

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.

## Play Stations

### Play Station: Child of God Collage

**Set up:** Set out a large piece of butcher paper and several kid-friendly magazines. Set out glue nearby. Write “Because of Jesus, I am a child of God” at the top of the butcher paper in large letters.

**Play:** Invite kids to tear out pictures of different people from the magazines and glue them on the butcher 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: I Am a Child of God

**Set up:** Set out shatter-proof handheld mirrors on a table. Place some dry-erase markers nearby. Optionally, you can also set out whiteboards or chalkboards for the kids to draw on.

**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. Optionally, they could also draw pictures of themselves on the whiteboards or chalkboards. Remind the kids that no matter what someone looks like, that person has the chance to become a child of God because of Jesus!

### 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.

## Faith

### Craft: Cross Picture

**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. 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?

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

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### 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!