



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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: construction paper crown (1 per kid), coloring utensils, stickers, jewels, glue sticks, tape

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

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

Play Station: Make a Crown

Set up: Set out the crowns, along with coloring utensils, stickers, jewels, glue sticks, and tape.

Play: Let the kids decorate a crown. When they're finished they can wear them. Tell them the story today has to do with someone who will become a king.

Play Station: Samuel Anoints David as King Coloring Sheet

Set up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a heart.

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who was the king at the beginning of the story?** (*Saul*)
- **What was David doing when Samuel arrived at his house?** (*in the field with the sheep*)
- **What do you think God saw in David's heart that made him the right person to be the next king?**
- **What did Samuel do to show David was chosen as the next king?** (*anointed David by pouring oil over his head*)
- **What does anoint mean?** (*putting oil on someone's head because that person is chosen by God for a special job*)
- **How does it make you feel to know that God knows everything about you and sees your heart?**
- **What do you think God sees inside your heart?**

God sees our heart and knows everything about us. We can ask God to fill our hearts with love for Him and for others. We can ask God to help us see other people's hearts too. Let's pray and speak with Him now.

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

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

—James 4:8a

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Game: King Relay Race

SUPPLIES: toy crowns (2); robes (2); paper hearts (2); royal items such as toy scepters (2)

Divide the group into two equal teams.

In our story, we learned Samuel anointed David to be the next king of Israel. Why do you think God chose David? What would make someone a good king? Allow the kids to respond. **What was David doing when Samuel came to anoint the king?** Allow the kids to respond. **Samuel was out in the field taking care of sheep. He wasn't an important person with a big job. He was a faithful, young child who had a good heart and loved God. God didn't just see a child—God saw the heart of David and knew it was the heart of a king!**

Choose one kid from each team to stand at the other side of the room. This person will become the king. All the other team members should stand on the opposite side of the room in a line, facing their king team member. Each team will have one crown, one robe or towel, and one paper heart to take to their king (or queen). You can provide additional royal items, such as a toy scepter (just make sure the teams have the same number of items). When you say, "Go," one team member will take a king item, run to the king across the room and give him the item to put on or hold, then run back to the team and let the next kid in line go. Keep playing until the teams have completed their king costume. Then switch so another kid gets a chance to be the king or queen.

Make it Inclusive! Some kids may have physical limitations that prevent them from being able to run and collect items or may not be comfortable competing in a relay race. You can include them by allowing them to hand the royal items to the players or letting them be the pretend king.



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LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Responding in Worship: Looking at My Heart

SUPPLIES: shatterproof handheld mirror, dry-erase marker, small towel

I'm going to play a song while you quietly think about what God sees when He looks at your heart. I'll come to each of you and hold up a mirror. Look in the mirror and draw a heart as you think about how God knows you and sees you. God can see your face just like you do in the mirror, but God also sees your heart. When you draw the heart on the mirror, you can pray and thank God for seeing your heart. That means He knows what you think, what you like or don't like, and what's in your heart. He cares about all of that! He loves you so much. As you listen to the song, think of God and how much He loves you.

Play music from the Early Childhood flash drive in the background. Slowly move around the room, and hold the mirror in front of each kid for a few moments. Give them a marker and time to draw a simple heart on the mirror. Then wipe the mirror clean using a small towel before moving to the next kid. When the song is finished, you can ask the kids if anyone would like to share how they feel or what God may have said to them.

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!