



ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

LESSON 2

DAVID WORSHIPS GOD

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is Honored When We Worship with Our Whole Hearts

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 6

GOD'S BIG STORY: After David becomes king of Israel, he brings God's ark of the covenant to his capital city, Jerusalem. Despite the discouraging attitude of his wife, Michal, David worships and sacrifices to God with his whole heart.

WORD OF WONDER: Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy. —Psalm 100:2

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: If you could win any prize, award, or trophy, what would you want to win?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 100:2
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Lay Down Your Crown
- Blessing Your Kids



Worship with Wonder Spotify playlist

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is Honored When We Worship with Our Whole Hearts

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 6

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 100:2

I have a comfort zone. I'm not the type to volunteer for youth group games or paint my face at football games. However, when I was a worship pastor at a large church, I discovered a different side of myself during kids' events like Christmas parties and VBS. When I put on a costume, something shifted. My usual reservations disappeared, and I found myself jumping, spinning, and even leaping with energy all over the stage. A part of me that only cared about joy and being in the moment came alive. It was a side of me that was uninhibited and undignified.

Take a minute and read 2 Samuel 6:13–22.

The Lord was “enthroned between the cherubim on the ark” (2 Samuel 6:2, NIV). God’s presence was entering the holy city of Jerusalem to be with His people, a powerful testament to His goodness. An undignified part of David’s heart came alive, just as mine has when joy has taken over. As David declares in verses 21 and 22, “I will celebrate before the LORD. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes” (NIV).

When was the last time God’s goodness and presence unlocked a piece of your heart that you were holding back? What would it look like to worship with your whole heart, fully open?

—David Ruybalid

Worship Leader, Recording Artist, and Discipleship Pastor
Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

David was the second king of Israel, anointed by Samuel after God rejected Saul as king. As a young man, David defeated the Philistine Goliath, trusting that the Lord was with him. Michal was David's first wife and the younger daughter of King Saul.

WHAT?

King David captured Jerusalem. He brought the ark of the covenant there, offering sacrifices and worshiping God with all his might, leaping and dancing along the way. Michal was offended by David's unrestrained praise, but David was more concerned with honoring God.

WHERE?

The ark of the covenant was in Baalah, about nine miles west of Jerusalem. The ark rested in the house of Obed-Edom for three months after God struck a man named Uzzah dead for touching it. Then David brought it to Jerusalem.

WHEN?

After the death of King Saul, David reigned over Judah in Hebron for seven and a half years before becoming king over all Israel. He conquered Jerusalem and brought the ark of the covenant there at the beginning of his 33-year reign in Jerusalem.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

David was more concerned with glorifying God than receiving honor himself. Though David was king, he acknowledged God as Lord. Years later, Jesus came as the everlasting King—God in the flesh—worthy of unrestrained praise. We can honor Jesus with our worship, following David's example.

Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is Honored When We Worship with Our Whole Hearts

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 6

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 100:2

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: [Coloring Page](#), whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group. *Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.*

As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

"If you could win any prize, award, or trophy, what would you want to win?" Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following "I'm curious" questions. Say "I'm curious..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **What do you think it means to honor someone?**
- **What does it mean to do something with your whole heart?**

Kids may need some prompting to answer these questions, but don't be in a rush to answer for them. Some kids just like time to digest a question before answering it. If kids are truly stuck, you can talk about people we might show honor to, such as leaders, teachers, military personnel, a king or a queen, and parents.

Leader Tip: Explain that honoring someone means showing them respect and acknowledging good things they have done.

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

WORD OF WONDER

Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with
songs of joy.

—Psalm 100:2 (NirV)

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid): **Word of Wonder Poster (1/SG)**

The Word of Wonder for the Worship with Wonder series is Psalm 100:2. Today we learned about how God wants us to worship with our whole selves, and our Word of Wonder encourages us to worship God with singing and joy. David worshiped God with gladness and sang songs to Him, just like the Word of Wonder talks about. Let's read the Word of Wonder together! Invite the kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 100:2. Show them that the verse is near the middle of their Bibles. First read the verse together in normal voices; then try shouting the words together. (Or, if some kids in your group are sensitive to loud noise, invite everyone to whisper the verse together instead.)

Gather kids to talk about these questions:

- How does the psalm writer feel when he worships the Lord? Have you ever felt this way when you worshiped God? Tell us about it.
- What does this verse teach us about how to worship God with our whole hearts?

Word of Wonder Activity

We are going to sing the Word of Wonder together, all on the same note! Lead the kids in singing/chanting the Word of Wonder on one note. **Now let's go a little higher!** Sing the whole verse on the next note up the scale. Repeat for five notes total. **Now let's come back down!** Repeat the verse on the last note you sang; then come down one note on the scale at a time until you're back to where you started, repeating the verse a total of 10 times. (Think "do-re-mi-fa-so," "so-fa-mi-re-do" if that is helpful.) Feel free to give it a march-style beat.

Leader Tip: Not musically inclined? That's OK! Rather than singing the Word of Wonder on notes of the scale, invite kids to join you in making a beat by tapping their hands on their legs. Then repeat the verse several times to the beat in a "spoken word" or rap style rather than as a song. Make it more challenging by mixing up the beat with claps or foot taps.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid); Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find 2 Samuel 6. As kids find the passage, explain that this part of the Bible is about King David. He was bringing a very special box called the Ark of the Covenant back to the city where God's people lived. The Ark reminded everyone that God was with them. David was so happy, he danced and praised God with all his heart! Let's hear what happened when David celebrated God.

Read 2 Samuel 6:13–22 aloud. Then discuss the following:

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

Leader Tip: Read 2 Samuel 6:13–22 ahead of time in the translation you plan on reading with the kids. The passage is detailed, and you can decide whether you want to read all the verses out loud or just some of them. Do what works best for your kids and your ministry context!

- **In God's big story today, what did King David bring back to Jerusalem?** (the ark of the covenant)
- **What did King David do as the ark was arriving in the city?** (Possible answers: sacrificed a bull and a fat calf, wore a special priestly apron, danced. If needed, reread 2 Samuel 6:13–14.)
- **What did David's wife, Michal, say to him, and how did David respond?** (She made fun of him and was critical of him. David said that he did what he did to honor the Lord.)
- **Why do you think David was so excited to show honor to God?**
- **How can you show honor to God?**
- **What's your favorite way to worship?**

Leader Tip: You may need to explain how the "ark" in this story is different from Noah's ark. The ark of the covenant was a special golden box that represented God's power and presence, while Noah's ark was a large boat.

Today in God's big story, David worships God with his whole heart. He brings honor to God because honoring God is more important to him than impressing anyone else! God invites us to worship Him the way David did. We can be excited about who God is and what He has done for us. One way we can worship God is by praying to Him and telling Him how amazing He is. Let's pray right now!

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite kids to share their prayer requests. Encourage each kid to share a reason why she worships God or something she loves about God. Remind kids that we can honor and worship God in the way we pray. Prayer isn't just about giving God a list of things we want; it's also about telling Him how great He is.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find 2 Samuel 6. This passage tells a story about King David, who was bringing the Ark of the Covenant—something very special that reminded Israel of God’s presence—back to Jerusalem. It was a big and joyful moment for God’s people, and David was so excited he danced before the Lord with all his might. Not everyone understood his joy, but David didn’t care what others thought—he just wanted to worship God. Let’s read how David celebrated and honored God with his whole heart.

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.

Read 2 Samuel 6:13–22 to the kids as they follow along. This passage has some hard-to-pronounce words, so it might be best if a leader reads it. Then discuss the following:

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

Leader Tip: Read 2 Samuel 6:13–22 ahead of time in the translation you plan on reading with the kids. The passage is detailed, and you can decide whether you want to read all the verses out loud or just some of them. Do what works best for your kids and your ministry context!

- **What is the ark of the covenant?** (a golden box that represented God’s power and presence)
- **What are some of the ways David worshiped God as the ark was brought into Jerusalem?** (Possible answers: sacrificed a bull and a fat calf, wore a special priestly apron, danced. If needed, reread 2 Samuel 6:13–14.)
- **How did David’s wife, Michal, respond to his behavior? What was David’s answer?** (She made fun of him and was critical of him. David said that he did what he did to honor the Lord.)
- **What would you think if you saw someone worshiping God as David did?**
- **What might you say to someone who made fun of you for worshiping God?**
- **What are some specific ways you can worship God and give Him honor?**

Leader Tip: You may need to explain how the “ark” in this story is different from Noah’s ark. The ark of the covenant was a special golden box that represented God’s power and presence while Noah’s ark was a large boat.

Today in God’s big story, we see that David is willing to worship God no matter what anyone else thinks. Even though David himself is a king, David’s number one priority is to give God honor. One way we can worship God is by praying to Him and telling Him how amazing He is. Let’s spend some time praying right now!

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite the kids to share prayer requests with you, and remind them that prayer is also a great time to worship God by thanking Him for who He is and what He has done. Encourage them to share what they love about God with each other and to incorporate those words into their prayers.

PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

Responding in Worship: Lay Down Your Crown

SUPPLIES: kid-safe scissors, coloring utensils, tape or stapler, Bible, cardstock (optional), large cross or fancy throne-like chair (optional)

RESOURCES: [My Crown Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#), [Worship with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print a copy of the My Crown Sheet for each kid, on cardstock if possible. Consider cutting the crowns out before kids arrive (at least for the younger kids in your ministry). If time allows, older kids can cut out their own crowns during the activity. If you have a large cross or a fancy throne-like chair, set them at the front of your space where there is room for kids to gather and worship.



Kings and queens wear crowns. Do you know why? Give the kids time to answer. **A crown is beautiful, but it is also a symbol of power and authority. When people wear crowns, others give them honor and usually bow down to them. King David wore a crown, but when he stood before the ark of the covenant, David didn't want anyone to bow down to him. Instead, David bowed down and worshiped God.**

Open a Bible to Revelation 4:10–11, and read the verses aloud. **These verses give us a picture of what it's like in heaven. In heaven—God's dwelling space—God is always worshiped. No one else wears a crown. Instead, people take their crowns off and lay them down before God.**

Pass the Crown Sheets out to the kids and set out coloring utensils. **These crowns remind us of today's Wonder Truth.** Invite a kid to read the words on her crown: **God Is Honored When We Worship with Our Whole Hearts.** Invite kids to write their names on their crowns and decorate them. Encourage kids to cut out their crowns if they weren't precut. (Ask leaders to be available to help younger kids with cutting.) Then help kids fit their crowns to their heads and use tape or a stapler to attach them in the back. (If using staplers, consider assigning several leaders to help.)

Go ahead and put your crowns on. The crown you are wearing represents you—the talents and abilities you have, the gifts you've been given, all the good things you do—everything about you that someone might praise or honor.

Remember the description of heaven we read? In heaven, people take off their crowns and lay them before God. It's their way of saying, "God, You are the only one really worthy of honor." It's their way of worshiping God with their whole hearts.

Begin playing "Worthy of It All" from the [Worship with Wonder Elementary Spotify playlist](#). **Listen to the words of this song. Spend some time talking to God about why He is worthy of honor. Then, when you are ready, you can take your crown off and lay it before God.**

If you set a cross or fancy throne-like chair at the front, explain to kids that it is a symbol that represents God and that they can set their crowns in front of it as they worship. Otherwise, designate a place at the front of your space where kids can set their crowns.

As the music plays, provide time and space for kids to participate in the activity. At the end, you may invite the kids to collect their crowns to take them home as a reminder of laying down their crowns before God.