



Date: _____

Series: Discover the Design
Summer Year 1, Lesson 6

God Chooses Us to Be His Family

Primary Scripture: Ephesians 1:4

Key Verse: 1 Peter 2:9-10, "However, you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, people who belong to God. You were chosen to tell about the excellent qualities of God, who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not God's people, but now you are. Once you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Children need to feel special because God has chosen them to be part of his family. God went to a great deal of effort to be able to choose us. He gave us his Son to bring us back to him. Children, as well as adults, experience rejection in many ways. Sometimes it is among their friends. Sometimes it is within their families. Especially when we feel the pain of rejection from others, we need to know of the unconditional love and very special status God gives us as he chooses us to be his own.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus died on the cross for each one of us so that each one of us might be chosen.

Jesus in us: The presence of Jesus in our lives confirms our chosen status.

Jesus through us: Since God has chosen us, we have a special purpose. That purpose is to declare the excellent works of God.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring the worship symbols forward such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- *telephone that rings*

Pretend to get a phone call from the President of the United States. Use the following dialogue to introduce the concept of being chosen.

**Yes, Mr. President. That's true, we are in the middle of Kids Church.
No, that's okay. We're glad you called.**

I understand, sir. You are looking for that one special person—the all-American kid—who is the perfect example of what it means to be a great kid. Yes, we have a room *full* of them. Oh, *those* people! You have already chosen a boy and a girl? Oh, they are both here this morning.

Mr. President, were these kids chosen from all the kids in (your city)? Larger than that? You chose from all the kids of (your state)? Larger than that? You chose from all the kids in America? Wow! What a privilege.

I see. That is why they are called the All-American Kids. They will receive a special honor and travel around the United States in Air Force One and talk about how great it is to be an American.

And you have their names? Yes, he's right here. Yes, she's here too. Okay. I'll tell them you are coming to see them. They are going to fly back to Washington with you on Air Force One for a special presentation and honor banquet?

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Good talking with you. I will let them know who they are.

After hanging up the phone, select a boy and a girl from the audience and have them come forward. Have everyone else clap for the children.

Addressing the chosen:

Congratulations on your honor. How does it feel to be so specially chosen?

Wouldn't every kid here want to be chosen for something so special? Let me ask you another question. Do you think I was making all of this up? You're right. I was.

The President didn't call but someone more important did. God calls us today. He says, "I want to choose you to be my son or my daughter and live in my Kingdom forever. I will give you the gift of my Son Jesus who gave his life for you so he could live in your heart and you could serve me."

Have the volunteers return to their seats.

Let's serve God in our worship today as we remember God has chosen us to declare the excellent qualities of God.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Let's imagine that the boy and girl I asked to come up front earlier did in fact go with the President to Washington, D.C. Let's imagine that while aboard Air Force One, the President asked one of them to

bring him a glass of water and the child said, “No, I don’t want to.” Let’s suppose that they were running around the airplane and were asked to sit down and buckle their seat belts and they ignored the request.

That is the same as God asking us to obey him and us saying, “No, I don’t have to.” How did you disobey God this week? Did you disobey your parents? God commands us to obey our parents. Did you watch any TV that made wrong things seem okay to do? Did you remember to read your Bible on your own? Think about one thing you did that you know in your heart was not pleasing to God. Let’s ask forgiveness for Jesus’ sake and know that he will forgive. But he will also help us become more like him. We will remain his chosen!

Lead the children in a prayer of repentance and absolution.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

How many of you get an allowance of money from your teacher at school? How many get an allowance from the policeman who drives through your neighborhood? How many get an allowance from the cashier at the grocery store? None of you do...unless, of course, that person is your mother or father.

Our parents are the ones who give us allowances because they are our family members. It’s their job to help take care of us and show us how to use our money wisely.

Did you know that is the same way with God? He chooses us to be part of his family by giving us Jesus. Since we are part of his family, he gives us allowances. When we give some of our money back to him in our offering, we are reminded that it came from him and we can show our thankfulness by giving some back to him.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Drop Out:

Supplies:

- *candy bar or some other treat*

Divide the children into groups of six to eight. Each group gathers in a close circle with both fists held out in front of them. One child will be the caller for the group. This child will tap each fist around the circle with his fist as he says the following rhyme.

Eenie, meenie, minie, mo.
You're the one I choose to go.

The child whose fist was landed on during the word “go” drops that fist. As soon as any child drops both fists, that child drops out of the circle.

Elimination continues until there is only one person left in the group. That person goes to the finals in which the finalists of each group make a circle and repeat the game. Finally, one person is chosen. This person receives the prize of a candy bar or some other treat.

Then talk about how special it is to feel chosen, especially one chosen out of many people.

What are special things for which people are chosen? (*Teams, games at school, elected offices, marriage, friendship, etc.*)

When you want to be chosen for something and you are not, sometimes that feels terrible. Who can tell me some things for which you hate not being chosen?

Today we are going to discover how God chooses us to be his family.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.

“However, you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, people who belong to God. You were chosen to tell about the excellent qualities of God, who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not God’s people, but now you are. Once you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.”

Application:

Supplies:

- *book: I’d Choose You, written by Dr. John Trent, illustrated by Judy Love (Word Publishing, 1994)—order from http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0849911656/cellartours-20/103-2452802-8726231?dev-t=D2GY6TNN1YN2TQ%26camp=2025%26link_code=sp1*

Read the book *I’d Choose You*, written by Dr. John Trent and illustrated by Judy Love. This book describes the unconditional love of a parent who chooses a child regardless of the child’s abilities. Such is the case for us in our relationship with God.

This book’s illustrations are especially delightful. If these illustrations can be copied onto transparencies or shown through Power Point, it would be helpful. Please contact the book’s publisher, Word Publishing, at (800) 251-4000 for permission to use the photos.

After the book is read, conclude with:

God made our families so each one of us could feel special. When he placed us in our families, God wanted us to feel that our parents would choose us just because of who we are. That is what it means to feel loved. I hope you feel that kind of love in your family. Each one of us has a special place where we belong in our families.

Today we will discover that God wants us to feel especially chosen to be part of *his* family. To do that, I am going to ask you to play an imagination game with me.

Learning Event:

The Imagination Game for the Specially Chosen

Let's play an imagination game. Let's go back in time. Close your eyes and imagine that we are now traveling in time. We start today and we are going backwards. We go past the Revolutionary War in our country. We go past the time Columbus discovered America. We go past the days of the early American natives. We go past the days of Noah and the flood. We go all the way back before the Garden of Eden. Go way back before God even made the world, the sun, and the stars.

Who do you see there? God is there. Do you know what he is thinking? He is thinking, "I would like to choose you to be my special child forever." Think about that. Even before he made you...even before he made the world...he knew that someday he would create you and he would choose you to his very special own.

Can you hear God say this? Fill your name in the blank in this sentence that God says: "I choose you, _____, to be my special child."

The Bible says in Ephesians 1:4, *"Before the creation of the world, he chose us through Christ to be holy and perfect in his presence."* God already knew about you.

Think about this. Of all the people who have ever lived in the whole world and all the people alive right now, of all the people in America, of all the people in (your state), of all the people in (your city), and of all the people in our church, God looks at you and says, "I choose you."

God even knows the number of hairs on your head. God knows your thoughts and your personality. He knows all the good things about you and he even knows the bad things about you. All God can think about is how much he loves you and wants you to be in his presence forever.

Even before you were born, God knew that he wanted to be with you forever. That is why he gave his Son Jesus to die on the cross to pay the price for your sins. You can be in God's presence because your sins are forgiven and he sees you as perfect in his sight.

God chooses you as his child. There is none other like you. God wants to spend forever in heaven with you. He wants you to trust his love right now so you can be with him in heaven.

**How many of you feel special now because God has chosen you?
That is what he wants.**

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 again.

Why were we chosen? *(So we could tell about the excellent qualities of God.)*



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Tell one way this week that you watched God work in your life or the lives of others around you.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Begin prayers with praise. Let every child think of one excellent quality of God that they can thank him for. Review some of these qualities with the kids. *(God is all loving, all-knowing, all wise; God is before time, he lives forever; God is patient, etc.)*

Continue with the rest of the prayers and intercessions. Especially pray that we would witness to God's excellent qualities so others would know that God wants to choose them, as well. Pray that those we witness to would want to accept the love that God has for them through Jesus.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- telephone that rings

Learning Game:

- candy bar or some other treat

Bible Presentation Application:

- book, *I'd Choose You*, written by Dr. John Trent, illustrated by Judy Love (Word Publishing, 1994)—order from http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0849911656/cellartours-20/103-2452802-8726231?dev-t=D2GY6TNN1YN2TQ%26camp=2025%26link_code=sp1
- optional: This book's illustrations are especially delightful. If these illustrations can be copied onto transparencies or shown through Power Point, it would be helpful. Please contact the book's publisher, Word Publishing, at (800) 251-4000 for permission to use the photos.

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