



LESSON 2

DAVID WORSHIPS GOD

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Loves When We Worship with Our Whole Hearts

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 6

GOD'S BIG STORY: When David is the king of Israel, he brings God's ark of the covenant to his capital city, Jerusalem. Although his wife disapproves, David dances and worships God passionately 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

- Play Stations:
 - Music and Dance
 - Praise Banner
 - David Worships God Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Limbo Time
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 100:2
- God's Big Story /Snack
- Circle Time: Hidden Hearts
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Worship Streamers
- Game: Worship Postures



Worship with Wonder Preschool Spotify playlist



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 Loves 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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Loves When We Worship with Our Whole Hearts

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 6

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 100:2

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: instruments such as tambourines, shakers, and small drums; creative worship items such as scarves, ribbons, and flags; butcher paper; coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [David Worships God 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 of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Music and Dance

Set-up: Set out a variety of musical instruments and other creative worship items (such as scarves, ribbons, or flags).

Play: Invite kids to explore the instruments and use the creative worship items to express praise through movement.

Play Station: Praise Banner

Set-up: Cover a table with a large piece of butcher paper and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Invite kids to draw pictures on the banner of things they can praise or thank God for. If they don't know what to draw, you could ask them questions such as, "What cool animals did God make?" or "How do you like to worship God?"

Play Station: David Worships God 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 themselves dancing or singing.

Curiosity Activity: Limbo Time!

SUPPLIES: pool noodles (1 or more)

RESOURCES: upbeat songs from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we're going to do the Limbo! Limbo is a game where people take turns walking or dancing underneath a stick that gets lower and lower each round. Have two leaders hold the pool noodle parallel to the ground as your Limbo stick. Invite a few leaders and/or older kids to the front. Ask them to demonstrate how to do the Limbo by leaning back as they walk under the pool noodle. If this is too hard for kids (or leaders!), suggest that they could bend forward or do silly movements as they go underneath the stick (such as crawling or walking on their knees). You could also encourage them to dance while going under it.

Now everyone can try it! But remember, the pool noodle will get lower each round. Let's see how low you can go!

Invite the kids to line up and take turns dancing under the Limbo stick. If you have a larger group, create multiple lines so kids don't have to wait too long for a turn. You might want to divide your group by age or height. Play music from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). Continue as long as time allows.

Wasn't it fun to dance and have fun with our bodies? One thing we can do with our bodies is worship God! He loves when we worship Him.

Make It Inclusive! Invite kids with mobility issues to hold the pool noodles. Or prompt the leaders holding the pool noodles to adjust the height as needed.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible; [Word of Wonder Poster \(1/SG\)](#)

WORD OF WONDER

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

—Psalm 100:2

The Word of Wonder for the Worship with Wonder series is Psalm 100:2. Today we learned about how David worshiped God with all his heart. We can do that too! Let's learn the Word of Wonder together.

Open your Bible to Psalm 100:2. Read the verse aloud to the kids then encourage them to do the motions with you.

- **WORSHIP THE LORD**—Put hands over your head in a “praise” motion.
- **WITH GLADNESS**.—Smile and point to your mouth.
- **COME TO HIM**—Move one arm toward your body, as if inviting someone to come with you.
- **WITH SONGS OF JOY**.—Place open palm in front of your mouth. Move it in circular motions away from your face.
- **PSALM 100:2**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

In our story today, David moved his body and danced while worshiping. We can add our own movements while we're saying the words of praise to God in this verse. Let's add some rhythm to our Word of Wonder! Let's pat our legs and say the verse together. Repeat the verse several times to the beat in a "spoken word" or rap style rather than as a song. You can encourage kids to make up their own dances while saying or singing the verse.

Leader Tip: If kids are squirmy at this point, have them stand up and stomp the beat instead. It may not sound like much of a beat because kids this age aren't always good at rhythm, but they can still have fun with their bodies!

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How do you think David, the person who wrote the Word of Wonder, felt when he worshiped God? Have you ever felt this way when you worshiped God? Tell about it.**
- **What are your favorite songs to sing to God?**

God's Big Story / Snack

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of 2 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 hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 2 Samuel in the Bible.

[Read 2 Samuel 6:12–22 from an NIV Bible.](#)

Circle Time: Hidden Hearts

SUPPLIES: jumbo crafts sticks (at least 1 per kid), red marker (prep only), cup

Ahead of time, draw hearts on one side of several craft sticks, draw half-hearts on a few of the craft sticks, and leave the rest blank. Put the craft sticks heart-side-down into the cup so kids can't see the hearts.

Invite kids to sit in a circle. **In today's story, David worshiped with his whole heart. He loved God so much, and he wanted to show God! We're going to use whole hearts to help us answer questions about the story. I'm going to pass around this cup, and you'll get to pull a craft stick from it. If yours has a whole heart on it, you get to answer a question!**

Leader Tip: If a child is upset for not getting a stick with a whole heart, remind the kids they can try again after everyone gets a turn. Some questions have multiple answers, so everyone who wants to can have a chance to speak.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **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?** (danced and worshiped God)
- **What did David's wife Michal say to him, and how did David respond?** (She was upset, she thought he looked silly; David said he did it all for God.)
- **Why do you think David was so excited to worship God?**
- **What are some different ways to worship God?** (singing, dancing, praying, waving flags, clapping, etc.)
- **What's your favorite way to worship God with your whole heart?**
- **Is it easy for you to only focus on God during worship, instead of the people around you?**
Why do you think that is?

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 reminded people of God's power and presence, while Noah's ark was a large boat.

God isn't like Michal, who was embarrassed when David worshiped with his whole heart. In fact, God loves it when we worship Him with our whole hearts! That doesn't mean we all have to be dancing around like David. But it does mean we don't need to worry about what other people think of us when we're worshiping God. Let's talk to God now in prayer! We can ask the Holy Spirit to teach us how to worship.

PRAYER TIME

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 to ask God to teach them to worship.

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Responding in Worship: Worship Streamers

SUPPLIES: paint stir sticks or jumbo craft sticks (1 per kid), markers, crepe paper streamers (various colors), kid-safe scissors, tape

RESOURCES: songs from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we learned about David. Do you remember how he worshiped God? Wait for answers. **He danced before God! But that's not the only way to worship. In our story today we learned about one way to worship God: through dancing! But there are other ways to worship God too. We can play instruments, sing, or wave flags and ribbons. Let's make some worship streamers today! Then you can take them home and use them to worship God whenever you want.**

Give each kid a paint stir stick or jumbo craft stick. Encourage them to use markers to decorate their sticks. They can draw hearts on their sticks to remind them to worship with their whole hearts. Assist kids as needed with cutting or ripping the crepe paper into approximately 2' lengths. Then encourage the kids to tape the crepe paper streamers to their sticks. This is a very open-ended activity—some kids will only want one piece of crepe paper, and others will want many. Both are OK! When the kids finish, allow them to wave their worship streamers and dance. Play worship music from the [Worship with Wonder Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Game: Worship Postures

Did you know there are lots of ways to worship God? What kind of worship did we talk about today? Allow the kids to respond. **I'm going to read you some other Bible verses, and you get to act out whatever it says! Are you ready to listen carefully?**

Read the following selection of verses and encourage kids to do what they hear (suggested actions are underlined).

"Clap your hands, all you nations. Shout to God with cries of joy" (Psalm 47:1).

"I will praise you as long as I live. I will call on your name when I lift up my hands in prayer" (Psalm 63:4).

"I will sing praise to you with my mouth" (Psalm 63:5).

"Let them praise his name with dancing. Let them make music to him with harps and tambourines" (Psalm 149:3).

"Come, let us bow down and worship him. Let us fall on our knees in front of the LORD our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).

You can also add a fun element to this activity by calling out "statue" at various times. Tell the kids to freeze in place when you call out "statue" and then continue their movements when you start reading the verses again.