



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: king and queen dress-up props (such as toy crowns, robes, sashes, gloves, jewelry, coins, jewels, etc.), coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Crown Sheet (1 per kid), Samuel Anoints David as King Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

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: King and Queen Play

Set up: Set out different props that will facilitate pretend play and dress-up, including crowns, robes, sashes, gloves, jewelry, coins, jewels, etc. Drape a large piece of fabric over a chair to create a throne.

Play: Let the kids try on different royal accessories. Encourage them to pretend to be a king or queen.

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.



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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**



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Craft: God Sees My Heart

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, kid-safe scissors, stickers, jewel stickers, decorating supplies

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God Sees My Heart Sheet (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print a God Sees My Heart Sheet for each kid.

Give each kid a God Sees My Heart Sheet and coloring utensils. You can also give the kids stickers, jewel stickers, and other decorating supplies.

When God looks at us, He not only sees the outside, but He sees everything inside of you! He sees your heart! He sees what you love, what you worry about, what you struggle with, what makes you happy, and what makes you sad. And He loves you so much! You can decorate the heart and take it home to help you remember how God sees your heart and loves you!



Encourage the kids to cut out and decorate the hearts on their papers with stickers, jewels, and coloring utensils. They can take their heart pictures home and place them somewhere that will be a reminder God sees their heart and loves them.



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Game: Over Under Crown Relay

SUPPLIES: toy crowns

What did God choose David to be in today's story? Allow the kids to respond. **That's right—God chose him to be the next king. Why do you think God chose David? Not because he was the tallest, strongest, or best looking. God chose him because of his heart. David had a heart for God. He wasn't perfect but he loved God. And God made him the greatest king of Israel's history. Let's play a game to remember that God saw David's heart and chose him to be the king.**

Have kids line up. The kids will pass a crown down the line, either over their heads or under their legs, alternating with each person. They should alternate with each kid (first kid passes over her head, second kid passes under his legs, third kid over her head, and so on).

When the last kid in line gets the crown, he will run to the front of the line and begin passing the crown back again. Play until everyone has had a chance to move to the front of the line.

The crown reminds us God chose David to be king in a special way. God saw David's heart, and we can always remember God knows us, sees us, and loves us.

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!