

“What’s His Name?” - LESSON 4

“Everlasting Father”

Main Focus:

Our Heavenly Father loved us so much, He sent Jesus to save us



Power Verse:

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!”

- 1 John 3:1



Whatchagaddaknow:

“My Heavenly Father Is The BEST!”

LEADER’S INFO

Many children today are forced to live without a Dad. Whether it’s because of divorce or pre-marital pregnancy, living without a Dad is very difficult for children to cope with.

While living without a Dad can be hard, children can rest in the fact that we ALL have an incredible Heavenly Father who has promised to be there for us no matter what. If times get tough, He’s there. If we mess up and sin, He’s still there. He’s not going to leave us no matter what!

In this lesson, the children will learn that all of us have the same Heavenly Father who is perfect in every way! He is our Everlasting Father that we can depend on - no matter what!



“The Spark” Intro Video

“My Heavenly Father”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Alexis teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Joy The Wrapper”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Santa’s Helper Relay”



Bible Story

“Joseph Obeys”



Power Verse Video

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!”

- 1 John 3:1



Call To Action

“Everlasting Father”



REWIND!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

Our Heavenly Father loved us so much, He sent Jesus to save us



Power Verse:

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!”

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Whatchagaddaknow:

“My Heavenly Father Is The BEST!”

Lesson 4 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 4 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video

- “Lesson 4 - Whatchagaddaknow - Teaching” Video
- “Lesson 4 - Whatchagaddaknow - Trigger” Video

Character Skit

- “Joy The Wrapper” Theme Graphic/Music
- Joy Costume
- Wrapping Paper And Accessories

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Santa’s Helper Relay” Graphic
- Many Cones And Chairs
- Boxes Of Various Sizes (At Least 12)

Bible Story

- “Lesson 4 - Bible Story” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 4 - Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Lesson 4 - Call To Action” Graphics
- Trick Candle
- Matches

REWIND!

- “Rewind!” Bumper Video
- “Lesson 4 - Rewind!” Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Print Piece
- Design A Dad Print Pieces
- Scissors
- Crayons, Colored Pencils, Or Markers
- Tape Or Glue
- Heavenly Father Print Piece

“The Spark” Intro Video

“My Heavenly Father”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Alexis teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”

Character Skit

“Joy, The Wrapper”

Offering Time

Game Time!

“Santa’s Helper Relay”

Bible Story

“Joseph Obeys”

Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

“Everlasting Father”

REWIND!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey kids! Today, we are continuing our series, “What’s His Name?” It’s ALL about Christmas! We are learning about an important prophecy all about the day Jesus would be born. It contains lots of names used to describe Jesus. So far we learned that Jesus is Wonderful, Counselor, and Mighty God.

We are going to get into the next name Isaiah used...but I have a question for you. Did you know that the person on your right is related to you? Not only that, but did you know that the person on your left is also related to you?

It’s true! Everyone who is a Christian, that’s right - ALL Christians are related! Do you know how? It’s because we all have the SAME Father! I know, I am probably confusing you. I promise - I will explain it in a moment. But before we get any further...I want you to check out this video!

(play “The Spark” Intro Video)

Leader: So, now do you get it? God is our Heavenly Father who loves us so much! And, even though our Earthly fathers are not perfect - God IS! He is our perfect Heavenly Father that we can always count on. He is our Everlasting Father. But, right now, let’s check in to find out “Whatchagaddaknow?”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow - Teaching” Video)

CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Joy the Wrapper” *(Joy is an extreme Christmas wrapper - she really gets into her package wrapping! She’s a perfectionist and is here to get the job done. She dresses in festive Christmas attire, including a “toolbelt” full of Christmas wrapping supplies.)*

Joy: *(Enters frazzled and frustrated)* ABANDONED! DESERTED! Left alone in my time of gift-wrapping need!

Leader: *(Confused but calm)* Joy? Are you okay?

Joy: NO. I HAVE BEEN BETRAYED! My “Friend” who promised to wrap with me ALL morning *(points to empty space beside her)* is GONE.

Leader: What exactly happened?

Joy: Well, I was wrapping presents this morning, and I needed someone to hold the wrapping paper down because it kept springing up like an angry Christmas snake! So I asked my friend, Jingle-Jerry, to hold it down. But THEN he left me for a hot chocolate break. A HOT CHOCOLATE BREAK! And he didn’t even invite me!

Leader: So, he... just walked away?

Joy: YES. One minute he’s there holding the paper, the next minute he’s like, *(imitates walking away)* “Bye, Joy! I’m going to get some yummy, marshmallowy goodness!” And he never came back! I stood there holding that paper for SEVENTEEN MINUTES. My arm fell asleep!

Leader: I’m sorry, Joy.

Joy: As I said, I was LEFT. ABANDONED. Like a snowman in July.

Leader: Joy, sometimes people leave. Friends walk away. People we trust don’t always stay. And that hurts. But here’s the truth: your Heavenly Father will NEVER leave you.

Joy: *(Soft gasp)* Never-ever-ever-ever?

Leader: Never! Not when you’re lonely. Not when you’re scared. Not when life is hard. Not even for one second.

Joy: Not even for hot chocolate?!

Leader: *(Smiling)* Not even for hot chocolate!

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CHARACTER SKIT *(continued)*

Joy: So... even if EVERY friend I have disappears, God will still be there?

Leader: Yes! He is our Everlasting Father – He will be there for us forever!

Joy: And He doesn't quit on me halfway through wrapping a present?

Leader: God won't ever quit on you!

Joy: Not even when I wrinkle the paper... (picks up box; it's a disaster) ...THIS BAD?

Leader: Joy... God's not going anywhere.

Joy: Wow. Jingle Jerry leaves every five minutes! It's nice to have someone who is always there, no matter what!

Leader: And that someone is God, your Father in Heaven. He loves you, watches over you, and stays with you every moment.

Joy: If He never leaves ME, I'm never leaving HIM! I'd better see if Jingle Jerry is back yet with his hot chocolate. Hopefully, he brought me one! I'm Joy the Wrapper. Merry almost Christmas, everyone. Keep on wrapping!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME!

“Santa’s Helper Relay”

Items Needed For Game:

Many cones and chairs; at least twelve boxes of various sizes

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Preparation:

Choose two boys and two girls to play. Place the boxes of various sizes in stacks of three at one end of the room. Create an obstacle course of cones and chairs between the starting line and the boxes.

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How To Play:

This is a relay race. One player on each team will race through the obstacle course to reach the “gifts” at the opposite end of the room. The player will then grab a stack of three boxes and make their way back through the obstacle course to drop the boxes off at the starting line before tagging the next person in line. If a player drops any of the boxes, they must stop, restack them, and then continue through the course. The first team to get two stacks of boxes back to the starting line is declared the winner!



Bible Story

“Joseph Obeys”

Materials Needed:

The Bible Story graphics for Lesson 4; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the passage in Matthew 1:20-25; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Matthew, chapter 1. Before Jesus was born, the angel of God had appeared to his mother Mary and told her that God had placed a baby in her tummy. She was to name him Jesus, and He would be the Savior of the world.

Well, Joseph, Mary’s fiance, was having a difficult time believing this. He wasn’t sure how to handle a fiance who thinks she’s seeing angels and having God’s son. (*show pic*) He decided he would just break off his engagement to Mary quietly. He didn’t want to bring any shame upon Mary at all. He loved her, but was just very confused about it all.

Just when Joseph was going to break off his engagement, guess who appeared to him? (*show pic*) That’s right! Gabriel, the same angel who appeared to Mary, appeared to him, also, and told him, “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.” I’m sure Joseph was a little scared by the angel appearing out of nowhere, but he listened very carefully as Gabriel gave him God’s instructions.

(*show pic*) “She will give birth to a son. You will name him Jesus.” Now, you have to understand something. Back in those days, the name you gave to a child was very important. It often carried meaning with it. Joseph had probably already thought about what name he was going to give his first-born son. Now, the angel was telling him that God already had a name picked out.

It would have been easy for Joseph to say, “No.” He could have ignored the angel’s instructions and just continued with his plan to break off his engagement with Mary. But that is not what he did at all. (*show pic*) Joseph did exactly as the angel told him to do. He obeyed, even though it meant that everyone else would not understand. He obeyed God’s plan even though it was a very hard thing to do.

Because of his obedience, Joseph became the earthly father of Jesus. Jesus’ Heavenly Father is the same as your and my Heavenly Father - GOD! In your lesson today, you are going to learn how God is our EVERLASTING FATHER! He will always love us, and he will never leave us!





Call To Action

“Everlasting Father”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 4; “trick candle” (*one that will reignite even after you blow it out*); matches

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “Lesson 4 - Call To Action - Title”

The Message: (*title slide*)



I want everyone to close your eyes and I want you to picture what your family looks like. What does it look like? (*allow response*) We have a lot of different families represented in this room. All of our families are different, and that is really cool. Some families have pets. Some of you live with your mom and dad. Some of you might live with your grandparents. You could even just live with your mom or your dad. It’s cool to think about how a group of kids with completely different families can come together.

Yes, our families look different. And the way your family looks might make you happy or sad. But no matter what your family looks like or who you live with there is one thing that will never change...

You Are A Child Of God (*slide*)

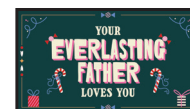


We all belong to God. The Bible even tells us some amazing things about how we are child of God. Genesis 1:27 says “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Psalm 139:16 says “You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.”

God created you the way he wanted you to be. You are a child of God. And nothing can ever change that. No matter where you go, no matter what you do you will always be a child of God. And because we belong to God he is our Father.

Some of you don’t have a father in your life. I know it’s tough and not easy to not have a father. But God is your father, and He is an Everlasting Father! And...

Your Everlasting Father Loves You (*slide*)



God loves you. The Bible says before you were born, God knew you. Before you spoke a word, He knew you. Before you ever committed a sin, God knew you would and chose to love you anyway. He loves you so much

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

He sent His only Son to earth as a baby to live and to die on the cross for you. He loves you. You might be thinking, “But how can God love me? I don’t feel loved.” How you feel doesn’t affect the decision God made about you. He loves you, in spite of your faults and failures. He knows you fully and loves you deeply. And he does so many things to love you.

Your Everlasting Father listens to you. He hears you. He doesn’t turn you away or ignore you. He is a good Father. He has good gifts for His children. Luke 11:9-10 says “...Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Your Everlasting Father takes care of you and provides for you. He will always be there and is watching out for you. Matthew 6 says “So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.”

Your Everlasting Father protects you and keeps you safe. No matter what comes against you, you are a child of God. Nothing can steal you from Him. Nothing can take Him away. In Him, and with Him you find rest, refuge, peace and safety. Isaiah 41:10 says “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Your Everlasting Father loves you enough to do all these things for you. God will always listen to, provide for, and protect you.

You’ve heard me say a word several times today. Everlasting. Who knows what that word means? That’s right - it’s forever. So when I say God is your Everlasting Father it means...

Your Everlasting Father Won’t Leave You *(slide)*



He will not walk away from you, abandon you or give up on you. He is always there - forever. You can walk away from Him, but if you do, He is always waiting to welcome you home. His love is everlasting and eternal. (light the “trick” candle) This candle is going to represent God’s love for you - warm and bright. Sometimes things happen in life that are hard. Sometimes pain and darkness comes into our lives. We think, “God has left me. He’s not with me anymore.” (blow out the candle) But even though it seems like God is not there, He is our Everlasting Father (candle will reignite on its own) and He will never leave us. We can trust Him! He is our Everlasting Father!

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Pray for kids to remember that no matter what happens God will always be there. God will never leave, he will always listen, and that he will provide for and protect them. Also, this is a chance to pray for kids that don’t have an earthly father, and that they would be comforted in knowing that God is their Everlasting Father.



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 4 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “My Heavenly Father Is The BEST!”

2. What is the name of the man in our Bible Story?

Answer: Joseph

3. True or False: Joseph was excited about what the angel told Mary.

Answer: False

4. Who appeared to Joseph?

Answer: The Angel, Gabriel

5. What words did we learn about today that Isaiah used to describe Jesus?

Answer: Everlasting Father

6. According to our lesson today, “You Are A _____ Of God.”

Answer: Child

7. According to our lesson today, “Your Everlasting Father _____ You.”

Answer: Loves

8. According to our lesson today, “Your Everlasting Father Won’t _____ You.”

Answer: Leave

9. True Or False: Joseph was Jesus’ Everlasting Father.

Answer: False

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: I John 3:1