

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.

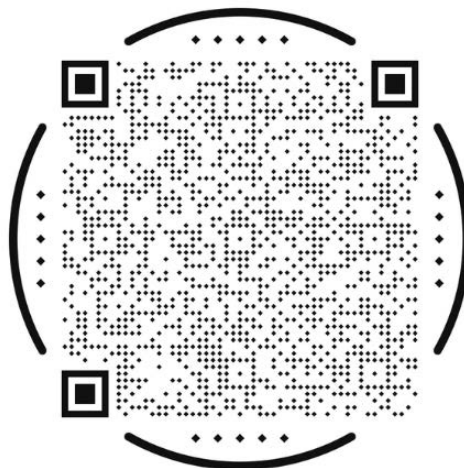
WORD OF WONDER: He will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14 (NirV)

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
 - Make a Tree
 - Puzzles
 - Jesse and David Coloring Sheet
- LARGE GROUP
- Curiosity Activity: Hidden Colors
- Word of Wonder: Isaiah 7:14
- Circle Time: Pick a Leaf
- Responding in Worship: God's Family
- Closing Game: Human Christmas Trees



[Jesus Family Tree Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



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

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 11; 1 Samuel 16

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

Small group leaders should be in place 30 minutes prior to service time. Play Station time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room! Ask preschoolers questions about their week, what they have been learning about God, and engage in play with them.

Play Stations

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

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.

HEAD TO LARGE GROUP!!

Curiosity Activity: Hidden Colors

SUPPLIES: paper towel; washable, colorful markers; black permanent marker (leader only); plastic pipettes; cup of water; tray

Before kids arrive, draw a simple picture of a Christmas tree outline on a paper towel using colorful, washable markers. Carefully use the permanent black marker to cover all the lines you drew in color, so it looks like just a black outline of a tree. No color should be visible. Set the paper towel on a tray with a few plastic pipettes and a cup of water nearby.

When you are ready to begin the activity, gather kids around the tray and ask them what they see on the paper towel.

Leader Tip: Always practice experiments ahead of time to ensure they work with your supplies and situation.

"What do you think I have drawn on this paper towel? Allow the kids to respond: a Christmas tree! **What color is the tree?** Allow the kids to respond—it should only be in black and white. **We're going to do an experiment, and I need your help guessing what will happen. What do you think will happen if we get the tree wet?** Let kids respond and consider what might happen.

Let's try it and see! Using a plastic pipette or children's medicine dropper (or a spoon), gently let a droplet of water fall onto one of the black lines of the tree. The colors hidden beneath should begin to appear and spread throughout the paper towel. Let kids take turns dropping water onto the paper to see the colors appear.

Did you correctly guess what would happen or were you surprised to see the colors appear? Allow the kids to respond. **Sometimes we are surprised at things that happen, but God is never surprised! He always knows what is going to happen, and He always sees the big picture! Today, we're going to hear a part of God's big story where people were surprised at what happened, but God knew exactly what He was doing—because God sees the big picture!**



Snack and Connect

While snack is being eaten, show kids how you open your Bible and find the book of Ruth.

*Allow kids to open, touch, and look at the Bible. Explain how these stories are real. Read 1 Samuel 16:1, 4–13 and Isaiah 11:1–2 in an NIV Bible.

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 descendant of Jesse and David—King Jesus—came later to show us what it looks like in person to have God as King reigning perfectly!

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, ball

Gather kids in a circle. **Let’s say our Word of Wonder together a few times while doing the motions to practice!**

WORD OF WONDER
He will be called Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

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.

Great job! Let’s play a game that will help us remember our verse. I’m going to pass this ball to someone and ask a question. I’m going to ask, “Are you Immanuel?” If you get the ball, your job is to say, “I am (your name)” and then say our verse: “He will be called Immanuel.” So, if I got the ball, I would say, “I am (say your name), but He will be called Immanuel!”

Gently toss the ball to one of the kids in a circle and ask, “Are you Immanuel?” Encourage the kid to respond with, “I am (kid’s name), but He will be called Immanuel!” That kid can then pass the ball to another kid in the circle and ask, “Are you Immanuel?” Repeat until all the kids have had a chance with the ball.

Great job! 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?**

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!

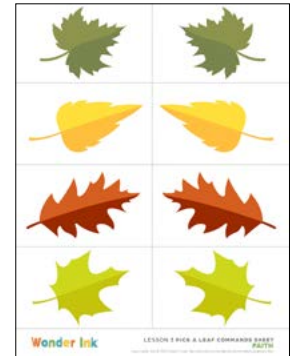
Circle Time: Pick a Leaf

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only)

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!

Responding in Worship: God's Family

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

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!"

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!"**