

LESSON 2

SAMUEL ANOINTS DAVID AS KING

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Looks at the Heart

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 13

GOD'S BIG STORY: God tells Samuel to go to Bethlehem and anoint one of Jesse's sons as the new king. Samuel obeys, expecting God to choose one of Jesse's oldest, strongest sons. But God looks at the heart and chooses Jesse's youngest son, David.

WORD OF WONDER: Come near to God, and he will come near to you. —James 4:8a

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*.

Play Stations

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?

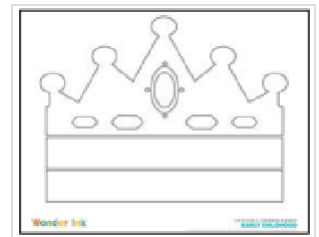
Play Station: King and Queen Play

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: Make a Crown

Set up: Before the kids arrive, print the Crown Sheet onto cardstock for each kid and cut out the crowns and extra strips of paper from the Crown Sheet. Set out the crowns, along with coloring utensils, stickers, jewels, glue sticks, and tape.



Play: Let the kids decorate a crown. When they're finished, tape the additional strip of paper to the crowns so they can wear them. Tell them the story today has to do with someone who will become a king.

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.

Faith

Craft: God Sees My Heart

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.

To take the craft to the next level, cut out cardstock heart outlines with the inside empty and let the kids use tissue paper or contact paper stuck to both sides and colored make stained-glass hearts.

Identity

Closing Game: Over Under Crown Relay

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 in two lines. The kids in each line 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.

You can also play the game with one line or many lines, as long as you have one crown per 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!