



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

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher

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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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: manila paper, pictures of people, glue

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: We Are Children of God 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 prepare for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Child of God Collage

Set up: Set out sheets of paper and pictures of people. Set out glue nearby. Write "Because of Jesus, I am a child of God" at the top of the kids' paper in large letters.

Play: Invite kids to glue pictures of people on their paper to make a Child of God collage. Tell the kids that because of Jesus, all people have the chance to become children of God!

Play Station: We Are Children of God Coloring Sheet

Set up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of themselves.



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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



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LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Cross Picture

SUPPLIES: paper with a cross taped on it (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils

Today we're learning that because of Jesus, we are children of God. Let's make a picture that we can take home to remind us of what Jesus did for us.

Give a sheet of paper to each kid.

Now we need to cover our papers with color. You can color your paper however you like, but make sure you color all over and around the pieces of tape. Once the kids have covered their papers with color, you can help them

carefully remove the tape from the paper. They should be able to see the outline of the cross from where the tape was on their paper.

You can take your picture of the cross home to remind you of what a beautiful thing Jesus did. Jesus died on the cross for us so we could become children of God.



Leader Tip: To help kids be able to cover their papers adequately, consider using old crayons and taking the wrappers off. This way, the kids will be able to color with the crayons' sides and cover a big area quickly. You could also use paint instead of coloring utensils to cover the papers.