

I am God's Son

John 1:12-13 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Romans 8:15-17 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Ephesians 2:18-19 For through him [Jesus] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,

1 Corinthians 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

All verses from NIV unless otherwise stated.

Circle the statements that *define* you. I am a...

student at:_____.	dog catcher	good kid
consumer	big eater	skier
my parents' child	surfer	dummy
loved	unloved	worthless
honest	brave	trustworthy

What other words define who you are? _____

I am a person who likes to _____.

What kind of labels would the kids at school give you? _____

rich	ugly	handsome	smart	nice
poor	pretty	nerdy	stupid	mean

Read the verses in the left column. As a believer, who does the Bible say you are? _____

Why "sonship"? What does it mean to be an heir of God?

From time to time your identity might change. You might move, get a new job, change your hair color, change your mind about how you feel about things.

What about your identity will never change (Deuteronomy 3:16)?

Imagine that you were the president's son. Do you think you would have to stand in line or have a special invitation to meet with him? Ephesians 2:18-19 says we have _____ to God.

Paul, in Corinthians 3:16 says we are God's _____. If this is true, what special care should be taken of yourself?

In light of Ephesians 2:10, are you less valuable than a person that has great physical skills like an Olympic gold medal winner, or a person who is a genius? God made you perfectly, just the way He needed you to be. Why?

Sober judgment means to properly assess your self-worth compared to others. Romans 12:3 says not to think of yourself more highly than others but also not to think of yourself as _____ than others too.

Carefully tear the lesson out of the book and make as many copies as you need –one per kid. Make color copies if possible. If you can't make color copies, keep the color copy for yourself to assist in grouping the questions with the corresponding verses as you lead the lesson. Allow thirty minutes for this lesson.

The Goal of this Lesson: This is a simple lesson with a powerful message. It might not mean a lot to them now but the Holy Spirit will use it just when the time is right. The goal of this lesson is etch their identity as a Child of God into their memories as a foundational truth about their lives.

Pre-Lesson Activity: You might show a clip from the movie, “Dances With Wolves,” where the main character is given his name by the members of the Indian tribe members. Indian names reflect their identity within the tribe. Kids will sometimes be given a nickname by the other kids at school. This can be a positive or negative thing, but they often believe it is their identity.

Leading the Lesson: Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go through the questions for those verses. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

(If your group is younger junior high-age, encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high school-age, just use the questions as discussion starters.)

When talking about “sonship,” ask why the Bible doesn't mention “daughtership.” Explain that in the culture of the time only sons could inherit their father's property and money. Even girls are given the rights, status, and privileges that sons are given. Talk about the implications of inheriting God's possessions.

At this age, all kids feel alone at times. Impress upon them that God is always present and always watching over them, ready to listen.

An important social aspect is to be liked. God made them. Not only does He love them, but He likes what He has made. He likes to be with them, even when they're grumpy. God accepts them even when they're acting out.

The last verse talks about humility, not to think they are better than anyone else. Sober judgment means to make a correct assessment of their value. They are not less than anyone else either. Another verse you might read is 1 Timothy 4:12.

Summary: When they feel alone it is important to stress that God will always be close at hand and always accessible. When kids mock them they should keep in mind that God's opinion of them, as His workmanship, is way more important than what others think. Their value is not determined by their grades, physical abilities, or physical beauty; not even by how nice or cooperative they are. They are exactly the person God needs them to be to complete the good works he has prepared for them to do.

Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer request for the next week. Check how things have turned out from the previous weeks' concerns.