



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Looks at the Heart

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 13

WORD OF WONDER: James 4:8a

Samuel did what the Lord said.

There's something special when we hear from God and do what He tells us to do. We often put limitations on our God, but He has seen and knows what can be. He simply asks us to listen.

As you prepare for this lesson, remember that God has a plan, and you're a part of it! By reading this lesson, you're hearing the instructions and choosing to be a part of His wonder-filled plan.

Take a few minutes to read 1 Samuel 16:1–13. In verse 2, we see Samuel question God: "How can I go?" Maybe you've done that. Maybe you've wondered how, why, should I, can I ... and the list goes on. When those things come to mind, I invite you to be open-handed and give them over to God. Let His Spirit lead you as you embark on this journey. When we are obedient to God's Word, life change can happen. It's not always visible to the eye, but remember, God looks at the heart.

I pray that as you prepare for this lesson, you prepare for life change.

—**Andrae Jones**

Nextgen Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

SAMUEL ANOINTS DAVID AS KING

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel tell how God established David on the throne upon which His Son Jesus—the eternal King—would one day sit. It makes sense that Samuel—a judge, prophet, and priest—would be the one to anoint Jesse’s youngest son.

WHAT?

Though God had provided the Israelites with judges to lead them, the Israelites wanted a human king. After their first king, Saul, disobeyed God, God called Samuel to anoint an unlikely candidate as the next king—Jesse’s youngest son, David—because God looks at the heart.

WHERE?

The anointing took place about six miles south of Jerusalem in the town of Bethlehem, the future birthplace of our eternal King Jesus. This small town would become known as the city of David—an homage to David’s greatness as king.

WHEN?

First Samuel tells of the transition of Israel’s leadership from judges to kings. Due to Saul’s disobedience, God has rejected him as king. Saul still remains on the throne as Samuel obeys God’s instructions to anoint the next king, a task that is both unprecedented and dangerous.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

A major theme in God’s big story is how we experience *shalom*—the peace of Eden. The Israelites thought a human king would bring this peace, but King Saul rejected God. Next, God chose David. David would be a great king, yet only Jesus—the eternal King and a descendent of David—can truly restore *shalom*.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Look for the Heart

SUPPLIES: various shapes: heart, circle, triangle, square

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Hello, and welcome to church! Today we're going to learn that God looks at our hearts! That means that He knows us inside and out. He cares more about everything in our lives!

Place the paper shapes on a table or the floor.

Do you see the hearts? I'm going to mix up the shapes and let you search for the hearts again.

Invite the kids to find the heart shapes.

Continue mixing up the shapes and each turn ask kids to find the heart. To make the game more challenging, you can use only one color of paper for all the shapes. To make the game easier, only place two or three shapes on the table at a time.

Today we're going to learn God sees your heart, and loves you so much!



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LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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, thank You for seeing our hearts and for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our King forever! Help us to see others the way You see them and to love them the way 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 special? ***Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.***

Tell the Bible story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 168-172

A Good Heart

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Come near to God, and he will come near to you.

—James 4:8a



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LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Make a Crown

SUPPLIES: die cut crown (1 per kid), stickers, stapler

Give each kid a crown. Let the kids color and decorate their crowns using crayons and stickers.

We learned today that God chose David to be king. Do you know what a king wears on his head?

Allow kids to respond. **A king wears a crown! Let's make a crown you can wear! This will remind you of when God chose David to be king because God saw David's heart. God sees our hearts. He loves us!**

When they're finished with their design, staple the two ends so they can wear their crowns on their heads. Then invite them to pretend to be kings and queens. You can play a game with the crowns by having the kids stand next to their crowns and march, and when you say, "God looks at the heart," they put their crowns on their heads as fast as they can.

Anointing means God chose David for a special job. God chose David to be king because God looks at the heart. God sees your heart too. He knows you inside and out, and He loves you.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish the activity, pray with them and thank God for seeing our hearts.

God, thank You for seeing our hearts and caring for us. We want to have hearts that love and follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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

Blessing: You are loved, chosen, and set apart by God! God sees your heart and loves you. May you walk confidently every day, knowing that you have a special purpose. And may you see and love others as God does!