



## LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

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

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Because of Jesus, I Am a Child of God

**SCRIPTURE:** Galatians 3; 1 John 3

**WORD OF WONDER:** Exodus 15:11c

Read Galatians 3:5–14 and 1 John 3:1. When I was six, a chaperone at church camp led me in a prayer to receive Christ—a prayer to tell Jesus I needed His forgiveness and wanted to follow Him as Lord.

I got the impression that the exact words of that prayer were very important, almost magical. It was a “repeat after me” kind of prayer where I repeated what the chaperone said, line by line.

I meant every word of it. But as I grew, I sometimes worried I had said the prayer wrong. What if I didn’t repeat it perfectly? Was there something else I needed to do? To earn God’s love? To stay in His good graces?

The truth is Jesus has already done all the doing. He’s already made a way for those who are far from God to become part of God’s family. Including you and me. It’s not a trick. It’s not a test.

If you have faith in Jesus, then you are a child of God. Really and truly. There are no more boxes to check. You can live your life secure in the Father’s love, led by His Spirit. Will you walk in the light of that love today? Because of Jesus, you can. Because of Jesus, you are now and forever God’s child.

—**Michael Rade**

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## LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD

### DID YOU KNOW?

### FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

#### WHO?

Abraham, whose name means “father of many nations,” was the ancestor of the 12 tribes of Israel. As Israel’s ancestor and the first convert to the worship of Yahweh, Abraham became the example for Gentiles who turn to Christ and join God’s family.

#### WHAT?

Paul tells the Galatian Christians that Abraham’s faith made him right with God. Likewise, those who have faith like Abraham are children of Abraham, and more importantly, children of God. Faith—specifically belief in Jesus—makes us God’s sons and daughters, led by His Spirit.

#### WHERE?

Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia, a Roman province in central Asia Minor (now modern-day Turkey). Many scholars believe Paul’s audience included only the churches in southern Galatia (Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe), but some suggest an audience in northern Galatia.

#### WHEN?

God’s promise to Abraham was made about 430 years before the people of Israel received the Law of Moses. Paul’s letter is addressed to Gentile Christians, who put their faith in Jesus after His death and resurrection. Paul is comparing their faith to Abraham’s.

#### CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

God promised to bless the nations through Abraham’s descendants. Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, was born to bring salvation to the ends of the earth. Jesus blessed the nations by making the way for all people to be part of God’s family.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Activity: Playdoh Crosses

**SUPPLIES:** play dough

Before kids arrive, set out play dough on a table. Make a cross shape out of play dough to use as an example and set it aside.

**We have some play dough to play with today! We're going to make crosses out of play dough.** Show the kids the sample cross you prepared. **Can you take a piece of play dough and roll it into a snake?** Demonstrate how to roll the play dough into a snake shape. **Great job! Let's do that again with another piece of play dough.** Give each child a second small piece of play dough and have him roll it into a snake shape again.

**Now let's put our two pieces together and make a cross.** Demonstrate how to put one piece of play dough on top of the other to make a cross. **This shape is called a cross. Today we're going to learn how God used a cross and a man named Jesus to help us become children of God! Our Wonder Truth today is **BECAUSE OF JESUS, I AM A CHILD OF GOD.****

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.

**BECAUSE OF JESUS,**—*Make a cross with your arms.*

**I AM**—*Point to self.*

**A CHILD OF GOD**—*Point up.*



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## LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### 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, thank You for Your words in the Bible. Jesus, thank You for showing us who God is. Holy Spirit, help us understand more about You today. Thank You for making the way for us to be children of God! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? ***The Bible***

Ask: Why is the Bible special? ***Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.***

**Tell the Bible story** – use the script provided:

Today we're going to talk about a family. God made people, and God loves all people.

But sin messed everything up. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is not what God wants. Sin made people far away from God. But God had a plan to bring us close to Him again with Jesus.

God made a promise to a man named Abraham. God promised to make Abraham's family very, very big and to bless the whole world through them! Abraham believed God and trusted Him. God kept His promise to Abraham and his family. That family is God's family. And many, many years after Abraham lived, Jesus was born into that family. Now we can be part of God's family because of Jesus.

When Jesus died on the cross, He made the way for all people to be a part of God's family. When we trust in Jesus to forgive our sins, the promise God made to Abraham is for us too.

We can have faith in God. Faith means trusting God and obeying Him. The Bible says, "Those who have faith are children of Abraham" (Galatians 3:7). We become part of Abraham's family when we trust in God and have faith. Jesus forgives us and saves us from sin. "He did it so that we might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit" (Galatians 3:14). The Holy Spirit is God's presence. The Holy Spirit lives in us when we believe in Jesus.

The Bible says, "See what amazing love the Father has given us! Because of it, we are called children of God. And that's what we really are!" (1 John 3:1). God made us and knows us. God sent Jesus so we could be His children. We can be led by His Spirit. We are all part of God's family! Now all followers of Jesus know that because of Him, they are children of God.

## Word of Wonder

### WORD OF WONDER

Your glory fills me with wonder. You do amazing things.

Exodus 15:11c