



## 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.



## LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

## Curiosity Activity: Airplane Cross

**SUPPLIES:** paper (1 sheet pr kid, plus extras for leader), scissors (leader only)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Airplane Cross Steps

Ahead of time, print and review the Airplane Cross Steps printable. Hold up a piece of paper and show the kids. **How many of you have ever tried to make a paper airplane? Let's see if we can turn this sheet of paper into a paper airplane!** Hold the paper vertically.

Step 1. **First, we need to take the corner of our paper and fold it over toward the middle.** Fold the left corner 45 degrees over to the middle of the paper so that what was the top left side of the paper lines up with the right side of the paper.

Step 2. Then fold the top right corner down toward the middle at a 45-degree angle so that the point goes downward along the left slant of the paper. **Now our paper kind of looks like a house!**

Step 3. **Now fold the house in half.** Fold the paper in half vertically by folding the right side of the house over to the left. **Next, we need to give our airplane wings.**

Step 4. Create the wings of the airplane by folding each "flap" toward the folded edge. Hold it up to show the kids that it looks like a paper airplane.

**It's an airplane!** Carefully throw the airplane over the kids' heads and allow one of them to bring it back to you. **How many of you have ever ridden on an airplane? Allow kids to respond. Can we get to heaven by riding on an airplane? Of course not! There is only one way for people to get to heaven. Heaven is where God is. There is only one way for people to become children of God and be in God's family. I'm going to use this airplane to give us a clue.** Hold the airplane up and show the kids again.

Step 5. Use scissors to make a straight cut in the middle of the "body" of the plane (with the sides folded flat against the plane sides) from top to bottom. **What does our paper look like now? It's a cross! The only way for us to get to heaven and for us to be children of God is with Jesus and what He did for us on the cross! We'll learn more about it in our story today. We'll learn how, because of Jesus, we can be children of God.**





Curiosity

**Belief**

Faith

Identity

## 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**

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

Exodus 15:11c



Curiosity

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## LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Game: This or That?

Today we're learning that because of Jesus, we can all be children of God. It doesn't matter what our family here on earth looks like; when we trust in Jesus, we can all be part of God's family! Let's play a game of This or That to see how special we all are as children of God.

Play a game of This or That with the kids and use the following prompts (or come up with your own):

- If you don't have any brothers or sisters, jump up and down ... or if you have one or more brothers or sisters, spin in circles.
- If your family has a pet, touch your toes ... or if you don't have a pet, touch your nose.
- If you go to school, put your hands on your head ... or if you don't go to school, put your hands on your knees.
- If you like to eat vegetables, rub your tummy ... or if you don't like vegetables, put your hand over your mouth.
- If you like to watch TV, give someone a high five ... or if you'd rather go outside, run in place.
- If your family likes to eat ice cream, stand up ... or if your family likes to eat breakfast foods more, sit down.
- If you know that God loves you, smile really big ... everyone smile, because He loves all of us!

Families are wonderful, but they're not perfect ... at least, not here on earth. What kinds of things do you think God's perfect family does together? Encourage kids to listen to each other as they answer. **Because of Jesus, we can live as part of God's family!**

**Leader Tip:** Be sensitive to all kids as you discuss God's perfect family. Kids may be experiencing difficult family situations you aren't aware of. So reinforce that, because of Jesus, they can be part of God's family. And stress that God is always loving, always kind, and always good.