

LESSON 4

WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because of Jesus, I Am a Child of God**SCRIPTURE:** [Galatians 3](#); [1 John 3](#)**GOD'S BIG STORY:** In response to confusion about Jesus' message, Paul writes a letter to the Galatians, explaining that it is simply through faith in Jesus that we become God's children.**WORD OF WONDER:** Your glory fills me with wonder. You do amazing things. —[Exodus 15:11c](#)

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.

Activity: I See a Child of God!

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here. 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?

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.

Activity: Play Dough Crosses

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.

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.*

Prayer and Blessing

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

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?"