



LEADER PREP PAGE 1

READ THIS!

Sunday, August 30th – **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

Contributor to Wonder Ink

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH

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.

TODDLER TIME

2s/3s

Activity: Play Dough Crosses

WHAT YOU NEED: play dough

WHAT YOU DO: 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.

WHAT YOU SAY: 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.*

Activity: I See a Child of God!

WHAT YOU NEED: shatter-proof handheld mirror

WHAT YOU SAY: Look what I have here. It's a mirror. If I look in the mirror, I see someone very special! I see a child of God! Would you like to look in the mirror and see who you see?

WHAT YOU DO: Give each kid a chance to look in the mirror. Ask the kids who they see in the mirror and remind them that they're children of God!

You're all so very special, and because of Jesus, each one of you is a child of God! Today we'll learn in God's big story how because of Jesus, you are a child of God.

God's Big Story

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, toy people (at least 6) (can use the Little People from the shelves)

WHAT YOU SAY: Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about Jesus and something very important that He did. Encourage the kids to say, "Jesus." Let's find out from the Bible what Jesus did!

WHAT YOU DO: Before you begin, gather several toy people and set them nearby. Gather kids together. Show the kids the toy people. **Today we're going to talk about a family. Look at all of these people. Do you think they all belong to the same family?**

God made people, and God loves all people. Give one of the toy figures to a toddler. **Do you think God loves this person? Yes, 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. Take one of the toy people and move it far away from the rest. **But God had a plan to bring us close to Him again with Jesus.**

A long time before Jesus died on the cross, 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! Hand out a few more toy people to toddlers. **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 beat death and stopped the power of sin. Jesus 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. Go to the toy person that you previously relocated and move it back with the others.

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. Let's all sit together with these toy people. Gather kids and all the toy people together. **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

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, Word of Wonder [Slide](#)

WORD OF WONDER

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

—Exodus 15:11c

WHAT YOU DO: Display the Word of Wonder [Slide](#).

WHAT YOU SAY: The Word of Wonder for the Faith Begins with Wonder series is [Exodus 15:11c](#). Let's say the Word of Wonder together.

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

- **YOUR GLORY FILLS ME**—Hold hands up above your head, then move them down to your sides.
- **WITH WONDER.**—Burst hands to the sides above your head.
- **YOU DO**—Point up.
- **AMAZING THINGS.**—Jump up and burst hands out to the sides as wide as you can.
- **EXODUS 15:11C**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

WHAT YOU SAY: Let's talk to God. God, thank You for showing us how much You love us by sending Jesus to save us. This week, help us remember that we are Your children. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: As you go about your week, may you remember that you are special, important, and loved. Because of Jesus, you are a child of God!

Activity: Find the Cross

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), paper

Before you begin, cut out a cross shape from paper and hide it somewhere in your room.

In God's big story today, we learned how God showed us His love by sending Jesus to die on the cross for us so we can be children of God. Let's see if we can find a cross hidden in our room to remind us how much God loves us.

Let kids try to find the cross that you have hidden in the room. Repeat as time allows. You can give the kids clues by using the names of children who are close to where the cross is hidden: for instance, "I think Jalen is close to the cross. Do you see it, Jalen?"