



The Jesus Family Tree

LESSON SAMPLES

Toddler

Early Childhood

Early Elementary

Elementary & Preteen

LESSON 3

JESSE AND DAVID

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees the Big Picture

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

GOD'S BIG STORY: God chooses Jesse's son, David, as Israel's next king and reminds the Israelites through the prophet Isaiah that the Promised One—a branch from Jesse's family tree—will one day come and change everything.

WORD OF WONDER: And he will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14b

Object Lesson: Make a Tree

Activity: Puzzles

Worship

God's Big Story

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Human Christmas Trees

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Object Lesson: Make a Tree

SUPPLIES: green and brown pipe cleaners, craft sticks

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome to church! I have a question for you. What grows really tall outside and has birds and squirrels living in it? Allow kids to answer. **That's right! A tree! Let's use these pipe cleaners and craft sticks to make our own trees.**

Place pipe cleaners and craft sticks on the floor or table and allow kids to make trees. If you have trees outside your room, you can point them out to the kids or even take a quick walk outside to look at them.

Activity: Puzzles

SUPPLIES: simple puzzle(s)

Set out a puzzle (or a few puzzles, if time permits) and mix up the pieces. Encourage the kids to help put the puzzle together. Invite them to look at the picture when it's complete.

It was hard to tell what the picture would look like when we could only see one piece of the puzzle! But when we put all the pieces together, we saw the whole picture. This reminds me that God sees the whole picture, and He knows everything, even when we don't! We'll learn more about that today in our story.

Set out more puzzles. Let the kids play with them and help put them together.

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD SEES THE BIG PICTURE.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

- **GOD**—Point up.
- **SEES**—Cup your hands around your eyes.
- **THE BIG PICTURE**—Wave your hands in front of your body with a sweeping motion.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll learn about how God sees the big picture. We can sing and thank God because He sees everything, and He knows everything!

Play songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesse and David Puzzle Sheet, [Jesse and David God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

Ahead of time, print the Jesse and David Puzzle Sheet and cut apart the pieces.

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible! It's about a person named Jesse and his son, David. Encourage the kids to say, "Jesse" and "David." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to them!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can show the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction of the story.



I need your help telling today's story! Can you find the picture that has a sheep on it? Allow kids to find the picture with the sheep. **Great job!**

There was a man named Jesse who had many sons. One of his sons was a shepherd, which is a person who took care of the sheep. His name was David. David was small, and he didn't look like he was very special.

Can you find the picture that has the crown on it? Allow kids to find the right picture and place it with the correct picture.

Good job! There was a man named Saul, and he was the king. Saul was tall and handsome, but he wasn't a very good king! So God had another king in mind.

Can you find the picture with the butterfly on it? Allow the kids to find the right picture and place it with the other pictures to form the full picture.

God said one of Jesse's sons would be the next king. Everyone thought the oldest and tallest son would be king, but God chose the youngest son—David! David loved God.

We have one piece of our picture left. What do you see in this picture? Allow kids to answer.

There's a tree in this picture! Place this with the others to complete the full picture.

God said Jesse's family was like a big tree with lots of branches, and someday a special baby would be born from this family—Jesus.

God saw something that everyone else couldn't see. God looked at Jesse's family tree, and He saw that one day, Jesus would come! God sees everything! God sees the big picture.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesus Family Tree Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER
And he will be called Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14b

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Jesus Family Tree series is from Isaiah 7:14b Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.** Open a Bible to Isaiah 7:14b and read the verse.

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

- **AND HE WILL BE**—Point up three times (once on each word).
- **CALLED**—Cup your hands around your mouth.
- **IMMANUEL**.—Make prayer hands.
- **ISAIAH 7:14b**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk with God.

God, sometimes things happen that we don't understand. But we can trust You. You see everything, and You know everything. You see the big picture. Help us to remember that You love us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands 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: May you remember that God loves you! Even when you don't understand, God understands. God sees the big picture! God knows everything, and God sees you.

Activity: Human Christmas Trees

SUPPLIES: basket, bows, tinsel, garland

Before kids arrive, fill a basket with bows, tinsel, and a garland.

We've been talking about family trees. But at Christmas, we hear a lot about a different kind of tree: a Christmas tree! Let's play a game where you get to decorate me like a Christmas tree!

Set out the basket with bows, tinsel, and a garland in it.

This basket is full of things that you might see on a Christmas tree. When I say, "Go," you can use all the things in this basket to decorate me like a Christmas tree. Say, "Go," and invite the kids to decorate you (or another leader).

LESSON 3 JESSE AND DAVID

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees the Big Picture

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

GOD'S BIG STORY: God chooses Jesse's son, David, as Israel's next king and reminds the Israelites through the prophet Isaiah that the Promised One—a branch from Jesse's family tree—will one day come and change everything.

WORD OF WONDER: And he will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14b

CURIOSITY 15–20 minutes

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Play Stations:
 - Make a Tree
 - Puzzles
 - Jesse and David Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Hidden Colors
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF 20 minutes

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: Isaiah 7:14b

FAITH 15–20 minutes

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Circle Time: Pick a Leaf
- Craft: Craft Stick Tree
- Game: Stand Up!

IDENTITY 15–20 minutes

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Responding in Worship: God's Family
- Prayer and Blessing
- Closing Game: Human Christmas Trees

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!



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: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14b

What if we could see the image of God in people the same way we can see freckles, dimples, or other family traits? Would it be easier for us to say, “I see God’s resemblance in them”? Would it help us treat people the way God intends?

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 16:1, 4–7. God reminds us that while we’re 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. Now 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 eventually the offspring of Jesse and David—King Jesus—came to show us what the reign of God looks like in person!



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees the Big Picture

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14b

Play Stations

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

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesse and David Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

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: Make a Tree

Set up: Set out craft sticks and green and brown pipe cleaners. Consider making an example tree for kids to try to copy.

Play: Invite the kids to use craft sticks and pipe cleaners to design different types of trees with lots of branches.

Play Station: Puzzles

Set up: Set out a variety of puzzles.

Play: Let the kids put the puzzles together. Remind the kids that when all the pieces are put together, we see the full picture (or the big picture)!

Play Station: Jesse and David Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of someone in their family.



Curiosity Activity: Hidden Colors

SUPPLIES: paper towel, various colors of markers, black permanent marker, tray, plastic pipettes or spoon, cup of water

Before kids arrive, draw a simple picture of a Christmas tree outline on a paper towel using various colors of 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're ready to begin the activity, gather the kids around the tray and ask them what they see on the paper towel.

What do you think I have drawn on this paper towel? Allow the kids to respond. **Yes, a Christmas tree!** **What color is the tree?** Allow the kids to respond. It should only be black and white. **Let's do an experiment. I'll 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 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're surprised at things that happen, but God is never surprised! He always knows what's 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!**



Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

SUPPLIES: magnifying glass

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Tac the Cat Picture or puppet, additional copy of the Tac the Cat picture

For this section, you can use the cat picture provided, a stuffed animal cat, or a cat hand puppet.

Leader Tip: To make Tac the Cat into your own stick puppet, cut out the picture and glue it to a craft stick.

Ahead of time, print an additional picture of Tac the Cat and set it aside. Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Let's see what our friend, Tac, is up to today. He's always curious! I wonder what he's exploring today.

Tac the Cat: Hey, kids! I was just checking out this picture my friend drew of me! (Hold up the additional picture of Tac the Cat.)

Leader: That's a great picture of you, Tac! Your friend did a good job.

Tac the Cat: Yes, I like it. But I can't see the letters on my collar that spell my name. They're too small! I wish I could see them.

Leader: Well, I think I might know something that could help us see more clearly. Have you ever used a magnifying glass, Tac?

Tac the Cat: I've heard of a magnifying glass, but I've never used one. I'm curious about how it works!

Leader: Oh, magnifying glasses are neat! They can help us see things up close!

Tac the Cat: How do I use it?

Leader: Well, you just take the magnifying glass and hold it up to what you want to look at ... and then you look through it! (Demonstrate how to use a magnifying glass.)

Tac the Cat: Wow, things look so big through the magnifying glass!

Leader: They do! Magnifying glasses help us see things that are small by making them look big. Sometimes we can't see all the details when we look just with our eyes. But when we use a magnifying glass, we can see a lot more!

Tac the Cat: Wow! That's a great way to see things we can't normally see. Like the small letters in my picture!

Leader: That's exactly right! You know what this magnifying glass reminds me of? It reminds me that God always sees the big picture, even without a magnifying glass. That's what we're going to learn more about today.

Tac the Cat: You mean God sees the small things and doesn't need a magnifying glass?

Leader: That's right! He sees the big things, and things that are going to happen, and even our hearts and feelings too! God sees everything!

Tac the Cat: Wow! That's so neat! I'm going to go explore with this magnifying glass and see what else I can see. See you kids later!

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever looked at something through a magnifying glass? Did you see how different it looks up close? Allow the kids to respond. **Have you ever wondered what something tiny looks like up close? Like an ant or a small flower?** Allow the kids to respond. **Did you ever stop to think about how God always sees the big picture? That means God sees and knows everything in our lives!**

Leader Tip: If time allows, let the kids explore different parts of a tree using the magnifying glass.

Today we'll discover that God sees and knows everything! Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD SEES THE BIG PICTURE.**



Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Early Childhood Declaration [Video](#) or Slide (optional)

Show the Early Childhood Declaration [Video](#) or Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees the Big Picture

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14b

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, help us listen to what You have to say to us today. Help us to be good listeners as You speak Your truth to us. Help us understand that You see the big picture. Even when we don't understand what's going on, help us to trust that You do! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll learn about how God sees the big picture. He always knows what's best! Even when we don't understand what's going on, God understands, and He knows what He's doing. Let's sing together about how amazing God is!

Play songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (optional)

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 two books in the Bible: the book of Isaiah and the book of 1 Samuel.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read 1 Samuel 16:1, 4–13 and Isaiah 11:1–2 from the Bible. You can show the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

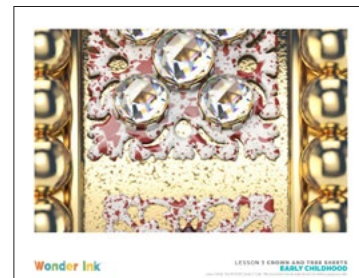
SUPPLIES: highlighter (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Crown and Tree Sheets, [Jesse and David God's Big Story Video](#)

Ahead of time, print the Crown and Tree Sheets. Consider designating someone to hold up the sheets as you narrate the script.

Today we're going to have fun being detectives! A detective is a person who looks for clues or hints to help them solve a mystery. Are you ready to be detectives? Pause for kids to respond. **Great! Let's begin!**

A long time ago, humans disobeyed God. That's called sin. Sin hurt the relationship between God and people. But God had a plan to fix His relationship with them. God promised to bless the whole world through a special family. The family grew and grew. Ruth and Boaz were part of this family. They had a baby boy named Obed. When Obed grew up, he had a son named Jesse. And when Jesse grew up, he had many sons. One of Jesse's sons was chosen for a very special job.



Detectives, can you figure out what that special job was? Here's our first clue. I'm going to show you some pictures of something, and when you think you know what it is, jump up to your feet! Are you ready? Show the first Crown Picture. After a few seconds, show the next picture. Progress through the Crown Pictures until you get to the final image. Allow kids to guess what the picture is as they jump to their feet. **Great job! It's a crown! What do you think that special job was?** Allow kids to respond. **You're great detectives! The special job was to be king! One of Jesse's sons was chosen to be Israel's next king.**

At that time, Saul was the king of Israel. He was tall and looked like a king. But Saul was not a good king. He didn't obey God. God told a messenger named Samuel to go to Jesse's home in Bethlehem. God told Samuel that He had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be the next king. One by one, Jesse's big, strong sons were brought to Samuel. But with each one, God said to Samuel, "No, not him." Finally, they brought in David. David was the youngest. He wasn't the biggest or strongest. But God said, "This is the one" (1 Samuel 16:12b).

You see, people look at the outside, but God looks at the heart. God saw David's heart. And David loved God.

So Samuel anointed David. He poured oil on David's head to show that God had chosen him to be king. Later, David became a very good king. He loved God, and he led the people well.

But after David, many kings did not listen to God. Things became hard. It even looked like David's family might end. But God gave a message through a messenger of God named Isaiah. Isaiah said that Jesse and David's family was like something we see every day.

Detectives, what do you think that something was? Here's our next clue. When you think you know what the pictures show, jump up to your feet! Show the first Tree Picture. After a few seconds, move to the next one. Progress through the pictures until you've shown all of them. Allow kids to guess what the picture is as they jump up. **Great job, detectives! It's a tree! Have you ever heard of a family tree?** Allow kids to respond. **A family tree is a way of telling how people are related. Every child in a family is like a branch of the tree, and with each new person in the family, the tree grows.**

When many kings disobeyed God and things got really hard, it looked like Jesse and David's family might end. But God gave a message through Isaiah about their family tree. Isaiah said, "Jesse's family is like a tree that has been cut down. A new little tree will grow from its stump. From its roots a Branch will grow and produce fruit" (Isaiah 11:1).

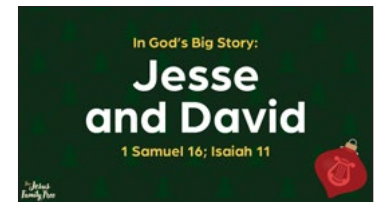
This new little tree is like a tiny green sprout growing from a tree stump. But this message isn't about plants, it's about a family.

God had plans for Jesse and David's family tree! Even though things looked bad for God's people, God was following His plan. God sees more than people see. God promised that Jesse's family tree would keep growing. And one day, a very special branch would grow from it—the promised child who would change everything.

Many, many years later, in the town of Bethlehem—where David was from—a very special baby was born. That baby was Jesus. Jesus was part of Jesse and David's family. He was the new little tree God promised. Even when things looked really bad for Jesse and David's family, God looked at their family tree and saw Jesus—our King forever. God knew all along that He would come. God sees the big picture.

Make It Inclusive: If some kids in your group are unable to jump up, encourage kids to raise their hands or make a particular sound when they think they know what the picture is.

VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO



Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

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

God chose Jesse and David's family, and He blessed the whole world through them. The rest of the Old Testament follows the story of this family, and they often fail in their mission to bless the world—until we get to Jesus. Jesus was the Promised One from David's family who the people had been waiting for—God kept His promise by sending Jesus!

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, ball

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesus Family Tree Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER

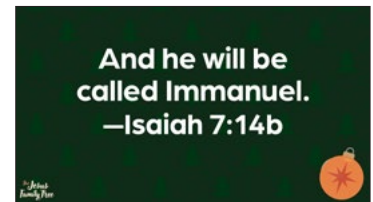
And he will be called Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14b

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Jesus Family Tree series is Isaiah 7:14b. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.** Open a Bible to Isaiah 7:14b and practice the verse with the kids.

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

- **AND HE WILL BE**—Point up three times (once on each word).
- **CALLED**—Cup your hands around your mouth.
- **IMMANUEL**—Make prayer hands.
- **ISAIAH 7:14b**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if opening a book.



Great job! Can anybody guess what Immanuel means? Allow kids to guess. **Those are great guesses! Immanuel means God is with us!**

Gather the kids in a circle. **Let's play a game that will help us remember our verse. I'm going pass this ball to someone and ask, "Are you Immanuel?" If you get the ball, you say, "I am (your name)" and then say our verse: "And he will be called Immanuel." So, if I got the ball, I would say, "I am (say your name), and He will be called Immanuel!"**

Gently toss or roll the ball to one of the kids and ask, "Are you Immanuel?" Encourage the kid to respond with, "I am (kid's name), and 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 spoke through His messenger, Isaiah, and He promised 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—and Immanuel is one of those nicknames. What does Immanuel mean again? Allow kids to respond. **Immanuel means God is with us. God told Isaiah about this baby and that He would be called Immanuel a long time before He was ever born. God knew all along that Jesus would come because God sees the big picture.**

Gather the 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?** (*Because Jesus is God with us. In Jesus, God came to live on earth to save us and to show us what He's like.*)

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees the Big Picture

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14b

Circle Time: Pick a Leaf

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only)

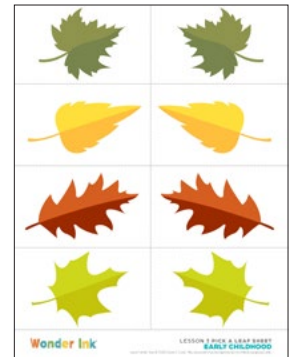
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Pick a Leaf Sheet

Ahead of time, print a front-and-back copy of the Pick a Leaf Sheet and cut the cards apart.

Gather the kids together in a circle and place the cards with the leaf side facing up in the middle of the circle. **Many years after Jesse and David lived, in the town of Bethlehem—where David was from—a very special baby was born. That baby was Jesus. Jesus was part of Jesse and David's family.**

Do you remember what kind of tree we talked about in God's big story today? Allow kids to respond. **Right, a family tree! Jesus was part of David's family tree. He was the new little tree God promised. Even when things looked really bad for Jesse and David's family, God looked at their family tree and saw Jesus—our King forever. God knew all along that He would come. Let's play a game with something that grows on real trees—leaves! You can each take a turn to pick a leaf card, and I'll read it. The card will either ask a question or ask you to do something. Let's play!**

Allow kids to pick a card 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?** (David's heart; that he loved God)
- **Do you think God cares about who is the biggest and the best? What does He care about?** (a person's heart)
- **How do you think David felt when God chose him to be the next king?**
- **What did God say Jesse's family was like?** (a tree that had been cut down)
- **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 doing the actions! God knew David would be a good king

because God sees the big picture—He saw what was in David’s heart! God sees our hearts too. Let’s talk with God now in prayer!

Encourage them to have faith when they talk with God, trusting that He is here and that He cares. Invite kids to share prayer requests or things they’re thankful for. Ask for one or two kids to volunteer to pray out loud and thank God for seeing the big picture.

Craft: Craft Stick Tree

SUPPLIES: cardstock or construction paper (1 sheet per kid), craft sticks (at least 5 per kid), glue, coloring utensils, brown and tan pipe cleaners (optional)

Make a sample ahead of time to show the kids. Glue craft sticks onto a paper in the shape of a tree.

In our story today, we learned about Jesse and David’s family. God blessed His people through this family when He chose David to be king. Then God blessed His people (and the whole world!) when Jesus was born from this family many years later! God said that Jesse’s family tree was like a tree that had been cut down, but a branch growing from the cut down tree would be the promised Savior—that’s Jesus! Let’s make trees on our paper to remind us of why Jesse’s family tree is important: Jesus, our Savior, came from Jesse’s family!



Each of you will get a handful of craft sticks, and you can glue them onto your paper in the shape of a tree. You can make a tree trunk and then make branches coming out of it. Show the kids your sample craft stick tree and point out the trunk and the branches. Then you can write the names of people in Jesse’s family, or you can draw leaves or flowers on the tree. You can decorate it however you want!

Give each kid a sheet of paper and craft sticks. Set out glue. Invite the kids to glue the craft sticks onto their papers in the shape of a tree. They can also use tan or brown pipe cleaners. Then give them time to decorate their trees using coloring utensils.

Game: Stand Up!

Split the group into two teams. Encourage the teams to go to opposite sides of the room and sit down across from each other.

Let’s play a game called Stand Up! Do you remember what God said to Samuel when David came? Pause for kids to answer. God said, “Stand up and anoint him; David is the one I’ve chosen!”

In this game, one player will choose someone from the other team and say, “Stand up, (kid’s name)! You are chosen!” Then the one who said, “Stand up” can try to chase the person he called. The kid who got called will try to run and join the team on the other side of the room without getting tagged by the player who chose her.

Switch back and forth, allowing each side to name a player to stand up. Play as time allows or until one team has all the players.

Make It Inclusive: For those unable to run, you could have them team up with another kid and be the one to call out a name for their partner to chase.

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees the Big Picture

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14b

Responding in Worship: God's Family

SUPPLIES: butcher paper, permanent marker (prep only), washable paint (various colors), paint brush, wet wipes, paper towels, paper plates

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: music from [The Jesus Family Tree Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Before kids arrive, use a permanent marker to draw a rough tree outline with lots of branches on a large piece of butcher paper. Set out different colors of paint, along with wet 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 you're concerned that the kids may all try to come up at once, encourage them to sit and think quietly about what God knows about them or their family because He can see the big picture. Tell them you'll pay attention to those who are sitting quietly and call them up one at a 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're 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 us. He knows what color our eyes are, how many hairs are on our heads, what we like and don't like, and even who will be in our families someday!

I'll play some worship music while we think and pray for a moment. Take some time to think about something God knows about you or your family. When you think of something, we'll help you make a handprint leaf on our tree to show that you're 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 by putting paint on each kid's hand and pressing it to the paper. You could also trace around their hands for a less messy option. Encourage them to 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 that every one of you is a part of God's family! All of our individual handprints helped us create a big picture—a tree! That reminds me that God sees the big picture. He sees what's in our hearts, not just what we look like on the outside. And He sees our future and has a good plan for us.



Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish the activity, pray with them and thank God for seeing our hearts and for seeing the big picture. You can use your own words or the prayer below.

God, sometimes we don't understand why things happen or why You do what You do. But we know we can trust You because You see the big picture. You see our hearts. You see everything. Help us to remember all the time that You love us and care for us. 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: May you always remember that even when you don't understand why something happens, God sees the big picture! May you have comfort in knowing that God always sees your heart, and He always sees the way to make all His plans come true.

Closing Game: Human Christmas Trees

SUPPLIES: baskets (2), bows, tinsel, garlands

Ahead of time, fill two baskets with equal amounts of bows, tinsel, and a garland.

We've been talking about family trees, but during this time of the year, we hear a lot about a different kind of tree: a Christmas tree! What are some ways people decorate Christmas trees? Pause for kids to answer. **People may use ornaments, bows, garlands, tinsel, and other items to decorate their trees. Let's play a game where we'll get to decorate a human Christmas tree!**

Split the group into two teams. Have each team stand at the opposite side of the room of one of the baskets. **Your team gets to pick one player to be your human Christmas tree. When I say, "Go," the first player on your team will run down to the other end of the room and grab one item out of the basket. Then she'll bring it back to your team and use it to decorate your human Christmas tree. The first team to have their tree fully decorated with all the items in the basket wins!**

Leader Tip: If you have a smaller group, you can keep everyone together and kids can decorate a leader or a kid volunteer! You can have them simply enjoy decorating their volunteer together with music playing. Or you can use a timer and have kids run to the basket and grab one item at a time, then play a second round to see if they can beat their time and decorate a second volunteer faster, using all the items in the basket.

LESSON 3 JESSE AND DAVID

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

GOD'S BIG STORY: God chooses Jesse's son David as Israel's next king and reminds the Israelites through the prophet Isaiah that the Promised One—a branch from Jesse's family tree—will one day come and change everything.

WORD OF WONDER: And he will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14b

CURIOSITY 15 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Welcome Question: Have you ever wished you could see into the future? What do you wish you could know?
- Curiosity Questions
- Curiosity Activity: Hidden Colors
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF 25–35 minutes • Large Group

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: Isaiah 7:14b

FAITH 15 minutes • Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Discussion Questions
- Craft: Craft Stick Tree
- Game: Stand Up!

IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Responding in Worship: God's Family
- Blessing Your Kids
- Closing Game: Human Christmas Trees

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14b

What if we could see the image of God in people the same way we can see freckles, dimples, or other family traits? Would it be easier for us to say, “I see God’s resemblance in them”? Would it help us treat people the way God intends?

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 16:1, 4–7. God reminds us that while we’re 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. Now 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 eventually the offspring of Jesse and David—King Jesus—came to show us what the reign of God looks like in person!

LESSON 3 **EARLY ELEMENTARY**

Large Group or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14b

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

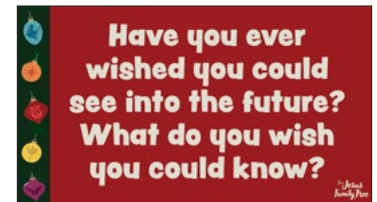
Choose between [The Jesus Family Tree Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesse and David Welcome Questions Slide

Before kids arrive, display the Jesse and David Welcome Questions Slide or write the following questions on a whiteboard: “Have you ever wished you could see into the future? What do you wish you could know?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome kids by name. Introduce yourself and encourage the kids to introduce themselves to each other. Invite kids to talk about the Welcome Questions or to draw their answers. Help younger kids and pre-readers by reading the question aloud to the group.

At your start time ...

Welcome your group enthusiastically by asking who’s excited about Christmas! Allow kids to respond. Then share your own answer to the Welcome Questions: **Have you ever wished you could see into the future? What do you wish you could know?** Invite several kids to share their answers with the group.

In today’s story, we’re going to see how God kept His promise to the world through Abraham’s family, even after a thousand years! God sees beyond what we see. And He had a plan all along. But first, it’s time to be curious!

Curiosity Questions

Ask 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.

I’m curious ...

- **How does it make you feel when you don’t know what’s going to happen?**
- **Do you think it would be good or bad to know what will happen in the future? Why?**

Curiosity Activity: Hidden Colors

SUPPLIES: paper towel, various colors of markers, black permanent marker, tray, plastic pipettes or spoon, cup of water

Before kids arrive, draw a simple picture of a Christmas tree outline on a paper towel using various colors of 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’re ready to begin the activity, gather the kids around the tray and ask them what they see on the paper towel.

What do you think I have drawn on this paper towel? Allow the kids to respond. **Yes, a Christmas tree!** **What color is the tree?** Allow the kids to respond. It should only be black and white. **Let’s do an experiment. I’ll 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 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’re surprised at things that happen, but God is never surprised! He always knows what’s 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 BEYOND WHAT WE SEE!****



Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Declaration [Video](#) or Slide (optional)

Show the Declaration [Video](#) or Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

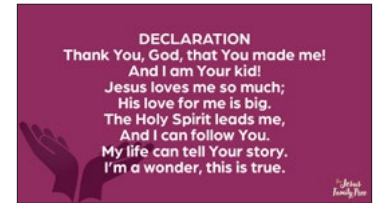
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



LESSON 3 EARLY ELEMENTARY

Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14b

Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, we invite Your Holy Spirit to lead and teach us today. Thank You that You see all things, and Your plans are the best. As You prepared people's hearts for the Promised One—Jesus—to come, we ask You to prepare our hearts today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

God sees everything! God also sees us, loves us, and has good plans for us! Let's worship Him now through music. Play songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (optional)

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 two books in the Bible: the book of Isaiah and the book of 1 Samuel.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read 1 Samuel 16:1, 4–13 and Isaiah 11:1–2 from the Bible. You can show the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Crown and Tree Sheets, God's Big Story Video ([Early Childhood](#) or [Elementary](#))

Ahead of time, print the Crown and Tree Sheets. Consider designating someone to hold up the sheets as you narrate the script.

Today we're going to have fun being detectives! A detective is a person who looks for clues or hints to help them solve a mystery. Are you ready to be detectives? Pause for kids to respond. **Great! Let's begin!**

A long time ago, humans disobeyed God. That's called sin. Sin hurt the relationship between God and people. But God had a plan to fix His relationship with them. God promised to bless the whole world through a special family. The family grew and grew. Ruth and Boaz were part of this family. They had a baby boy named Obed. When Obed grew up, he had a son named Jesse. And when Jesse grew up, he had many sons. One of Jesse's sons was chosen for a very special job.

Detectives, can you figure out what that special job was? Here's our first clue. I'm going to show you some pictures of something, and when you think you know what it is, jump up to your feet! Are you ready? Show the first Crown Picture. After a few seconds, show the next picture. Progress through the Crown Pictures until you get to the final image. Allow kids to guess what the picture is as they jump to their feet. **Great job! It's a crown! What do you think that special job was?** Allow kids to respond. **You're great detectives! The special job was to be king! One of Jesse's sons was chosen to be Israel's next king.**

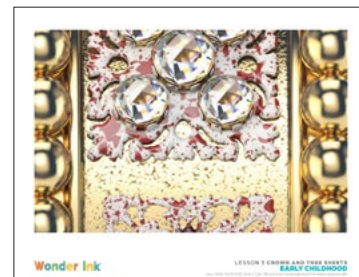
At that time, Saul was the king of Israel. He was tall and looked like a king. But Saul was not a good king. He didn't obey God. God told a messenger named Samuel to go to Jesse's home in Bethlehem. God told Samuel that He had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be the next king. One by one, Jesse's big, strong sons were brought to Samuel. But with each one, God said to Samuel, "No, not him." Finally, they brought in David. David was the youngest. He wasn't the biggest or strongest. But God said, "This is the one" (1 Samuel 16:12b).

You see, people look at the outside, but God looks at the heart. God saw David's heart. And David loved God.

So Samuel anointed David. He poured oil on David's head to show that God had chosen him to be king. Later, David became a very good king. He loved God, and he led the people well.

But after David, many kings did not listen to God. Things became hard. It even looked like David's family might end. But God gave a message through a messenger of God named Isaiah. Isaiah said that Jesse and David's family was like something we see every day.

Detectives, what do you think that something was? Here's our next clue. When you think you know what the pictures show, jump up to your feet! Show the first Tree Picture. After a few seconds, move to the next one. Progress through the pictures until you've shown all of them. Allow kids to guess what the picture is as they jump up. **Great job, detectives! It's a tree! Have you ever heard of a family tree?** Allow kids to respond. **A family tree is a way of telling how people are related. Every child in a**



family is like a branch of the tree, and with each new person in the family, the tree grows.

When many kings disobeyed God and things got really hard, it looked like Jesse and David's family might end. But God gave a message through Isaiah about their family tree. Isaiah said, "Jesse's family is like a tree that has been cut down. A new little tree will grow from its stump. From its roots a Branch will grow and produce fruit" (Isaiah 11:1).

This new little tree is like a tiny green sprout growing from a tree stump. But this message isn't about plants, it's about a family.

God had plans for Jesse and David's family tree! Even though things looked bad for God's people, God was following His plan. God sees more than people see. God promised that Jesse's family tree would keep growing. And one day, a very special branch would grow from it—the promised child who would change everything.

Many, many years later, in the town of Bethlehem—where David was from—a very special baby was born. That baby was Jesus. Jesus was part of Jesse and David's family. He was the new little tree God promised. Even when things looked really bad for Jesse and David's family, God looked at their family tree and saw Jesus—our King forever. God knew all along that He would come. God sees the big picture.

Make It Inclusive: If some kids in your group are unable to jump up, encourage kids to raise their hands or make a particular sound when they think they know what the picture is.

GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO (EARLY CHILDHOOD OR ELEMENTARY)



Connecting the Wonder Truth

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesse and David Wonder Truth Slide

Display the Jesse and David Wonder Truth Slide. **Our Wonder Truth and David today is GOD SEES BEYOND WHAT WE SEE.** Where did you see our Wonder Truth and David in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

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 many years later to show us in person what it looks like to have God as our King, reigning perfectly!



In Awe of God's Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, ball

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesus Family Tree Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER

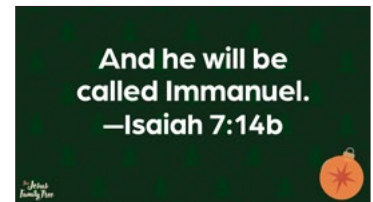
And he will be called Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14b

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Jesus Family Tree series is Isaiah 7:14b. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.** Open a Bible to Isaiah 7:14b and practice the verse with the kids.

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

- **AND HE WILL BE**—Point up three times (once on each word).
- **CALLED**—Cup your hands around your mouth.
- **IMMANUEL**—Make prayer hands.
- **ISAIAH 7:14b**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if opening a book.



Great job! Can anybody guess what Immanuel means? Allow kids to guess. **Those are great guesses! Immanuel means God is with us!**

Gather the kids in a circle. **Let's play a game that will help us remember our verse. I'm going pass this ball to someone and ask, "Are you Immanuel?" If you get the ball, you say, "I am (your name)" and then say our verse: "And he will be called Immanuel." So, if I got the ball, I would say, "I am (say your name), and He will be called Immanuel!"**

Gently toss or roll the ball to one of the kids and ask, "Are you Immanuel?" Encourage the kid to respond with, "I am (kid's name), and 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 spoke through His messenger, Isaiah, and He promised 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—and Immanuel is one of those nicknames. What does Immanuel mean again? Allow kids to respond. **Immanuel means God is with us. God told Isaiah about this baby and that He would be called Immanuel a long time before He was ever born. God knew all along that Jesus would come because God sees the big picture.**

Gather the 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?** (*Because Jesus is God with us. In Jesus, God came to live on earth to save us and to show us what He's like.*)

LESSON 3 **EARLY ELEMENTARY**

Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14b

Discussion Questions

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only)

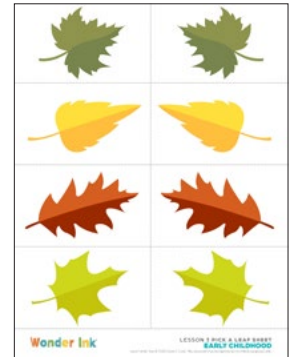
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Pick a Leaf Sheet

Ahead of time, print a front-and-back copy of the Pick a Leaf Sheet and cut the cards apart.

Gather the kids together in a circle and place the cards with the leaf side facing up in the middle of the circle. **Many years after Jesse and David lived, in the town of Bethlehem—where David was from—a very special baby was born. That baby was Jesus. Jesus was part of Jesse and David's family.**

Do you remember what kind of tree we talked about in God's big story today? Allow kids to respond. **Right, a family tree! Jesus was part of David's family tree. He was the new little tree God promised. Even when things looked really bad for Jesse and David's family, God looked at their family tree and saw Jesus—our King forever. God knew all along that He would come. Let's play a game with something that grows on real trees—leaves! You can each take a turn to pick a leaf card, and I'll read it. The card will either ask a question or ask you to do something. Let's play!**

Allow kids to pick a card 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?** (*David's heart; that he loved God*)
- **Do you think God cares about who is the biggest and the best? What does He care about?** (*a person's heart*)
- **How do you think David felt when God chose him to be the next king?**
- **What did God say Jesse's family was like?** (*a tree that had been cut down*)
- **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 doing the actions! God knew David would be a good king because God sees the big picture—He saw what was in David’s heart! God sees our hearts too. Let’s talk with God now in prayer!

Encourage them to have faith when they talk with God, trusting that He is here and that He cares. Invite kids to share prayer requests or things they’re thankful for. Ask for one or two kids to volunteer to pray out loud and thank God for seeing the big picture.

Craft: Craft Stick Tree

SUPPLIES: cardstock or construction paper (1 sheet per kid), craft sticks (at least 5 per kid), glue, coloring utensils, brown and tan pipe cleaners (optional)

Make a sample ahead of time to show the kids. Glue craft sticks onto a paper in the shape of a tree.

In our story today, we learned about Jesse and David’s family. God blessed His people through this family when He chose David to be king. Then God blessed His people (and the whole world!) when Jesus was born from this family many years later! God said that Jesse’s family tree was like a tree that had been cut down, but a branch growing from the cut down tree would be the promised Savior—that’s Jesus! Let’s make trees on our paper to remind us of why Jesse’s family tree is important: Jesus, our Savior, came from Jesse’s family!

Each of you will get a handful of craft sticks, and you can glue them onto your paper in the shape of a tree. You can make a tree trunk and then make branches coming out of it. Show the kids your sample craft stick tree and point out the trunk and the branches. Then you can write the names of people in Jesse’s family, or you can draw leaves or flowers on the tree. You can decorate it however you want!



Give each kid a sheet of paper and craft sticks. Set out glue. Invite the kids to glue the craft sticks onto their papers in the shape of a tree. They can also use tan or brown pipe cleaners. Then give them time to decorate their trees using coloring utensils.

Game: Stand Up!

Split the group into two teams. Encourage the teams to go to opposite sides of the room and sit down across from each other.

Let’s play a game called Stand Up! Do you remember what God said to Samuel when David came? Pause for kids to answer. God said, “Stand up and anoint him; David is the one I’ve chosen!”

In this game, one player will choose someone from the other team and say, “Stand up, (kid’s name)! You are chosen!” Then the one who said, “Stand up” can try to chase the person he called. The kid who got called will try to run and join the team on the other side of the room without getting tagged by the player who chose her.

Switch back and forth, allowing each side to name a player to stand up. Play as time allows or until one team has all the players.

Make It Inclusive: For those unable to run, you could have them team up with another kid and be the one to call out a name for their partner to chase.

LESSON 3 EARLY ELEMENTARY

Large Group or Small Group

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14b

Responding in Worship: God's Family

SUPPLIES: butcher paper, permanent marker (prep only), washable paint (various colors), paint brush, wet wipes, paper towels, paper plates

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: music from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Before kids arrive, use a permanent marker to draw a rough tree outline with lots of branches on a large piece of butcher paper. Set out different colors of paint, along with wet 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 you're concerned that the kids may all try to come up at once, encourage them to sit and think quietly about what God knows about them or their family because He can see the big picture. Tell them you'll pay attention to those who are sitting quietly and call them up one at a 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're 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 us. He knows what color our eyes are, how many hairs are on our heads, what we like and don't like, and even who will be in our families someday!

I'll play some worship music while we think and pray for a moment. Take some time to think about something God knows about you or your family. When you think of something, we'll help you make a handprint leaf on our tree to show that you're part of God's family!

Play songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#). Encourage kids to come up one at a time to fill the branches on the tree with their handprints by putting paint on each kid's hand and pressing it to the paper. You could also trace around their hands for a less messy option. Encourage them to 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 that every one of you is a part of God's family! All of our individual handprints helped us create a big picture—a tree! That reminds me that God sees the big picture. He sees what's in our hearts, not just what we look like on the outside. And He sees our future and has a good plan for us.

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesse and David Blessing Slide

Display the Jesse and David Blessing Slide. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May you trust that God sees beyond what we see. May He help you remember how He has kept His promises in the past and that He has good plans for you. Jesus came for you and He loves you more than you can imagine!



Closing Game: Human Christmas Trees

SUPPLIES: baskets (2), bows, tinsel, garlands

Ahead of time, fill two baskets with equal amounts of bows, tinsel, and a garland.

We've been talking about family trees, but during this time of the year, we hear a lot about a different kind of tree: a Christmas tree! What are some ways people decorate Christmas trees? Pause for kids to answer. **People may use ornaments, bows, garlands, tinsel, and other items to decorate their trees. Let's play a game where we'll get to decorate a human Christmas tree!**

Split the group into two teams. Have each team stand at the opposite side of the room of one of the baskets. **Your team gets to pick one player to be your human Christmas tree. When I say, "Go," the first player on your team will run down to the other end of the room and grab one item out of the basket. Then she'll bring it back to your team and use it to decorate your human Christmas tree. The first team to have their tree fully decorated with all the items in the basket wins!**

Leader Tip: If you have a smaller group, you can keep everyone together and kids can decorate a leader or a kid volunteer! You can have them simply enjoy decorating their volunteer together with music playing. Or you can use a timer and have kids run to the basket and grab one item at a time, then play a second round to see if they can beat their time and decorate a second volunteer faster, using all the items in the basket.

LESSON 3 JESSE AND DAVID

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

GOD'S BIG STORY: God chooses Jesse's son, David, as Israel's next king and reminds the Israelites through the prophet Isaiah that the Promised One—a branch from Jesse's family tree—will one day come and change everything.

WORD OF WONDER: The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14

CURIOSITY 15 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Welcome Question: Have you ever wished you could see into the future? What do you wish you could know?
- Curiosity Questions
- Elementary STEM Activity: Make a Prediction
- Preteen Interactive Activity: The Invisible Bridge
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF 25–35 minutes • Large Group

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder

FAITH 15 minutes • Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY 10 minutes • Large Group or Small Group

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Elementary Responding in Worship: The Branch Grows
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Prayer Ornaments
- Blessing Your Kids

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

What if we could see the image of God in people the same way we can see freckles, dimples, or other family traits? Would it be easier for us to say, “I see God’s resemblance in them”? Would it help us treat people the way God intends?

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 16:1, 4–7. God reminds us that while we’re 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. Now 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 eventually the offspring of Jesse and David—King Jesus—came to show us what the reign of God looks like in person!

LESSON 3 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

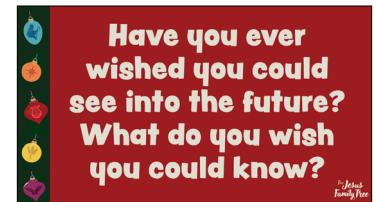
Choose between [The Jesus Family Tree Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesse and David Welcome Questions Slide

Before kids arrive, display the Jesse and David Welcome Questions Slide or write the following questions on a whiteboard: “Have you ever wished you could see into the future? What do you wish you could know?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome kids by name. Introduce yourself and encourage the kids to introduce themselves to each other. Invite kids to talk about the Welcome Questions or to draw their answers. Help younger kids and pre-readers by reading the question aloud to the group.

At your start time ...

Welcome your group enthusiastically by asking who’s excited about Christmas! Allow kids to respond. Then share your own answer to the Welcome Questions: **Have you ever wished you could see into the future? What do you wish you could know?** Invite several kids to share their answers with the group.

In today’s story, we’re going to see how God kept His promise to the world through Abraham’s family, even after a thousand years! God sees beyond what we see. And He had a plan all along. But first, it’s time to be curious!

Curiosity Questions

Ask 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.

I’m curious ...

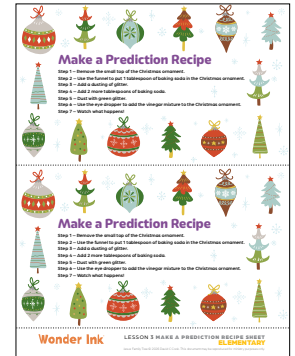
- **How does it make you feel when you don’t know what’s going to happen?**
- **Do you think it would be good or bad to know what will happen in the future? Why?**

Elementary STEM Activity: Make a Prediction

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only); vinegar (1 cup per group); food coloring; gallon pitcher; disposable cups (1 per group); bin or container (1 per group); clear, plastic Christmas ornaments with small, removable tops (1 per group); baking soda (1 tbsp per group); red and green glitter (1 container of each per group); tablespoons (1 per group); small turkey basters or eye droppers (1 per group); funnels (1 per group); whiteboard; dry-erase marker; red disposable cups (1 per group, optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Make a Prediction Recipe Sheet (1 for every 2 groups), Make a Prediction Slide, Jesse and David Wonder Truth Slide

Ahead of time, print copies of the Make a Prediction Recipe Sheet and cut them apart, so there are enough for each group to have one recipe. Mix several cups of vinegar with food coloring in a gallon pitcher. Pour the vinegar mixture into cups (one cup per small group). Set the supplies for each group in a separate bin or container, with each bin containing a clear, plastic Christmas ornament with a small, removable top, baking soda, a tablespoon, red and green glitter, a small turkey baster or eye dropper, and a funnel. An easy alternative to clear, plastic Christmas ornaments is red disposable cups.



Leader Tip: Consider performing the Make a Prediction experiment ahead of time so you know what to expect, even when the kids don’t!

Display the Make a Prediction Slide. **Let’s do a Christmas experiment!**

If you have a small group, gather everyone together. If you have a large group, help kids to form several smaller groups for the experiment. Assign an adult volunteer to help younger groups or create mixed-age groups with every group having at least one or two older kids. Give each group a bin or container of supplies and a cup of the vinegar mixture. **Look at the supplies in your bin. What do you see?** Give kids time to respond. **What can you do with these supplies? Let’s make predictions, or guesses, about what might happen in our experiment.** Allow kids to guess what’s going to happen. Write their ideas on the whiteboard. **These are fantastic ideas! Let’s see what happens!** Give each group a Make a Prediction Sheet. Allow time for groups to do the experiment inside their bin or container. The mixture will expand and bubble out of the ornament.



Make It Inclusive: Some kids find it intimidating to share their ideas in front of a large group. Consider giving kids time to share their predictions in their small groups and then invite volunteers to share with the larger group.

Let's imagine that the grid in front of you is a fast-flowing river. There's a bridge to get safely across it, but it's just below the surface of the water, where we can't see it. Your goal is to work together and get your whole group across to the other side safely, one person at a time. When it's your turn, you can choose a space to step on in the first row of the grid. Your leader will tell you if you're standing on the bridge or not. If you're on the bridge, you get to take another step. If not, you fall into the river. If that happens, you can give us a big "splash!" sound! Then go back to the end of the line, and the next person will try.

Whenever it's your turn, and you're on the river, you can step forward, left, or right. There are no diagonal or backwards steps. When it's not your turn, watch carefully so you know where other people have already stepped. That way you can help each other remember where to go, and you don't make the same mistakes as the people before you. Remember, you're working as a whole group to get everyone across. Are you ready?

Encourage kids to take turns trying to find the correct path across the bridge. When kids take a wrong step, remind them that even those steps help the group know where to go and where not to! Once a kid has discovered the whole way across, invite the rest of the kids to take their turn and follow the same path so they can all go across. Encourage the kids to help each other remember where to go! Once they're all on the other side, congratulate them for their teamwork and for getting everyone across the river safely.

If time allows and kids would like to play again, you can repeat the activity using the blank grid on the back of The Invisible Bridge Grid Sheet. Invite a kid volunteer to draw a new path in the blank grid using a pen or pencil and be the leader for the second round.

When you were trying to find your way across the river, you couldn't see the path ahead of you. But the leader could. The leader knew where you needed to go and had the plan in place all along. And that plan was for your best, even if you couldn't see it from where you were standing. In our lives, God sees everything—past, present, and future—and He always knows what's best. Display the Jesse and David Wonder Truth Slide. **Today's Wonder Truth is GOD SEES BEYOND WHAT WE SEE.**



Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesse and David Declaration Slide

Display the Jesse and David Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

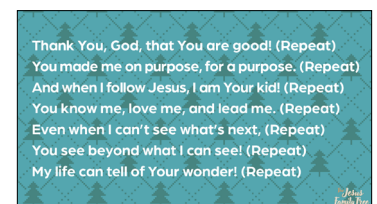
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Even when I can't see what's next, (Kids repeat.)

You see beyond what I can see! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



LESSON 3 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, we invite Your Holy Spirit to lead and teach us today. Thank You that You see all things, and Your plans are the best. As You prepared people's hearts for the Promised One—Jesus—to come, we ask You to prepare our hearts today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

God sees everything! God also sees us, loves us, and has good plans for us! Let's worship Him now through music. Play songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story—each one reinforces the others! **HEAR** it read directly from the Bible. **WATCH** it in a video. **EXPERIENCE** it through the live script.



SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesse and David Title Slide, [Jesse and David God's Big Story Video](#)

Display the Jesse and David Title Slide. Divide kids into three groups and make sure each group has a leader or a few strong readers. Invite the first two groups to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 16 and the third group to find Isaiah 11. Encourage kids who find the passage first to help their neighbors in their same group until everyone is on the correct page.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!

If everyone is reading from the same translation, invite the first group to read 1 Samuel 16:1, 4–7 aloud. Then encourage the second group to read 1 Samuel 16:8–13. Finally, the third group can read Isaiah

11:1–2. If kids are reading from different translations, invite one volunteer from each group to read aloud. Then do one or both of the following:

- Use the following Jesse and David Experience It! Script
- View [Jesse and David God's Big Story Video](#)

LESSON 3 JESSE AND DAVID EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: highlighter (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Crown Slides, Pitcher Slides, Tree Slides, Eyeball Slides, Experience It! Script (1 extra copy, optional)

Ahead of time, consider designating someone to display the slides as you narrate the Experience It! Script. You can give this volunteer a copy of the Experience It! Script with cues for the individual slides highlighted.

Today we will have fun being detectives! Detectives look carefully at clues to solve a mystery. By looking at clues, you'll get to help discover parts of today's story as I tell it. Are you ready? Pause to allow kids to respond. **Great! Let's get started.**

After the first humans sinned, disobeying God and breaking their relationship with Him, God had a plan to heal His relationship with people. He planned on blessing the whole world through a special family. Ruth and Boaz were part of God's special family, and they had a son named Obed. He was the father of Jesse, and Jesse had many sons. God chose his youngest son—David—for a very important job. Can you figure out what his job was?

Cue Crown Slides. **All right, detectives, I need your help! Let's take a close look at the screen. When you think you know what the object in the picture is, jump to your feet!** Show the first Crown Slide. After a few seconds, proceed to the next slide. Continue until the final Crown Slide is displayed. As kids jump up, you can pause the slides and call on them to guess what the object is. If the item is guessed correctly, you can advance all the way to the last Crown slide. **What do our detectives see?** Allow kids to respond. **Yes! A crown!** **What was David's special job?** Pause for kids to respond. **That's right, God chose Jesse's youngest son, David, to be the next king of Israel.** Invite kids to sit back down.



On the day God chose David to be Israel's next king, God saw the big picture. At this time, Saul was the king of Israel. He was a very royal figure, standing head and shoulders above everyone else. But Saul was not a good ruler, and he repeatedly disobeyed God. The people had wanted Saul as their king, but their choice was not God's best.

God had another king in mind. He told the prophet Samuel to go find the man named Jesse and his sons in the town of Bethlehem. God told Samuel to do something special to show that God had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be king. Detectives, what do you think God asked Samuel to do? Are you ready to see the clues? Look at the pictures on the screen, and when you think you know what they show, jump to your feet!

Display the first Pitcher Slide. Show each Pitcher Slide for a few seconds and then advance to the next slide. As the image zooms out and kids jump up, you can call on them to guess what the object is on the slides. If someone guesses correctly, you can progress through to the last Pitcher Slide. **Yes, it's a pitcher! What do you think God asked Samuel to do with a pitcher?** Allow kids to share their guesses. Then invite them to sit down.



Great thoughts! God told Samuel to anoint one of Jesse's sons as king, which means pouring oil on someone's head as a symbol of the special job God has given that person.

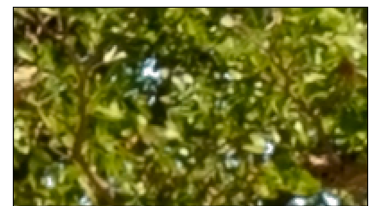
One by one, Jesse's sons appeared before Samuel yet God said none of them were the one He had chosen. Finally, Jesse sent for his youngest son, David. David was not as tall or strong as his older brothers, yet when Samuel saw him, God said, "Get up and anoint him. This is the one" (1 Samuel 16:12).

You see, God doesn't look at outward appearances like people do. God sees beyond what we see, and God knew David loved Him. So Samuel anointed David to show that he was God's choice to be the next king.

A few years later, David became king of Israel and served God with his whole heart, leading God's people well. King David became the greatest king Israel had ever known. Sadly, many of the kings after David turned their backs on the one true God. So Israel was divided into two kingdoms, and while God continued to show mercy to His people, they often wandered away from Him.

About two hundred years after David was king, the enemies of God's people were closing in, and it looked like the family line of Jesse and David was going to end. But then, God spoke through a prophet named Isaiah. Isaiah told the people that Jesse's family was like something we see every day. Detectives, can you figure out what that something was? Jump to your feet when you think you know it!

Display the first Tree Slide. As you progress through the slides, allow kids to guess what the slides show as they jump to their feet. Once the object is guessed correctly, advance to the last Tree Slide.

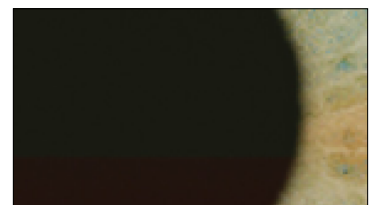


Great job, detectives! It's a tree! Invite kids to sit back down. Isaiah told the people, "Jesse's family is like a tree that has been cut down. A new little tree will grow from its stump. From its roots a Branch will grow and produce fruit" (Isaiah 11:1).

Have you ever heard of a family tree? A family tree is a way of explaining how people are related. Every child born or adopted into a family is like a branch of a tree, and with each generation, the tree grows.

God had plans for Jesse and David's family tree! Isaiah's words assured God's people that they would not be destroyed. Things might have looked really bad, but they didn't need to fear. How did the people know that they didn't need to be afraid? Let's look at our last clue, detectives! Jump to your feet when you've figured it out!

Display the first Eyeball Slide. As you go through the slides, allow kids to guess what the slides show as they jump up. Once the picture is guessed correctly, advance through to the last Eyeball Slide.



Great job figuring out this clue! It's an eyeball! Invite kids to sit back down. Jesse and David's family didn't need to fear, even when things looked really bad. Why? Because God sees beyond what we see, and He promised that Jesse's family tree would keep growing and that a very special branch would grow from it—the promised child who would change everything: Jesus.

God knew that about 700 years after Isaiah, a special child would be born in David's hometown, Bethlehem. He would be a branch of Jesse's family tree and would sit on David's throne as king, bringing peace to the whole world forever. God saw beyond what Jesse, David, and the people of Israel could see. God looked at their family tree and saw Jesus, our King forever. God sees beyond what we see!

Make It Inclusive: If you have kids who are unable to jump to their feet, you can ask the group to raise their hands instead, or to make a special sound, once they recognize the objects on the slides.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesse and David Wonder Truth Slide

Display the Jesse and David Wonder Truth Slide. **Our Wonder Truth and David today is GOD SEES BEYOND WHAT WE SEE.** Where did you see our Wonder Truth and David in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

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 many years later to show us in person what it looks like to have God as our King, reigning perfectly!



In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

In today's part of God's big story, what surprised you the most? Allow space for kids to think and respond.

Do you think Jesse or David ever thought that Jesus, the promised forever King, would come from their family tree? Why or why not? Allow kids to respond.

LESSON 3 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

— Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.

— Isaiah 7:14 (NIRV)

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), shatterproof Christmas ornament (1 per small group)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: music from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#), Word of Wonder Slide (optional), [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#) (optional)

Leader Tip: Kids may ask about the meaning of virgin. Keep your answer simple by explaining that a virgin is an unmarried woman. Some translations (like NIV) use the word conceive, which you can explain as “she will have a baby.” With these kinds of questions, it’s often best to defer to families: “That’s a great question. We can’t get into it right now, but you can talk more about it with your parents or adult family members.”

The Word of Wonder for The Jesus Family Tree series is Isaiah 7:14. In God’s big story today, God made a promise through the prophet Isaiah, and He kept it! David’s family tree would keep growing and would produce a very special branch, a child who would be the king on David’s throne. This child would be Immanuel. He would be God with us! Let’s read the Word of Wonder together.

Encourage the kids to find Isaiah 7:14 in their Bibles. Invite them to read the verse aloud together in a baby voice. Then invite them to read it again in a loud, bold voice. If desired, you can also view the [Elementary Word of Wonder Video](#).

Display the Word of Wonder Slide. Invite kids to sit in a circle on the floor or in chairs. Show the kids the shatterproof Christmas ornament. **Let’s play a game to see if we can memorize our Word of Wonder. When the music**

The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.
—Isaiah 7:14



starts, I'll hand this Christmas ornament to someone in the circle. You get to pass the ornament around the circle as quickly as you can without dropping it! When the music stops, whoever is holding the ornament gets to say the verse, along with the two people sitting next to that person. Then when the music starts, you can start passing the ornament again. Are you ready?

Begin playing music from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids start passing the ornament around the circle. Every now and then, stop the music and invite the kid holding the ornament to say the verse aloud, along with the kids on her right and on her left. A leader can also help them say the verse if needed. Try to stop the music at times when different kids will get to say the verse each time.

Make It Inclusive: If a kid feels anxious about participating, invite him to help start and stop the music. If they read or have memorized the Word of Wonder, they can also serve as a “Word of Wonder Leader” and lead the group in saying the verse each time the music stops.

Elementary Questions

- **Who was Jesse’s youngest son?** (*David*)
- **Who did God send to anoint David as king?** (*the prophet Samuel*)
- **It looked like David’s family would come to an end, but God made a promise through the prophet Isaiah. What did God promise?** (*that a branch from Jesse’s family tree would be born, a special child who would sit on David’s throne as King and bring peace to the world forever*)
- **Who was the special branch of Jesse’s family tree, who would sit on David’s throne as King forever?** (*Jesus!*)
- **Do you think God still sees beyond what you can see for your family? Tell us about it.**

Make It Inclusive: Open-ended questions can be difficult for some kids to answer. Consider modifying the questions into yes/no format or offering two answer choices for each.

God included so many people in His plan to bring His promise to the world: Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David, Isaiah, and many more! These people couldn’t have dreamed of all the amazing things God would do! But God is faithful, and He sees beyond what we see, and His plan includes you and me too! Let’s talk with God and thank Him for knowing us and loving us so much!

Preteen Questions

- **Who was Jesse’s youngest son?** (*David*)
- **Why did Samuel think that David’s older brothers would be God’s choice to be the next king? What did God say about it?** (*The older brothers looked stronger and taller, but God didn’t look at outward appearances. Instead, God looked at the heart, and He chose David.*)
- **Who was the prophet who spoke God’s promise about Jesse and David’s family tree?** (*Isaiah*)
- **What did God promise would happen through Jesse and David’s family tree?** (*that a branch from Jesse’s family tree would be born, a special child who would sit on David’s throne as King and bring peace to the world forever*)
- **How long after God spoke through the prophet Isaiah did it take for God’s promise to come true?** (*about 700 years*)
- **Why does it matter to us that God sees beyond what we see?**

God included so many people in His plan to bring His promise to the world: Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David, Isaiah, and many more! These people couldn't have dreamed of all the amazing things God would do! But God is faithful, and He sees beyond what we see, and His plan includes you and me too! Let's talk with God and thank Him for knowing us and loving us so much!

Small Group Prayer Time

Encourage kids to share their praises and prayer requests. Allow time for God to move in their hearts and for kids to sit in the wonder of what God has done by His good plans coming true over so many years and with so many people. Close your prayer time by praising God for knowing all things, and by thanking Him for loving us and having good plans in mind for His people, including us!

LESSON 3 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group or Small Group

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sees Beyond What We See

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; Isaiah 11

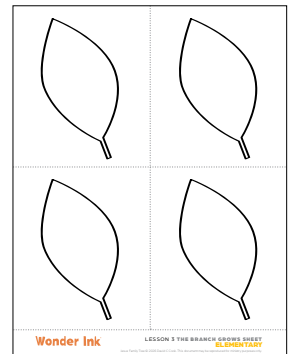
WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

Elementary Responding in Worship: The Branch Grows

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), butcher paper (1 large sheet), thick black marker (prep only), painter's tape, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Branch Grows Sheet (1 per 4 kids plus 1 extra), The Branch Grows Slide, music from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print one copy of The Branch Grows Sheet for every four kids plus one extra copy and cut out the leaves. Spread out a large sheet of butcher paper on the floor or on a long table. Use a thick black marker to draw a tree stump at the bottom of the butcher paper. Then draw the rest of the tree with lots of branches. At the top of the tree, write "God's Family Tree" in large letters. Then write "Jesse" on one of the cut out leaves and tape it to the tree stump. Write "David" on a second leaf and tape it to the tree, just above Jesse's leaf. Then write "Jesus" on a third leaf and tape it to the tree a short distance above David's leaf.



Display The Branch Grows Slide and gather the kids. **Today we learned that God had a special plan for Jesse and David's family tree and for the whole world. He promised that He would send Jesus, who would be King on David's throne forever. Jesus was the branch of Jesse's family tree that was promised through the prophet Isaiah. And even though people along the way might not have been able to see what God was doing, especially when things looked really bad, God still saw the big picture, and He kept His promise.**



God knew the world needed a Savior. People sometimes disobey God and break their relationship with Him. By sending Jesus, that relationship could be forever changed and restored. Jesus would bring light and hope to a world that so desperately needed Him. And someday, He'll come back again to rule as the true King forever.

God saw beyond what we see, and He knew that one day you and I would need a Savior too. Because of Jesus, we can be part of God's family. God loves us more than we can imagine! And He wants us to be part of His family tree.

Leader Tip: This is a great opportunity to share with kids what it means to have a relationship with God. Refer to the Salvation Path resource and celebrate together that God invites us to be part of His family and to be with Him forever!

Give each kid a cut out leaf and set out coloring utensils. Invite kids to write their names on their leaves. Then encourage them to look at the tree on the butcher paper. Point out the leaves on the tree already for Jesse, David, and Jesus, and remind them that God invites us also to be part of His family. Give them time to tape their leaves onto the higher branches of the tree, wherever they choose. Then they can use the coloring utensils to color the branches around their own leaves, working together to make the whole tree colorful and beautiful! Consider playing music from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as the kids color.

When kids are finished, encourage them all to look at the tree again. **Each one of you has made your own mark on the tree and had an impact on it, and the tree is beautiful. Your name is included in this tree, and it connects all of us together in God's family. God has always known each of you throughout your whole life. He loves you very much, and He wants for each of you to be part of His family!**

Preteen Responding in Worship: Prayer Ornaments

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), string (6" lengths, 1 per kid plus 1 extra), construction paper circles (4" or 5" diameter, 1 per kid and leader), markers or colored pens, hole punches (1 per 4–5 kids), stickers (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Prayer Ornaments Slide, soft music from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, purchase or cut out construction paper circles, one per kid. Cut 6" lengths of string, one per kid plus one extra.

Display the Prayer Ornaments Slide. **Today we learned in God's big story that God sees beyond what we see. When Samuel went to anoint the next king of Israel, David probably did not expect what happened! But God saw David's heart and had a good plan. And David became Israel's best king.**



Yet even David sinned and disobeyed God sometimes, and we do too. God knew that we would all need a Savior, who could take away our sin and help us be right with God again. God promised that a future King would come, the Promised One who would rule forever and make all things right. Today we know that the promised King is Jesus.

But the times between God making that promise and Jesus' coming were really hard. There were times when it looked like God had forgotten His promise, and people couldn't see how God would ever work things out for good, but He did. God kept His promise, and He knew all along that Jesus was coming to change everything. Even though God's people couldn't see how it would happen, Jesus did come. And one day, He will come back again and take up His place as the true and perfect King forever.

Sometimes God works in our lives in ways we don't expect. Sometimes wonderful things happen, and we can thank God for those! Sometimes we face really hard things or times when we're

not sure how things will turn out. And while God never wants bad things to happen to us, He is always with us, and He loves us. We can talk with Him and ask for His help in those times. Sometimes He also gives us other people who can help us along the way. But no matter what happens, God has a good plan and sees the big picture, and He wants what's best for us. He loves us, He sees everything, and one day, He will make all things right.

Leader Tip: This activity may bring to mind difficult questions or circumstances for some kids. Consider having leaders available to talk with kids who may want a conversation about a relationship with God, about difficult things they may be facing, or about questions they may have.

Give each kid a construction paper circle and distribute the markers or colored pens. You can also distribute Christmas-themed stickers or other stickers, if desired. **Today we have a chance to make prayer ornaments. We'll have some time to reflect on a few questions to help guide our prayers, and then we can draw our prayer responses on our ornaments. At the end, we'll get to add other decorations to our ornaments.**

Consider playing soft worship music in the background from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids reflect on the following questions and draw their responses on their ornaments. Read each question one at a time, giving kids time and space between each one to reflect and to draw their prayers. Then give kids time to add anything else they would like to their ornaments. Consider making a prayer ornament yourself as well and encourage other leaders to do the same, to model for your kids this type of reflective prayer.

- **What are some good things in your life that you would like to thank God for?**
- **Is there a situation in your life that you're anxious about or unsure how it'll turn out?**
- **Has God ever worked things out or answered your prayers in a way you didn't expect?**

Once all the kids are finished, distribute hole punches and give each person a 6" length of string. Show them where to punch a hole at the top of the ornament. Then show them how to tie a loop through the hole so they can hang it up on a tree or somewhere else at home if they wish. Some kids may need help tying their string in a loop.

Leader Tip: If available, use wooden circles with pre-drilled holes instead of construction paper and a hole punch. If you have a Christmas tree, invite kids to either hang their prayer ornaments on the tree or take them home. If they choose to hang them, consider including a brief prayer as they do, inviting them to release their concerns to God.

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesse and David Blessing Slide

Display the Jesse and David Blessing Slide. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May you trust that God sees beyond what we see. May He help you remember how He has kept His promises in the past and that He has good plans for you. Jesus came for you and He loves you more than you can imagine!

