

We Are...Children of God

- All Pre-Class
- Arrange tables and chairs.
 - Pray for tonight's class.
 - Have music playing.
 - Take attendance.

7:00-7:20

REVIEW

Choose an activity or activities from the following ideas:

- Review previous lessons.
 - Ask questions regarding the last few lessons using the "We Are... Review Questions" and "Jesus is...A through Z Review Questions" (in KPH binder). Reward correct answers with Starbursts, etc.
 - Play "baseball" with the review questions. Have the entire class play as one team, trying to beat a score of 20 runs (their record), or divide them into two teams and see which team can score the most runs. An incorrect answer equals an out. After three outs, it's the other team's turn to "bat" (or if playing with the entire class as one team, clear the bases of "runners" after three outs). Make sure each team gets an equal number of "at bats." Have another teacher keep track of outs and points on the marker board.
 - Play musical chairs. When the music stops, ask the player without a chair a review question. If the student answers correctly, he or she gets to stay in the game.
 - Divide the group into pairs. Give each pair one of the "mini posters" with adjectives and titles of Jesus (i.e., the "A" sheet or the "B" sheet, etc.; in KPH binder). Have each team work together to memorize every adjective or title on their sheet. Then have them come up front and recite them to the class.
 - Have a student come to the front of the class and pick a letter (A-Z) out of a bag and then try to remember all the adjectives/titles that go with that letter.
 - Play A-M or N-Z "BINGO" with adjectives/titles.
- Review other previously memorized items. Use cardboard chart and cards with books of the Bible, as well as other props.
 - "One God," "Sin and Repentance," etc., verses that students have been working on.
 - Sing verses set to song
 - Books of the Old and New Testaments
 - Divisions of Old and New Testaments

All 7:20-7:40

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Divide the class into four groups: two each for 5- to 7-year-olds and 8- to 10-year-olds, one teacher with each group. (To cut down on noise and confusion, two groups may leave the room to practice verses in the hallway, stairwell, or another classroom.)

Students will work on memorizing doctrinal verses. Each student will have his/her own list or booklet to work from, containing a chart for teachers to initial as students quote the verses one at a time, two at a time, etc. (Teachers: Please read instructions on the bottom Bible memory work charts or in the front of the booklets.)

Coloring pages with the 10 Commandments or other Bible verses are available (in the KPH binder) to help occupy visitors or younger/distracted students while their classmates are working on verses.

- Remind students that there will be prizes for those who pass with a score of 80 percent or better.
- Remind students that during Bible Memory Work time, everyone must be working, not distracting others. They should help each other learn the verses. It's fun working together!

7:40-7:45

RULES & PRAYER

- Review "Power Hour Promises" with the students, reminding them of proper behavior during class.
- Pray together, thanking God for your time together and praying that each person will understand and obey God's Word and grow into a strong Christian.

7:45-8:05

BIBLE LESSON

Teacher Prep:

Read Galatians 3:26-27, Romans 8:14-17, 1 John 3:1-2 & 9-10, and Hebrews 12:5-11. Pray for anointing.

Items Needed:

"We Are..." display board; baby pictures of one of your children or of you or someone else in your family; "Children of God" Visual.

Introduction

During the first part of the year we learned about Jesus' titles and adjectives from A through Z. Refer to the "Jesus is...A through Z" board.

Now we are learning about some of the things that the Bible says we Christians are. Refer to the "We Are..." display board. All of these things are metaphors (comparisons) that describe a little bit of what we are to Jesus and to others.

Listen to Galatians 3:26 for another metaphor describing Christians:

Read Galatians 3:26 from your Bible.

- What are we? (*children of God*)

Show and briefly discuss baby pictures.

Babies are so cute and sweet and innocent. Parents love and protect and give lots of things to their children. Let's talk about what it means to be God's child.

Lesson

- How do you become God's child? (*allow responses*)

Remember what Galatians 3:26 said? (Let's read verse 27 too.)

Have a student read Galatians 3:26-27 from your Bible.

We become God's child by having faith in Christ Jesus and being baptized in His name.

- Besides being born into a family, how else could you become someone's child? (*by being adopted by him/her*)
- What does it mean to be adopted? (*to be chosen as one's own*)

Not only are we born (again) into God's family, but He also adopts us—specially chooses us—to be His kids! Listen to this:

Read Romans 8:15 from your Bible.

- Did you notice a special word before "Father"? (*Abba*)

“Abba” is what we call a “term of endearment.” It expresses loving affection. You probably don’t call your father “Father.”

- **What do you call your father?** (*Dad, Daddy, Papa, Pa, Pop, etc.*)

Kids, whether born into a family or adopted, are heirs of their father.

- **What does it mean to be an heir?** (*an heir inherits [will someday be given] all the father's property*)

Since we’re God’s kids, we are His heirs. Listen to this:

Read Romans 8:17 from your Bible.

- **With whom are we joint-heirs?** (*Christ*)

Joint heirs share the inheritance.

- **What are we sharing with Christ?** (*suffering and glory*)

Yikes! We don’t necessarily want to inherit suffering. But the next verse says: **Read Romans 8:18 from your Bible.**

No matter how difficult things are in this world or how poor we are, we have the promise of one day inheriting everything that is our Father’s. And He owns it all!

There’s something else we inherit from our Heavenly Father.

- **What is something about the way you look or act that people say is like your earthly father?** (*eyes or other facial features, hair, height, a certain ability, personality, etc.*)

John described some characteristics that we have inherited from our Heavenly Father.

Read 1 John 3:1 from your Bible.

- **Why doesn’t the world know [recognize, understand] us?** (*because it didn’t recognize Him in Jesus Christ*)

Read 1 John 3:2 from your Bible.

We don’t know exactly what we’re going to look like when we’re “all grown up” and in Heaven, but we do know we’re going to be like our Daddy!

John then tells us another way we are like our Heavenly Father:

Read 1 John 3:9-10 from your Bible.

When I become God's child, I inherit His righteousness and His love.

- But when I don't do what is right or don't love God's other kids the way I should, whose child am I acting like? (*the devil's*)
- What does your dad do when you do something wrong or fight with your brothers and sisters? (*he punishes, disciplines, or grounds you, etc.*)

Here's what it says in Hebrews:

Read Hebrews 12:6 from your Bible.

Fathers who truly love their children, correct them when they do wrong because they know that people who do right and treat others right have the best life.

Life Application

Show "Children of God" visual.

- What is the child in this picture doing? (*sleeping*)
- What is the father in this picture doing? (*watching over His child*)

You have a Heavenly Father who loves you so much and watches over you all the time—not to catch you doing something wrong but to protect you and to delight in the wonderful kid you are and the wonderful person you are becoming.

Have a student attach the "Children of God" visual to the "We Are..." display board.

Let's pray right now and thank God that we are His children and that He loves us, watches over us, and corrects us when we do wrong.

Lead the kids in prayer—response to lesson.

Use the "Books of the Bible" display board to point things out as you ask these questions:

- How many books are in the Bible? (66)
- How many books are in the Old Testament? (39 [3 letters in the word "Old" and 9 letters in the word "Testament" = 39])
- How many books are in the New Testament? (27 [3 letters in the word "New" x 9 letters in the word "Testament" = 27])

Hand out Bibles. Remind students to handle Bibles carefully and to help younger students find verses.

Open your Bible as close to the middle as possible. You should be in Psalms. If not, turn a few pages forward or backward and find Psalm 68:5. (*Have a student read this verse aloud.*)

- What does "fatherless" mean? (*not having a father*)

Some people may not know their earthly father, or maybe he has moved away or died, but everyone can know their Heavenly Father.

Now turn to the New Testament, towards the back of your Bible, and find Luke 11:11-13. (*Have a student [or students] read these verses aloud.*)

Jesus asked several questions to make a point:

- If a son asked for bread would his father give him a what? (*stone*)
- If a son asked for a fish, would his father give him a what? (*serpent*)
- If a son asked for an egg, would his father offer him a what? (*scorpion*)

No, no, and no! Our earthly fathers give us good things. Much more does our Heavenly Father!

- What will our Heavenly Father give us if we ask Him? (*the Holy Spirit*)

Choose a couple of students to carefully collect the Bibles.

8:15-8:30

ACTIVITY/SNACK

Supplies:

Copies of "10 great things about being a kid"
activity sheet

Pencils

Crayons

Simple snack

Juice boxes (something that doesn't spill easily)

Napkins

Remind students that we are *God's kids*. Ask them to think about some things that make it great to be a kid. Share with them some things you think make it great (being told/read bedtime stories, being small enough to be carried when you're tired, getting more gifts than the adults at Christmas, wearing cool Band-Aids, being able to swim in a blow-up pool in your backyard, having summers off, catching lightning bugs, etc.)

Give each student a "10 great things about being a kid" activity sheet. Have them draw or write about their 10 great things."

You may serve them snacks and drinks while they write and color.