

Scripture Passage: John 1:9-15

Memory Verse: John 1:12

Theme Song: Children of God

Big Idea: When we believe in Jesus we are adopted into God's family.

READ

Read John 1:9-15 aloud to your family. If your kids can read, consider having one of them read or letting them take turns reading.

John 1:9-15

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

SING

Play "Children of God" from the *Doorpost Songs: Unto Us* album and sing together. Think about how you can model worship for your family as you sing together. If needed, print copies of the lyric sheet for your family.

MEMORIZE

Pick a section of the verses to memorize as a family. Use the suggestions below or choose your own. Use the long version for older children and the short version for preschoolers.

Long Version (John 1:12)

To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Short Version (John 1:12)

To those who believed in [Jesus'] name, he gave the right to become children of God.

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LEARN

Read the Big Idea and short devotional aloud to your family. If you have time, use the discussion questions at the end of the devotional.

What's the Big Idea?

When we believe in Jesus we are adopted into God's family.

Family Devotional

Parents of adopted children, we know that the concept of adoption may not be one you're ready to talk about with your kids. If not, consider starting with paragraph 3. The language can be pretty easily tweaked by using phrases like "adding people to his family" to avoid that concept if needed.

Do you know what it means to be an orphan? An orphan is someone who does not have a mom or a dad. An orphan doesn't have a family. But some orphans get adopted by other families. You may have an adopted child in your family, or you may know someone who was adopted.

Adoption is a pretty amazing thing! Adoption means taking someone who was not a part of your family before and saying, "You're one of us. You belong here, in this family. You are not an orphan anymore. You are our son. You are our daughter."

God loves adoption. Do you know how we know? We know God loves adoption because he's constantly adding people to his family. In fact, the Bible tells us in Galatians 4 that God sent his Son, Jesus, so "that we might receive adoption" into God's family. Our scripture passage today tells us how that adoption happens. When we receive Jesus by believing that he is God's Son, God gives us "the right to become children of God." That's right, anyone who believes in Jesus is a child of God.

So what does it mean to be a child of God?

Well, it means a whole lot! It means that we're not separated from God anymore. We're a part of his family. It means that he loves us as sons and daughters, the same way he loves Jesus. It means that we have a birthright, something special that belongs only to members of a family. Our birthright is eternal life, living with God forever in heaven.

As a believer in Jesus, a follower of Christ, you don't ever have to wonder if God loves you. You don't ever have to feel alone. God loves you as dearly as his Son, Jesus. He is delighted to know you and be loved by you, and he will never leave you. After all, you're a part of the family!

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TALK

Talk about what you have learned as a family. Use the questions below or ask some of your own.

Parents of adopted children, if you're not ready to talk with your kids about the concept of adoption, skip questions 1 and 2 and start with question 3.

1. What does adoption mean?
2. How do we know that God loves adoption?
3. How can we become part of God's family?
4. What does it mean to be a part of God's family?

PRAY

Pray together. Here are some ideas:

- Thank God that he made a way for us to be a part of his family.
- Thank God that he loves us as dearly as his Son, Jesus, and that he will never leave us.
- Pray that God will help you to show others that you are a part of his family in the way that you live.
- Pray that God will give you the chance to help other people become part of his family, too.