

LESSON 3

JESSE AND DAVID

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees the Big Picture

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 11; 1 Samuel 16

GOD'S BIG STORY: God chooses Jesse's son David as Israel's king and reminds Israel that the Promised One—a branch from Jesse's family tree—will one day arrive and change everything.

WORD OF WONDER: He will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14 (NirV)

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





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

Children's Ministry Associate

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees the Big Picture

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WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: 10 sec Countdown

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

SUPPLIES: magnifying glass, flower (real or fake)

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Let's see what our friend Tac the cat is up to today. He's always curious! I wonder what he's exploring today.

Tac the Cat: Hey, kids! I was just checking out this magnifying glass. I'm curious about how it works!

Leader: Oh, magnifying glasses are neat! They can help us see things up close!

Tac the Cat: How do I use it?

Leader: Well, you just take the magnifying glass and hold it up to what you want to look at ... and then you look through it!

Demonstrate how to use the magnifying glass.

Tac the Cat: Wow, things look so big through the magnifying glass!

Leader: They do! Magnifying glasses help us see things that are small as if they are big. Sometimes we can't see all the details when we look just with our eyes, but when we use a magnifying glass, we can see a lot more! You know what this magnifying glass reminds me of? It reminds me that God always sees the big picture, even without a magnifying glass. That's what we're going to learn more about today.

Tac the Cat: Oh, I can't wait to learn more later. I'm going to go explore some more with my magnifying glass for now!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: have you ever looked at something through a magnifying glass? Did you see how different it looks close up? Allow the kids to respond. Have you ever wondered what something that is tiny, like an ant or a small flower, looks like up close? Allow the kids to respond. Did you ever stop to think about how God always sees the big picture?"

Leader Tip: If time allows, let the kids explore different parts of a tree using the magnifying glass.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD SEES THE BIG PICTURE**. Today, we'll discover that God sees the big picture!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

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

Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat.)

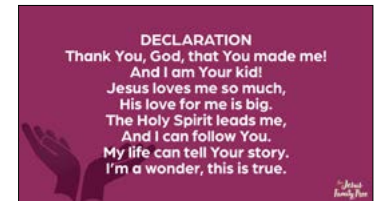
March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



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."**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how God sees the big picture. He always knows what is best and, even when we don't understand what is going on, He knows what He is doing. Let's sing about how amazing God is together!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Silent Night (Born is the King), Jesus Savior of the World

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the books of Isaiah and 1 Samuel in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the books of Isaiah and 1 Samuel in the Bible."

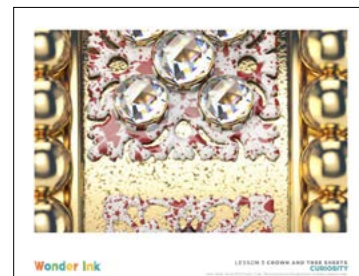
GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: highlighter (optional)

RESOURCES: Crown and Tree Sheets

Ahead of time, consider designating someone to give a copy of the script with the cues highlighted for the individual pictures. Prepare to display the Crown and Tree Sheets.

Leader Tip: If you can't display slides with your group, consider printing out pictures of a crown and a tree. Then you will only reveal small parts of the picture at a time, letting kids try to guess what the bigger picture is.



"Today, we're going to have fun being detectives! Are my detectives ready?" Pause for kids to respond. **Great! Let's begin!**

God planned on blessing the whole world through a special family. A man named Jesse was part of that special family. Jesse had many sons. One of these sons had a very important job. Can you figure out what his job was? Allow the kids to respond.

Cue Crown Slides or Sheets. **I need all the detectives to take a close look at this slide. When you think you know what it is a picture of, jump to your feet.** Show the first slide or sheet. After a few seconds, proceed to the next one. Continue until the final image is displayed. You can call on kids to guess as the picture zooms out. When the image is completely zoomed out, you can say the following: **What do my detectives see?** Pause for kids to respond. **That's right, a crown! What was the son of Jesse's important job?**

Allow kids to answer. They will likely respond, "He was a king!"

Yes, God chose Jesse's youngest son—David—to be Israel's king.

The king who ruled Israel before David, Saul, was really tall and big, but he wasn't a very good king!

God had another king in mind. He told the prophet Samuel to go find Jesse and his son . One by one, God said none of Jesse's older sons was the one He had chosen. Finally, Jesse sent for his youngest son, David. David was not as tall or strong as his older brothers, yet when Samuel saw him, God said, "Stand up and anoint him; David is the one I've chosen".

You see, God doesn't care if people are big or strong or what they look like. God sees what people think and how they act, and He knew David loved Him.

A few years later, David became king of Israel and served God with his whole heart.

But then many years later it looked like the family line of Jesse and David was going to end. But God spoke through a prophet named Isaiah. He described Jesse's family as a certain object that we see every day.

Detectives, are you ready to see our next clue? Jump to your feet when you think you know this object. Display the first of the Tree Slides or Sheets. As you progress through the pictures, allow kids to guess what the pictures show as they jump to their feet. They will eventually guess that it's a tree.

That's right! It's a tree! God said that "Jesse's family is like a tree that has been cut down." But Isaiah said that a new tree would grow from its stump and a very special Branch would grow from it!

Have you ever heard of a family tree? A family tree explains how moms and dads and kids and grandmas and grandpas are all related.

God had plans for Jesse and David's family tree! Even though it seemed like it would end, God promised it wouldn't!

God sees the big picture, and He promised that Jesse's family tree would keep growing and that a very special Branch would grow from it: Jesus.

God saw beyond what Jesse, David, and the people of Israel could see. God looked at their family tree and saw Jesus—our King forever. God sees the big picture."

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD SEES THE BIG PICTURE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Jesse's son David was known as Israel's greatest king, and he was a role model for every other ruler. Yet even David sinned and disobeyed God sometimes. But the descendent of Jesse and David—King Jesus—came later to show us what it looks like in person to have God as King reigning perfectly!"

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."

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.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees the Big Picture

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 11; 1 Samuel 16

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

Responding in Worship: God's Family

SUPPLIES: butcher paper, permanent marker (leader only), paint (various colors), paper plates, paper towels, wipes

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Before kids arrive, on a large piece of butcher paper, use a permanent marker to draw a rough tree outline with lots of branches. Set out different colors of paint, along with wipes and paper towels. Spread each color of paint on a paper plate and lay the butcher paper flat on a table.

Leader Tip: If the kids all try to come up at once, encourage them to sit back down and think quietly about what God knows about them or their family because He can see the big picture. Tell them you will pay attention to those who are sitting quietly and call them up one at time.



God knew all about Jesse and David's family and how it would grow—all the way to Jesus! God knows all about your family too! Did you know that we are all part of God's family? For our worship time today, we're going to make a giant tree that reminds us that God knows everything about each of us, from the tips of our finger tips to who will be our grandchildren someday!

I'm going to play some worship music. Take some time to think about something God knows about you or your family! When you think of something, come here and we'll help you make a handprint leaf on our tree to show that you are part of God's family!

Play songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). Encourage kids to come up one at a time to fill the branches on the tree with their handprints. Have them share what God knows about them or their family before they place a handprint on the tree.

Wow! Look at our beautiful tree! I'm so glad each of you are part of God's family! All of our individual handprints helped us make a big picture—a tree! That reminds me that God sees the big picture! He knows what's in our hearts, not just what we look like on the outside!

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.

Closing Game: Human Christmas Trees

SUPPLIES: bows, tinsel, garlands, baskets (2)

Before kids arrive, fill two baskets with equal amounts of 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. What are some ways people decorate Christmas trees? Pause for kids to answer. **People may use ornaments, bows, garland, tinsel, and other items to decorate their trees. We are going to play a relay game where we will be decorating human Christmas trees!**

Split the group into two teams and have each team stand at the opposite side of the room of one of the baskets. **Each team needs to pick one player to be their human Christmas tree. When I say "Go," the first player on each team will run down to the other end of the room and grab one item out of the basket. Then she will bring it back to her team and use it to decorate a human Christmas tree. The first team to have their tree fully decorated with all the items in the basket wins!**