# Lesson 2: We Are Loved and Are God's Children

## Overview:

**Key Focus:** Love motivates our relationship with God, and salvation brings us into the family of God.

**Bible Story:** God's Children

**Scriptures:** Luke 1:15–17; 1 John 4:19; John 15:13; 1 John 3:1, 10; Romans 8:38–39

**Memory Verse:** Galatians 3:26 (NKJV) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

## Prep:

**Materials Needed:**

- Index cards

**Classroom Prep:**

- Write each word of the verse on an index card. Hide the cards in the classroom or tape them under chairs.

## Engage:

Draw six blanks on the board and select children to call out an alphabet letter. If the letter is in "family," write it on the correct blank. Continue until someone guesses the word. **What are some fun things you do together as a family?** Give everyone an opportunity to share something. **Sometimes a family is known for traits, such as maybe everyone has red hair or everyone is a good singer. What are some things your family is known for?** (Possible answers: We throw great birthday parties; we make and give bread to people; we host Bible studies; we are athletic.) **Today we are going to learn about your other family and how to tell you are part of that family.**

**Memory Verse Activity:**
Display and discuss the verse. Have the children look for the hidden index cards and then stand in the front so the words of the verse are in the correct order. Say the verse together and then redistribute the cards and see how quickly the children can get in the correct order. Continue this pattern several times.

**Memory Verse:** Galatians 3:26 (NKJV) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

# Bible Story:

**The New Testament tells us about many of the crowds of adults who Jesus taught and healed. Let's read an example of Jesus showing that He loved children.** Read Luke 1:15–17. **The disciples were annoyed that Jesus took time to spend with children. The disciples thought Jesus was wasting time with the children, but Jesus explained an important spiritual truth. Jesus said that children have faith to believe what He says. Many of the adults heard the same things but didn't believe that Jesus could do miracles or that He was the Son of God. Jesus wants adults to have faith like children to believe things that seem impossible to adults. Sometimes on television or the Internet, you might be tricked into believing something is real but it is fake. We all need to be careful what we put our faith in, but everyone can believe what God's Word says. What are some things that you believe about the Bible?** Allow time for each child to respond. **Do you believe that God loves you? Why?** Allow responses. Read 1 John 4:19. **This verse shows that God showed loves us. Because of His great love, we love Him.**

**How do you show love to someone in your family?** Allow responses. **How do you show love to a stranger?** (Possible answers: give someone a ride, give them food, smile at them, invite them to church) Read John 15:13. **How did Jesus show this kind of great love?** (He lay down His life on the cross to pay for our sins.) **Jesus gave His life so that when we learned about Him and accepted His forgiveness of our sins—we became part of God's family!**

Read 1 John 3:1. **This verse tells us it is God's amazing love that is shown to us because He calls us His children. A person can't buy the title "child of God." A person can't try hard to earn the title "child of God." A person doesn't do something really heroic to be given the title "child of God." Each one of us can only be called a child of God if we believe that Jesus is the only way to have our sins forgiven. God calls anyone who believes in Jesus His child—no matter what age you are. Adults are children of God. Maybe your parents are children of God, does that mean you are automatically a child of God?** (No, each person must believe in Jesus.) **God only has children—He doesn't have grandchildren. God doesn't have a small-size salvation or a junior Holy Spirit. God has only one size of salvation and Holy Spirit. When you accept Jesus' salvation, you become part of God's family along with all of the other children and adults who accepted salvation. God's family is huge! The pastor, myself, the helpers, and many of the people at church are part of God's family. Just because you attend church**

**doesn't mean you are part of God's family. God's family is made up of people who admit that Jesus is the only way to have their sins forgiven and choose to live for Him.**

Read 1 John 3:10. **Every person of every age has to fit into one of the two categories mentioned: child of God or child of the devil. When you accept that Jesus paid the price and forgave your sins, you become a child of God. As part of God's family, you act like your new family. If you are part of God's family, you will act like your heavenly Father and Jesus. What are some of the things you do that show you are part of God's family?** (Possible answers: read the Bible, help others, tell people about salvation, show kindness to everyone) **If you are not part of God's family, you show by doing things that are not like God or not following His ways. What are some things that show someone is not part of God's family?** (Possible answers: tell lies, mean, hate someone, take things that don't belong to them) **The verse we read says that God's children will do two things, what are those two things?** (God's children will act righteous and love their brothers.) **This verse reminds us that when we are part of God's family, we have LOTS of brothers and sisters! Maybe you've always wanted a brother or sister. When you say "yes" to Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have brothers and sisters in Christ all around the world.**

**People sometimes do something terrible and a family member might stop loving them for a while. Once you are part of God's family, you are always loved and accepted as part of the family. There is absolutely nothing that could ever stop or take God's love away from you.** Read Romans 8:38–39. **How do you feel knowing God's love for you won't ever end?** Allow responses. Lead a cheer for God's love that never ends!

## Bible Story Questions:

- **How did Jesus show that He values children?** (Jesus spent time with children and said that adults need faith like children's faith to believe what God's Word says.)
- **How did Jesus show love to you?** (Jesus showed love by dying on the cross to pay for my sins so that I can be forgiven and part of God's family.)
- **How can you know someone is part of God's family?** (A member of God's family will act righteous and love his brothers.)
- **What can stop God's love for you?** (Nothing can stop God's love for me!)
- **How will you show this week that you are part of God's family?** (Answers will vary.)

## Bible Story Activities:

**Games:**

- Show how to make a heart shape with your hands by cupping one hand like a C and the other like a backward C and putting them together. Have everyone make a heart. Pick two volunteers to use both of their hands and make one heart together. Tap another child to join them and when the threesome have a heart, select another person to join

them. See how many people can squeeze in and work together to form a heart. Point out that God's children show they belong to the family of God when they show love for each other.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Have the children do this finger play.
  *I am loved by God the Father.* (hug yourself and point up)
  *I am loved by Jesus the Son.* (hug yourself and point up)
  *I am loved by the Holy Spirit.* (hug yourself and point up)
  *I am part of God's family.* (clap and cheer)
  *I love God the Father.* (make a heart with both hands up high in the air)
  *I love Jesus the Son.* (make a heart with both hands up high in the air)
  *I love the Holy Spirit.* (make a heart with both hands up high in the air)
  *I love my brothers and sisters.* (hug someone else)
  *I love being in God's family.* (hug yourself and jump up and down)

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Lead a Bible Sword Drill with verses about being part of God's family. Have each person in the group hold up a Bible. When you give the reference, everyone recites it back to you, and when you give the signal, they try to be the first to find the verse. When they find the verse, they stand up and start reading it.
  *References*: John 1:12, Ephesians 1:5, Romans 8:17, Ephesians 2:19, Galatians 4:6, Romans 8:14, 1 John 3:2, and Galatians 3:26.

**Worksheet:**
Help the children solve the code and then look up John 1:12 to check their answers. On the back of their papers, have them make a poster "I am loved by God."

**Affirmation/Declaration:**
*I am loved by God.*
*Salvation brings me into God's family.*
*I love being a child of God.*

## Make Connections:

**Biblical Worldview Connection:**
The family is under attack in today's culture. When believers act like they really are children of God, they can impact a hurting world. Encourage the children to live what they learn in the

Bible lessons. Challenge them to choose the right thing to do and to show love to everyone this week.

**Missions Connection:**
When we become part of God's family, we have brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. Just like we lift up our family members in prayer, today spend time lifting up believers around the world. Have each child name their favorite country and pray for his or her brothers and sisters in Christ in that country.

**Family Connection:**
Look through family pictures and talk about the family resemblances and character traits. Talk about ways family members show resemblances and traits of their heavenly Father. Celebrate being part of your family and also God's family. Take your last name and for each letter in the name write a character trait or phrase about showing you are part of God's family.

## Prayer Points:

**Nod your head if you are part of God's family. If you aren't sure or want to become part of God's family right now, we can pray together and you can instantly become a child of God. Repeat after me:**

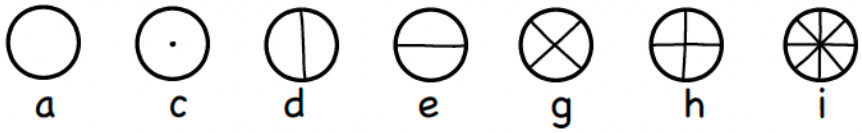
*Dear God,*
*Thank You for sending Jesus*
*to fix the sin problem*
*by dying on the cross*
*for my sins.*
*I know that I have sinned.*
*I ask to be forgiven.*
*I trust in Jesus as my Savior.*
*I choose to follow Him.*
*Thank You for loving me*
*and giving me the gift of eternal life.*
*In Jesus' name, amen.*

One of the ways God's children show love to their brothers and sisters in Christ is to pray for each other. Pair up the children and have them ask their partner for a prayer request. If there aren't prayer requests, the children can pray for their partner to show God's love to others this week.

Name _____

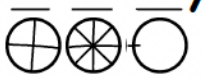
Lesson 2: We Are Loved and Are God's Children

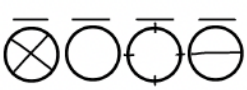
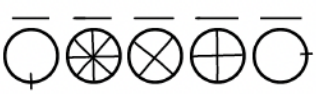
*Use the code to find the missing words. Look up John 1:12 to check your answer.*

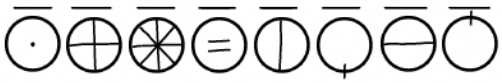






But as  as received , to

 He  the 

to become  of God.

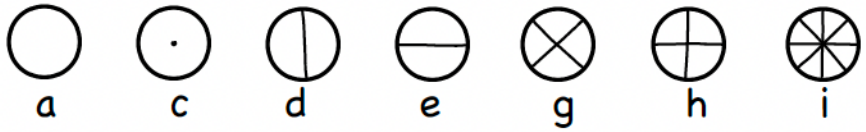
John 1:12

BONUS: *On the back of this page, make a poster "I am loved by God."*

ANSWERS:

Lesson 2: We Are Loved and Are God's Children

*Use the code to find the missing words. Look up John 1:12 to check your answer.*







But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12

BONUS: *On the back of this page, make a poster "I am loved by God."*

COPYRIGHT POLICY
You may make copies of Charis Kids Curriculum for use in the church and home. You are not to alter any of the teaching in any Charis Kids printed material. Please feel free to share the website information with other churches, families, and homeschool groups.

CharisChristianCenter.com/Shop
© Copyright 2023 Charis Kids Curriculum. All rights reserved