



We Are Children Of God
Author: Annette R. Evans

P_{review}

In **Galatians 3:26** the apostle Paul says we are all children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. It's great being God's kid!

- It seems most people can't wait to grow up, but what are some things that are great about being a kid? (*encourage responses; for example, 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 school and work, catching lightning bugs, etc.*)

P_{raise}

Read **Psalms 139:14-18** aloud together and give thanks for your heavenly Father who watches over you.

P_{arable}

Show "Children of God" visual: <http://www.creative-sunday-school-ideas.com/support-files/children-of-god-visual.pdf>

- 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 person you are. Let's talk about what it means to be God's kid.

P_{resent}

In **John 3:5-7**, Jesus instructed Nicodemus about what it takes to become a child of God. *Read these verses from your Bible.* Just as we are born into our natural family, we must be born into our spiritual family. This birth is of water and Spirit, and we take on the family name when we are baptized. *Read **Galatians 3:26-27** from your Bible.*



Not only are we born (again) into God’s family, but He also adopts us—specially chooses us—to be His kids! Read **Romans 8:15** from your Bible. Note that “Abba” is a “term of endearment.” It expresses loving affection.

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. 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 let’s read the next verse. Read **Romans 8:18** from your Bible. No matter how difficult things are in this world, we have the promise of one day inheriting everything that is our Father’s—and He owns it all!

P_{ractice}

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? (*encourage responses; for example, 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 **John 3:1-2** from your Bible.

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

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 Dad!

P_{ray}

Fathers who truly love their children discipline them. They teach them how to behave in a way that will bless their own life and others. Read **Hebrews 12:5-6** from your Bible. When you feel as though God is punishing you, remember that you are His child, and He disciplines you because He loves you and is trying to teach you something.



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.



You may not know your earthly father. Maybe he has moved away or died or just seems distant. But everyone can know their heavenly Father. Spend more time talking to Him this week and getting to know Him better. He loves you so very much!