

Chapter 3 Activity: Child of God

Teaching Goal: God knows us by name. He knows us personally.

Scripture: Isaiah 49:16 See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands.

John 1:12 To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, He gave the right to become children of God.

Materials: Paper and pencils
\$20 dollar bill
Blank name tag or sticky label for each participant
Scissors



☺ Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. ACTIVITY #1: (All ages) Give each person a piece of paper. **Let's say that this is paper that we purchased to write on. Follow me and do what I do.** Go outside, in the garage or somewhere that you can get the paper really dirty. Rub it in the dirt. Flick a few drops of water on the paper and crunch it up. **Crunch the paper into a small ball in your hand. Now, unfold it. Is this still good paper for writing? Would your teacher accept homework turned in on this paper? Should we use it or throw it away?** *Throw it away because it has lost its value as writing paper.*

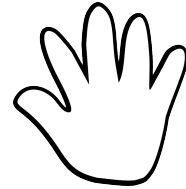
Take out the \$20 dollar bill. **Now, I'm going to do the same thing with this \$20 bill.** Rub it in dirt, flick some water on it, crumble it up and then unfold it. **Should I throw it away? NO! Why not? Because it is still worth \$20. We had two pieces of paper but one did not lose its value. The paper that is used to make a \$20 dollar bill is still valuable because the US Government has added value to the piece of paper. The US Government has said that even if it is dirty, wet or crumpled the bill is worth \$20.**

Just as the US Government adds value to the \$20 dollar bill, God has added value to you. Invite a volunteer to read John 1:12. **When you receive Jesus—which means you know about Him; then believe that what He says is true; and live making decisions based on your belief in Him—you become a Child of God! When you are a Child of God, you may still sin (make bad choices). Sin would be like the dirt, water, crunching and folding we did to the paper. But when God looks at you He sees past the dirty sin to the beautiful heart of Jesus at work in you. Through Jesus we become a Child of God and that gives us value!**

B. ACTIVITY #2: (Younger children) Invite a volunteer to read Isaiah 49:16.

God, the creator of everything we see, knows each one of us personally! Knowing God and being known by God is what gives each one of us value. In this verse Isaiah tells us that God has my name and your name printed on the palm of His hand! How close. How personal. To help us remember this we are going to make a Palm of God sticker.

Draw a palm print on the blank label. Write on the inside: *Name* Is a Child of God! Using scissors cut out the handprint. You may put this sticker on your shirt, on a book, inside a Bible, etc.



Memorize: “I have engraved you in the palms of my hands.” Isaiah 49:16

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Chapter 4 Activity: Made With a Purpose

By Karen Noal



Teaching Goal: God gives us special abilities to be used for ministry.

Scripture: Psalm 139:13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Exodus 31:3 ...and I have filled him with the spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.

Exodus 31:1-11 List of names of skilled workers and work needed to be done for the tent of meeting (where the Israelites were going to worship).

Materials: Paper
Pencil or marker
Peanut with shell
LEGOS, blocks or other age appropriate building materials

In Advance: Put the peanut in your pocket, out of sight.

☺ Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. ACTIVITY #1: Even before we were born, God designed each one of us with special abilities and skills. His plan is for us to discover those special abilities and use them for His purposes. Invite a volunteer to read Psalm 139:13. **Here is an example from the Bible of people with special abilities who used them for God's purposes:**

A long time ago when Moses led the Israelites, they needed a place to worship—a church. God knew that many people would be needed and that they would need special abilities and skills to complete what He wanted done. God provided the skills and knowledge to the people he had chosen to do His work. Some people think that only preachers or teachers are important to God's work. That's not true. God needs people with all kinds of abilities and skills. Invite a volunteer to read Exodus 31:3.

Let's build a building with these blocks. If we were to build a church what kinds of materials would we need and what kind of skills would be needed to complete the building? *Help children to recognize all that goes into a building and how many skills are needed to make it. Architect, cement and brick layers, carpenters, plumbers, furnace and A/C installers, carpet layer, decorator etc.* While children are building, tell them about everything and everyone that was needed to build the Old Testament tent of meeting. Exodus 31:1-11.

Materials

Gold, Silver, Bronze
Stones

Skills

Artistic Designers
Stone Cutters

Wood	Carpenters
Tents	Tent Makers
Ark	Craftsmen
Furniture	Furniture Makers
Clothing	Tailor
Perfumes & Incense	Scent Maker

God provides people with skills and He wants us to use our skills and abilities to serve Him.

B. ACTIVITY #2: Be sure you have the peanut in your pocket. **I have something in my pocket that has never been seen or touched by anyone anywhere ever before!!! Would you like to guess what it is?** Play this up. Get the children to wondering how it got in your pocket if no one has seen or touched it before. After a few minutes of not being able to guess, pull out the peanut. Children will at first say they've seen a peanut before. Crack open the peanut. **You may have seen a peanut before but this particular nut has never ever been seen or touched by human hands. It grew inside of this shell, and this is the very first time the shell has ever been opened.**

Like this ordinary peanut shell, we are ordinary people but we have something inside of us that maybe no one has ever seen before. God has given us skills and abilities that He wants to be able to use in our lives. He gives us knowledge and new skills every day. We might not be able to see it in ourselves or in other people but it's there, just like no one had ever seen the inside of this peanut.

Few skills can be learned overnight. It takes time and practice. God is building skills in you now that He will use later. We need to be ready when God wants to use our skills.

C. ACTIVITY #3: **Can you identify special abilities and skills that you have that can be used to serve God? Let's make a list of things you are learning to do and ways that God might use your abilities later.**

Examples:

Learning numbers	Help with accounting at church Manage money better in order to give
Cook	Help with meals for special events Cook for others, show hospitality

Memorize "...you knit me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13

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Chapter 5 Activity: Who Are You? The Body of Christ



Teaching Goal: Understanding the importance of different gifts in the body of Christ.

Scripture: I Corinthians 12:12-20 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body...Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they are all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

Materials: Legos
Blindfolds

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A. Christians are a group of people. Can you think of other groups of people? *Family. Schools. Teams. Ethnic groups: Africans, Americans, Asians.* **In Paul's letter to the people at Corinth, he tells us that Christians as a group make up the Body of Christ. Christians, working together as a group, do the work of Christ on earth. Paul also tells us that although Christians as a group make up one Body, individually we are different. We have different skills. Working together, we can accomplish things that would be impossible as individuals.**

Why is it important to know that individually we may be different, but together we make up one body? *Helps us to value others. See a vision for working together.*

God made us different. It's important because we need to support each other's differences. Our tendency is to try and change others to be just like we are. God made us different, and being different is okay.

We need each other. It's important because God's plans are bigger than what can be accomplished individually. Only by working together, pooling our spiritual skills, can we accomplish God's plans.

Invite a volunteer to read I Corinthians 12:12-20. **What spiritual skills do you have that others may not have? And what spiritual skills do others have that you may not have?**

Resources. Ability to work with the sick. Speaking a foreign language. Mechanical skills. Prayer warrior. Compassion.

B. ACTIVITY: We are going to build a tower. Each one of you will have special skills and only by working together will you be able to build the tower. Divide into groups of four. Think about which children to match up with which skill.

The special skills:

Director: This person may either be an adult or a child who has the directions, but may only whisper to Person C.

Person A: **You are the hands and feet.** (Blindfold this child.)

Person B: **You are the eyes.** (Loosely bind this child's hands and feet.)

Person C: **You are the ears, but you cannot speak out loud. You may only whisper to Person B.** (Blind fold and loosely bind hands and feet.)

Person A is in the front standing. Person B is sitting in a chair behind person A. Person C is sitting in a chair behind Person B, but close enough that Person C can whisper instructions to Person B. The Director is standing behind Person C.

After everyone is in place, the Director scatters a group of blocks on the floor in front of Person A. The blocks should vary in size or color. In this example, the blocks will be the same size but different colors.

The Director then returns to the back of the line and whispers one direction at a time to Person C. Person C whispers each direction to Person B. Person B will verbally direct Person A to pick up the boxes one at a time and build the tower.

Example Directions:

1. Put the green box on the bottom of the tower.
2. Put the blue box on top of the green box.
3. Put the yellow box on top of the blue box.
4. Put the red box on top of the yellow box.

C. When the task is completed, remove the blind folds and celebrate everyone working together! What would have happened if you didn't have the special skills of Person A? Person B? Person C?

In the same way, we need each other and our different skills to accomplish the task God has given each one of us. We each have special skills to use to accomplish God's purposes within the Body of Christ.

Example: The missionary; the school that trained the missionary; the people who send money to pay the missionaries expenses.

Example: The greeters at church welcoming new people; the people who sing and put everyone in a mood for worship; the preacher who gives a message that teaches about Jesus.

Memorize: “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” I Corinthians 12:27

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Chapter 6 Activity: Image of God



Teaching Goal: We have Godly attributes because we are made in God's image.

Scripture: Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Materials: Quarter
Photograph of someone you know
Option 1: Sidewalk chalk
Option 2: Large paper and markers
Bright light

☺ Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. **ACTIVITY #1:** Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:27. **In this very first chapter of the Bible we learn how God created the heavens, the earth, light, darkness, animals and finally, in this verse, God creates men and women, males and females. The verse tells us that we are created in the image of God. What does the word "image" mean? Listen to answers.** To look like. A person strikingly like another. A tangible or visible representation. **What do you see on the front of this quarter? Answer or guess. This is the image of our first president, George Washington. Is it really George Washington? No. Its just his image. What about this image is probably accurate and what isn't accurate? The sloping forehead, long hair, nose and mouth are probably accurate. Silver skin, small size, flat shape are not accurate.**

Show the photograph. **Who is in this picture? Listen to answers. This is not the actual person. It is an image of the person. Have you ever had your picture taken and because of the angle or the lighting you didn't think it looked very much like you? How is this picture accurate and how is it not an accurate image? Listen to answers.**

B. **ACTIVITY #2: Let's make our own image!** Option 1: Trace each person on the sidewalk/driveway using sidewalk chalk. Option 2: Use the bright light to create a shadow and trace each person on a large piece of paper. **In the same way the drawing represents an image of us, we each represent an image of God! Inside our image let's write down characteristics we have that are like God.**

Creative	Helpful	Honest	Compassionate
Loving	Caring	Hopeful	Generous
Friendly	Giving	Unique	Loyal

Outside of our image let's write down characteristics that are a part of our lives that are not accurate images of God.

Sinful	Dishonest	Stealing	Careless
Mean	Disobedient	Grumpy	

Greedy

Selfish

Hurtful

C. We can learn more about what God is like by reading the Bible. God wants us to act and be more like Him and less like those characteristics that don't accurately reflect His image.

Memorize: "So God created man in his own image..." Genesis 1:27

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Chapter 7 Activity: God Can Use Me



Teaching Goal: God will use us despite our weaknesses and failures

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:10 ... We are weak, but you are strong!

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Materials: 1 copy of worksheet per person
1 pen or pencil per person

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and Discussion

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A. **ACTIVITY:** *Read 2 Corinthians 12:9 and 1 Corinthians 4:10 out loud. Jesus says his power is made perfect in weakness. What do you think Jesus means? Listen to answers. It is in our weakness—physical weakness, lack of skill, mistakes, sickness, sins and mistakes—that others can see the power of God. The Apostle Paul, who wrote 1 & 2 Corinthians, is willing to talk about his weaknesses because he doesn't want people to think he is perfect. Like everyone else, Paul is weak and needs Jesus and it is in his weakness that others will see Jesus at work!*

What is a weakness that you have? *Listen to answers. You may need to start by sharing one of your weaknesses. Shyness. Strength. Pride. Disobedient. Impatient. Everyone has weak areas in their lives.*

The Bible is filled with stories of people who were weak and made terrible mistakes. Despite their mistakes, God still used them to do great things. Pass out a copy of the Matching Game to each family member. **Draw a line and match the weakness to the correct Bible character.**

Review answers using the key when everyone is finished.

Matching Key:

1. Abraham	5. Eve	9. Paul	13. John
2. Jacob	6. David	10. Timothy	14. John the Baptist
3. Moses	7. Jonah	11. Peter	
4. Samson	8. Peter	12. Thomas	

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If God can use these people with their weaknesses, he certainly can use you and me. Share a personal story of a time when you felt weak or inadequate and God gave you strength to accomplish something positive. Consider giving examples for each family member of a time when they were strong in the area they see themselves as being weak.

Memorize: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

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Weakness Matching Game

Match the historical Bible figure with his or her problem.

1. Too old. God promised him a son and more descendants than stars in the sky.
2. Thief. Wore a hairy costume and stole a fortune.
3. Shy. Didn't want to speak in public but God told him to lead thousands of people.
4. Proud. Gave away the secret to his great strength.
5. Disobedient. Listened to a snake.
6. Murderer. Ordered the death of one of his army commanders.
7. Afraid. Went for a ride in a big fish.
8. Liar. Reminded of his lies by a crowing rooster.
9. Hateful. Hated Christians but saw the Light on a dusty road.
10. Sickly. Suffered from chronic stomach pains
11. Impatient. Cut off an ear with his sword.
12. Doubtful. Needed to see and feel it to believe it.
13. Embarrassed. Ran naked through the garden.
14. Filthy. Ate bugs, wore the same clothes and didn't bathe.

Thomas
John 20:24-30

Paul
Acts 9:1-18

Samson
Judges 16:15-22

Jonah
Jonah

Abraham
Genesis 17

Peter
John 18:1-10
Matthew 26:69-75

Eve
Genesis 3

John the Baptist
Matthew 3:4

David
2nd Samuel 11

Jacob
Genesis 25:29-34, 27

Moses
Exodus 4:10-16

John
Mark 14:43-51

Timothy
1st Timothy 5:23

Chapter 8 Activity: God's Plan for our Lives



Teaching Goal: God has a plan for our lives and the Bible teaches us about God's plan.

Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correction and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Materials: Car and prepared directions

In Advance: Prepare directions leading to a special surprise (ice cream, dinner, park, Discovery Zone, etc). With younger children use symbols of a right hand and left hand for making turns, use drawings for stop signs and stoplights. Also draw landmarks like the bank, video store and grocery store.

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A. Sit in a circle with the Bible in the middle. Talk about how God teaches us through the Bible what is right and what is wrong. When we talk about God being in our heart and God walking with us, part of that refers to us reading the Bible and learning what the Bible says. The Bible contains "God's direction for our Lives." Invite volunteers to read Jeremiah 29:11 and 2 Timothy 3:16.

- We go to church because God tells us to get together with other Christians.
- We pray because God tells us to talk with him through prayer.
- We give to missions because God tells us to give to those in need.
- God warns us not to lie because it leads to trouble.
- God warns us not to disobey our parents because it makes him sad.

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B. **ACTIVITY:** Give one of the kids the directions. Load up in the car with a parent driving and one child giving the directions on the sheet. As the parent drives, he or she ignores the directions the child is giving, saying **“I know what I’m doing. I’ll get there my own way.”** (Be prepared that the child may get upset, so try to keep the trip light and focused on learning a lesson.)

C. The driver eventually ends up at a dumpster (or dead end, etc.). He or she finally admits, **“I’m lost,”** and apologizes for not following the directions. Also emphasize that when we go our own way and ignore God’s directions, we end up “in the dumps” or in a yucky situation.

D. Go back home and start over, but this time follow the directions ending up at your surprise destination. As you drive, talk about the parallel with the bible that when we follow God’s Word, we have peace and joy in our lives. When we don’t follow His direction, then we end up in the dumps.

Memorize: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

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Chapter 9 Activity: Does God Really Love Me?

Teaching Goal: God's love is reliable.

Scripture: Psalm 89:31-33 If they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands, I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging; but I will not take my love from them, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness.



Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 17:23-24 Let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me."

Materials: Sidewalk chalk
Paper and pencil
For older children rent the movie "Vertical Limit."

In Advance: Identify a large parking lot or area of cement (perhaps at your church). Get permission to draw on the lot with sidewalk chalk. FOR OLDER CHILDREN: Preview the movie scene from "Vertical Limit" for language and violence to see if it appropriate to use in your family.

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A. ACTIVITY #1: Ask each person in your family, one at a time, the following questions. Let them answer both questions before moving on to the next person: (Person's name), **do you think I love you?** Listen. **How do I show you that I love you?** After listening, write down the responses.

Next, ask each person the following questions about one another. Listen to the answers and record them as well. For instance, "**Mary** (sister), **does Jeff** (brother) **love you? How does he show that love?**" Make sure that you ask each person.

It's good for our family to take the time to talk about how we love one another. Most of the time we don't talk about it because we all know that we love each other, even if we argue or fight. But sometimes it's good to focus on that love.

We're also going to talk about how our love compares to God's love. Do you think that Mom and I love you more than God loves you? No. Do you think God loves us more than we can love each other? Yes. Why? Because he is God, because he made love and he knows what is best for us in every situation. His love is perfect. God does love us more than we love each other. It's hard for us to understand because we are human. We do not know and see everything like God can. He created us. So He knows exactly how to love us perfectly. Let's make a list of the ways God shows us that He loves us. Write down each suggestion.

B. ACTIVITY #2: ***FOR OLDER CHILDREN*** (Preview to make sure it is appropriate for your family. Show the first 7 minute scene from the movie “Vertical Limit.”) **We’re going to watch a movie clip of a dad rock climbing with his son and daughter. I want you to know in advance that it’s very intense.** Watch the movie clip. End when the father falls. **The father knew that the only way to save his children was to have his son cut the rope. Do you think the father loved his children?** Listen. *Yes, he gave his life for them.* **When we put the needs of someone else above our own needs it shows how much we love them.**

God loves us so much that he gave his son Jesus to die so that we could live. Which do you believe was harder, the dad asking the son to cut the rope or the son having to cut the rope? Listen. **Which do you think is harder, a father dying for his children or a father having to choose to let his son die so others could live? Would it have been a tougher situation if the father was second on the rope?** Listen. **God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to earth where he knew that he would die so that you and I could live. If God did not send Jesus, we could not have eternal life. Do you see how much God loves you and me?** Listen.

Just before Jesus was arrested and taken to the cross, He prayed to His father, God. Listen to what he said. Read John 17:23-24. **Jesus is God’s message of love to the whole world! Jesus loved us so much that he was willing to die and pay the price for our sin so that he could be with us in heaven.**

C. ACTIVITY #3 ***FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN***: Go to the parking lot and write a GIANT message of love to God. (This can also be done on the beach by drawing in the sand.) The idea is to make the message as huge as possible to recreate the big message of love God sent when He sent His son Jesus. Consider the age and abilities of your children when deciding how big the message will be. For example, preschoolers will view a heart the size of a driveway as a “big message.” Unable to write, they can still help color in the heart. Older elementary children will enjoy the challenge of making a message “WE LOVE YOU!” that can be seen by a passing airplane! .

God’s love for us is big! We want our love for God to be big too. That is what this message represents—giving God a big message of love!

Memorize: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son...” John 3:16

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