



Date: _____
Series: I Am God's Child
Summer Year 2, Lesson 4

God is Our Father—We are His Children

Bible Event: 2 Corinthians 6:1-18; Luke 11:1-2; 1 John 4:9.

Take Home Point: *I AM GOD'S CHILD – *I am happy God loves me.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: God sent Jesus so we could be with our Heavenly Father forever.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God gave us fathers (or father figures) to provide for our needs, guide us, and protect us. Our heavenly Father does all of those things for us also in an even bigger way. He sent his own Son, Jesus, so that we could be friends with God forever. All of this is because God loves us. Kids will take home the point: ***I AM GOD'S CHILD – *I am happy God loves me.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat, and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's Word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Traveler: Today is Father's Day! God, our heavenly Father, gave us daddies and grandpas and uncles so that they could guide us, protect us, and help give us what we need. They love us and take care of us. Today, for Father's Day, I am going to tell you a true story about my dad.

When I was a boy, my dad took me shopping. We went to the mall so I could pick out a new toy. I was so excited! I couldn't decide if I wanted a bike or a truck or a new ball or a video game. (Show various toys.) I got so busy looking at the different toys, that I let go of my dad's hand. When I looked up, I couldn't see my dad anywhere. It was scary to be alone in the store. I started looking for dad in the game section, then in the bikes. I even looked by the dolls! (Show a doll.) Finally, I just yelled for my dad, because I really wanted to find him. And just like that, he was there. He knew my voice and came running to help me. He had actually been watching me the whole time. He knew exactly where I was, even though I couldn't see him. He gave me a big hug.

Did you know that God is kind of like a daddy to us, too? God is our heavenly Father and he wants us to call him Father. Look what it says here in the Bible. (Read Luke 11:1-2.) When Jesus' friends asked him how they should talk to God, Jesus said, *"When you pray, say this: Father, let your name be holy."* It also says, (read 2 Corinthians 6:18) *"The Lord Almighty says, I will be your Father and you will be my sons and daughters."* God knows us just like a kind father would know his children. And even when we can't see him, we know that he is with us always, because we are his children. (Show a cross.) Best of all, God gave us Jesus, his own Son. That's the best way he could show his love for us. Jesus gave his life to take away our sins, so that we could be his children forever. It says that here in the Bible, in 1 John 4:9, *"God has shown us his love by sending his only Son into the world, so that we could have life through him."* God is an amazing Father. Not only does he give us an earthly daddy, but he is our true Heavenly Father. Remember, ***I AM GOD'S CHILD – I am happy God loves me.**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide different snacks that remind us of fathers. For instance, pretzel sticks can represent nails for building, fishing poles, or golf clubs. Goldfish crackers remind us of fishing. Mini marshmallows can be golf balls or baseballs.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Provide different snacks that remind us of our Heavenly Father. For example, fruits, or vegetables. Talk about how God created all of these things to help us stay healthy.

Drama Zone: Practice being a dad. Provide hats, jackets, ties, etc.

Puppet Zone: Let the kids use puppets to show various examples of how their fathers love them (playing ball together, reading a book, fixing an owie).

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story from today's Bible event.

Craft Zone: Have children draw a picture either for their dad or of their dad in the center of a blank piece of cardstock. Have them spread glue around the edge of the cardstock and then sprinkle glitter to 'frame' the picture. Place a pre-made label on the picture saying, "Heavenly Father: Bless My Dad."

Option: Mount the entire cardstock piece on colored construction paper.

Play Zone: Tag or relay race.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books, including Lord's Prayer book or picture Bible.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: Color the "God is our Father—and we are his children" sheet.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba is sad that his dad couldn't be here today. It is Father's Day and he wishes his dad were here with him. The large group presenter tells Bubba that, even though his earthly dad isn't here, Bubba can still think about his heavenly Father. God is always here as our Father. He is right with us all the time. We can talk to him anytime we want and he hears us. He understands us and he helps us. We might not be able to see him, but we talk to him with our prayers. And because he sent his Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, he is always with us. Our heavenly Father guides us, protects us, and provides us with what we need. He is our special Daddy. We can always be glad that our heavenly Father is here for us.

Remember: ****I AM GOD'S CHILD – I am happy God loves me!***

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead, and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- variety of toys (truck, ball)
- doll
- cross

Action Zones:

Snack:

- pretzel sticks
- mini marshmallows
- Goldfish crackers

Drama:

- daddy clothes – hats, jackets, ties

Felt Board:

- use felt board materials to show a father and children playing together or use #146, “Who Are God’s Children,” from *Betty Lukens’ Through the Bible in Felt*. (Replace the modern day mother in the story with a modern day father felt figure.)

Craft:

- white cardstock
- markers and crayons
- glue
- glitter
- pre-made labels “Heavenly Father, Bless My Dad”
- colored construction paper

Play:

- tag or relay race.

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books including the Lord’s Prayer book or picture Bible

Music:

- choose one or two songs to listen to or sing and list them here.

Coloring:

- coloring page
- markers and crayons

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books