

LESSON 2 Juniors

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Looks at the Heart

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 13

WORD OF WONDER: James 4:8a

Hello friends, my name is _____, and it's so good to see you today! Let's start by checking out our ping pong jar. What do we need to do to earn a ping pong ball?

Allow kids to answer: Bring a friend, say Word of Wonder, bring your Bible, bring an offering.

Great job! Now, why do we bring an offering?

Allow kids to answer.

That's right! Everything we have is a gift from God. When we give money, it helps us do special things on *Serve the City* days. We use the money to help people in our neighborhoods and to show them God's love.

Giving is one way we can help others and tell them about Jesus!

Thank you for giving! Let's have a fun time today!

Prayer of Invitation

God, thank You for seeing our hearts and for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our King forever! Help us to see others the way You see them and to love them the way You do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Bible Time Rhyme

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 start by reading part of God's big story from the book of **1 Samuel 16** in the Bible. That's in the Old Testament, which is toward the beginning of the Bible, and it includes the time before Jesus came to earth.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a man named Samuel and another named David. Encourage the kids to say, "Samuel" and "David." Let's find out from the Bible what happened to them.

Today you can help me tell God's big story! Every time you hear the word "heart," you can put your hands over your heart. Demonstrate hands over your heart. Are you ready? You can also cut out a paper heart and choose a kid to hold it up each time you say "heart" in the story. If you have a toy crown, you can let someone wear it when you say "king" in the story

God's people really wanted a king (if using a crown, put it on someone else's head). If using a toy crown, put it on someone's head.

Their first king (if using a crown, put it on someone else's head), Saul, began to turn away from God. God decided it was time to choose a new king (if using a crown, put it on someone else's head)— someone who would follow God with his whole heart (hands over heart).

God told Samuel to go see a man named Jesse and his sons because one of them would be the new- king (if using a crown, put it on someone else's head).

Jesse brought each of his sons to Samuel, and Samuel waited for God to point one out for to become-the king (if using a crown, put it on someone else's head).

But God told Samuel, "Don't get distracted by how he looks. I don't look at what's on the outside of a person. I look at what's in his heart" (hands over heart).

Jesse brought seven of his sons to Samuel, but God didn't choose any of them! Then David came, and God told Samuel that He was the one!

God told Samuel to anoint David as the next king (if using a crown, put it on someone else's head).

***Anoint* means putting oil on someone's head because that person is chosen by God for a special job.**

Samuel got up and poured oil over David's head to show he was chosen as the next king (if using a crown, put it on someone else's head)

God didn't choose a king (if using a crown, put it on someone else's head) who was the oldest or strongest. God knew that David would be a king who would serve God with his whole heart (hands over heart).

God wanted David to be king (if using a crown, put it on someone else's head) because God

looks at the heart (hands over heart).

Watch God's Big Story

Worship

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

The Israelites thought that a human king would bring them lasting peace. But sadly, Saul's heart turned away from God. Next, God chose David. David would be a great king, yet there is still only one King who can bring deep and lasting peace—Jesus! Jesus is the everlasting

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Come near to God, and he will come near
to you.

—James 4:8a

Our Word of Wonder for the God Speaks series is **James 4:8a**. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

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

- **COME NEAR**—Use your hands to make the “waving someone over to you” motion.
 - **TO GOD**,—Point up with both hands.
 - **AND HE WILL**—Bring both arms down to your sides slowly.
 - **COME NEAR**—Bring arms together around yourself (big hug).
 - **TO YOU**.—Point out at others with both hands.
- JAMES 4:8a**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book

Today we learned how God chose David to be king of the Israelites. David was the greatest king of Israel and was a man after God's own heart. God is the true King who will reign forever and rule over all. We get to come close to Him, spend time with Him, and be His friend!

The verse tells us we can come close to God. He is always close to us and is always with us. He

loves us and sees our hearts.

Prayer Journal Questions:

- **Do you feel near to God? Why or why not?**
- **Why do you think God wants to be near us?** *(If kids need help, offer ideas such as: Because He loves us; He made us and knows us; He wants to have a relationship with us.)*

Watch the Word of Wonder Video