

Sunday, August 30 – **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 30

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

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Play Stations (these can be done at the beginning of class or saved for the end to help manage chaos during pick up!)

WHAT YOU NEED: shatter-proof handheld mirrors (2–3), dry-erase markers, whiteboards (optional), chalkboards and chalk (optional), coloring utensils, [We Are Children of God Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

WHAT YOU DO: Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

WHAT YOU SAY: Welcome to church! 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?

1. Play Station: I Am a Child of God

Set up: Set out shatter-proof handheld mirrors on a table. Place some dry-erase markers nearby.

Play: Kids can use the dry-erase markers to draw hair, mustaches, beards, hats, etc., on the mirrors so when they look into the mirror it looks like they are wearing what they have drawn. Remind the kids that no matter what someone looks like, that person has the chance to become a child of God because of Jesus!

2. 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.

Declaring God's Wonder

WHAT YOU NEED: Early Childhood Declaration [Slide](#)



WHAT YOU DO: Show the Declaration [Slide](#) and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

WHAT YOU SAY:

Thank You, God, that You made me! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story, (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Belief

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

God's Big Story

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible

WHAT YOU DO: Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of Galatians and the book of 1 John in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

- **Bible Time Rhyme**

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

I open my Bible and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

Let's start by reading part of God's big story from the book of Galatians in the Bible.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read [Galatians 3:5–7](#), [10–14](#), [26](#) from the Bible.

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [We Are Children of God God's Big Story!](#) This will be on the computer along with a worship song!



Connecting the Wonder Truth

WHAT YOU DO: Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

WHAT YOU SAY: Our Wonder Truth today is **BECAUSE OF JESUS, I AM A CHILD OF GOD**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God promised to bless the whole world through Abraham's family. Jesus, a relative of Abraham, blessed everyone everywhere by making the way—when He died and rose again—for all people to be part of God's family.

Word of Wonder

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible; Verse Slide

WORD OF WONDER

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

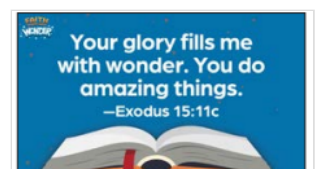
—Exodus 15:11c

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

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



Today we learned that because of Jesus, we can be children of God! Wow! Let's practice our Word of Wonder as a way of telling God how amazing He is! Recite the verse and do the motions with the kids.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What do you think glory means?** *(If the kids need help, offer ideas such as these: Glory shows the importance of a person. It shows that people are great or important, and we should honor them.)*
- **What amazing thing did God do in our story today?** *(He sent Jesus to die for our sins.)*



Faith

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Circle Time: Pass the Crown

WHAT YOU NEED: crown, music (can use leader phone or worship song on computer)

WHAT YOU DO: Gather kids together in a circle and hold up a crown.

WHAT YOU SAY: God is our King, and with Jesus, we are God's children! We're going to use this crown to help us as we talk about our story. We're going to pass the crown around the circle and play some music. If you're holding the crown when the music stops, you get to answer a question about our story. Stop the music periodically and ask the person holding the crown to answer one of the questions below.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Whose family did God promise to grow and bless the world through?** (*Abraham's*)
- **Who did God send to earth so we could become children of God?** (*Jesus*)
- **How do we become children of God?** (*have faith in Jesus and believe and trust in Him*)
- **What is sin?** (*anything we think, say, or do that is not what God wants*)
- **What does faith mean?** (*trusting God and obeying Him*)
- **Because of Jesus, we are children of God, and we get to follow Jesus every day! What are some ways you follow Jesus?** (*If kids need ideas, offer ideas such as reading the Bible, going to church, telling others about His love, loving others.*)

We become children of God when we believe and trust in Jesus! God loves the world and wants everyone as part of His family!

Craft: Cross Picture

WHAT YOU NEED: paper (1 sheet per kid), painter's tape, adult scissors, coloring utensils

WHAT YOU SAY: 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.

WHAT YOU DO: Give a sheet of paper to each kid. Give each kid a piece of painter's tape that is about 5" long and show them how to place the tape on the center of their paper in a vertical line.

Next, give each kid another piece of painter's tape that is about 3½–4" long and show them how to place it horizontally on their paper across the top of the first piece of tape. Doing this will create a cross. Make sure the kids press the tape down securely. If you're short on time or have a younger group, you could do these steps ahead of time and give each child a piece of paper with the tape cross already on it.

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.



Game: This or That?

WHAT YOU SAY: 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.



Identity

Create space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Responding in Worship: I Am a Child of God

WHAT YOU NEED: coloring utensils, [Child of God Name Tags](#) (1 sticker per child), music from leader phone or worship songs on computer

WHAT YOU SAY: God sent Jesus to save us from our sins so that we can become children of God. I have some special name tags here for us to wear. They say, "I Am a Child of God!" Hand out a name tag (with the backing still on) to each kid. **Let's take some time to decorate our name tags to remind us how special we are.** Let kids decorate their name tags with coloring utensils. Once kids have finished decorating their name tags, have them peel the backing off and put the name tags on.



In God's big story, we heard about how we can be children of God. Let's listen to a verse from today's story again and think about how special we are to God to be called His children! "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](#)).

Let's pray together and thank God for His great love for us!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for His love.

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 out 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!