The questions are also listed below.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who did God pick to be the next king? (*David*)
- What do you think God saw that made Him pick David to be the next king? (*his heart*)
- What did God say Jesse's family was like? (*a tree that had been cut down*)
- Do you think God cares about who is the biggest and the best? What does He care about?
- How do you think David felt when God chose him to be the next king?
- What does God see when He looks at your heart?
- What do you think God sees that we can't see?

**Great job answering questions and following the commands! God knew David would be a good king because God sees the big picture—He saw what was in David's heart! God sees what is in our hearts too! Let's talk to God now in prayer!**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for seeing the big picture in our lives. God hears all our prayers.



## 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.