

Session 1

Who Are You? I Am a Child of God

Genesis 1:27-28a; 1 John 3:1



For the Teacher

Main Idea

God made me and I am a child of God.

Focus for the Child

I am a child of God.

Scriptural Foundation

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.

—1 John 3:1

Question 1. Who are you?

I am a child of God.

—*Belonging to God:
A First Catechism*

The children will have the opportunity to:

- Draw a self-portrait.
- Say, "I am a child of God."

You are a child of God! This is the very foundation of what we want to instill in our children. God made you. God loves you. Children come to know God's love through the people who love and care for them. The children you teach will experience God's love through you. You can help each child understand that he or she is special. As you spend time with the children today, find out about their families, what they like to do, and who they are. Continually remind each child, "You are a child of God."

About the Child

Preschool children delight in asking questions and knowing the answers to questions. When asked something repeatedly, they begin to know the answer by heart. Once while getting my very young son ready for bed, I helped him pull on his superhero pajama shirt. I asked him, "Are you a superhero?" He said, "Nooo." "Then who are you?" I asked, thinking he would say his name. Instead, he shouted with joy, "I a child of God!" This was the phrase he had heard again and again in our church.

Take the opportunity to put this special phrase, "I am a child of God," in the children's hearts with the hope and prayer that they will know and remember it all of their lives.

Things to Prepare

Assemble

- Cut various colors of 9" x 12" construction paper into quarter sheets.

Bible Story

- Place a small mirror and your Bible in the Bible Storyteller Bag. (See page 3 for information about the Bible Storyteller Bag.)
- Review the Bible story on page 14 so you can easily read it to the children.

Depart

- Photocopy one copy of "Believer Buddies' Blog" (Resource 1). Prepare the copy by circling the session number and checking the following boxes: About the Bible Story, Mealtime Prayer, Praying Together, Rhyme Time, and Song. Photocopy the prepared copy of "Believer Buddies' Blog" for each child to take home.

You Will Need

Assemble

- Prepared quarter sheets of various colors of construction paper
- Markers
- Masking tape

Bible Story

- Prepared Bible Storyteller Bag

Claim

- Small, handheld mirrors, one for each child
- Drawing paper
- Crayons
- Snack (optional)

Depart

- Prepared copy of "Believer Buddies' Blog" (Resource 1) for each child

Enrichment

- "Child of God" on "Enrichment Activities: Songs" (Resource 22)

Assemble: God Calls Us Together

Greet the children as they arrive. Introduce yourself by name to the children and their parents or caregivers. Ask the children what their names are. Point out the prepared sheets of construction paper and have each child pick one that is his or her favorite color. Use this paper sheet to make a name tag for each child. Write the children's names on their paper sheets. Some older preschoolers may be learning to write their names. If the children ask, let them write their names on their own name tags. Put loops of masking tape on the back of each name tag and ask the children to put on their name tags.

Invite the children to play in the learning centers set up in the room. If some children do not know each other, introduce them to each other. While the children play, take the opportunity to visit with each child and learn something about him or her.

Bible Story: We Hear God's Word

Invite the children to join you for the Bible story. Tell them this room (or table or place on the floor) is the special place you will gather each week to hear a story. Take the Bible out of the Bible Storyteller Bag and show it to the children. Tell the children that this book is called the Bible. The Bible is a book of stories about God and God's people. Tell the children that you are going to tell them a story about who they are. Read the Bible story on page 14 to the children as you show them the picture on page 15.

Claim: We Respond to God's Word

Gather the children at a table. Distribute small, handheld mirrors to each child. Tell the children to look at their faces in the mirrors. Ask them what they see. Ask: What shape is your face? What shape is your nose? What color are your eyes? What does your hair look like? Give each child a sheet of drawing paper. Place crayons around the table where children can reach them easily. Invite the children to draw a picture

of themselves. Encourage them to first draw the shape of their face and then add all of the things that God gave them: eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hair, and so on. They may also draw the rest of their body. Allow the children to use their own creative skills. The drawings will reflect their own ideas. Be sure to praise each child for his or her wonderful creation. Once the children have finished their self-portraits, write each child's name across the top of the page, then write "Child of God" across the bottom of the page.

This would be a good time to have a snack. Before you eat the snack, invite the children to say this prayer with you: "God is great, God is good. Let us thank God for our food. Amen."

Depart: God Sends Us into the World

As the children leave, ask each one, "Who are you?" You may need to prompt the children to say, "I am a child of God."

Give parents or caregivers a prepared copy of "Believer Buddies' Blog" (Resource 1) that directs them to www.webelieve/weefamily.htm, a Web site with enrichment activities for making connections at home.

Enrichment: Rhyme Time

"Child of God" on "Enrichment Activities: Songs" (Resource 22) may be used anytime during the session.



Bible Story

Who Are You? I Am a Child of God

Based on Genesis 1:27–28a;
1 John 3:1

Look at the picture on this page. (*Show the picture on page 15.*) Who do you see in the picture? . . . There are many children in this picture. What are the children doing? . . . Do all of the children look happy? . . . Each child is different. Maybe the children like to do different things. Maybe they come from different families. I bet they have different names. But some things about these children are the same. All of them were made by God. All of them are loved by God. All of them are God’s children.

The Bible tells us that God made people. God made you and God made me. Each one of us is special. You don’t look just like your neighbor. You have different families. You like to do different things. (*You may choose to share some of the things you have learned about each child today.*) But some things are the same. Each one of you was made by God. Each one of you is loved by God. You are a child of God.

As I hold the mirror in front of you, I want you to look at yourself in the mirror and say, “I am a child of God.” (*Put down your book and take the mirror from the Bible Storyteller Bag. Hold the mirror in front of each child as he or she says, “I am a child of God.” You may want to first demonstrate for the children.*)

(*Teach the words to the first verse of “If Anybody Asks You Who I Am” [no. 129 in LifeSongs Songbook] to the children. Sing or say the words to the first verse for the children once, and then invite the children to sing it with you.*)

If anybody asks you who I am,
Who I am,
Who I am,
If anybody asks you who I am,
Say that I’m a child of God.



After the story . . .



Let’s say a prayer together. Put your hands together and place them in your lap. I will say parts of the prayer. Please repeat the parts after me. Thank you, God, / for making us, / for loving us, / and for calling us your children. / Help us always remember who we are / — children of God. / In Jesus’ name, we pray. / Amen.

**Who Are You?
I Am a Child of God**
Genesis 1:27-28a; 1 John 3:1

Session **1**

