

# Child of God

## you belong to his family

### Start Here

Take 5 minutes to share your experience of reading the Bible and praying in the past few days:

- What has been especially encouraging?
- What has been challenging?

### Discuss

How long after a baby is born does it take for a father or mother to say, “my daughter” or “my son”? How long does it take to have the legal rights of a child?

Do you have experience of a child coming into your family? How did you feel the first time you held that child?

### Main Idea

When a baby is born, it’s counted as part of the family from the very beginning.

There is nothing a new baby must do to be accepted as a child. The baby doesn’t have to behave in a certain way or pass a test. It just is a son or daughter. Its identity is a child. He or she immediately has a relationship with their father, mother and siblings. What is more, he or she is immediately recognized by law as a child of the parents.

The Bible is abundantly clear: When someone believes in Jesus, they immediately become a child of God and are accepted as a full member of his family.

### Explore the Word

Read the following verses. What do they teach you about being a child of God?

1. John 1:12–13
2. Romans 8:15–16
3. Galatians 4:6–7
4. Romans 8:38–39

The point is this: We don’t have to perform religious duties in order to have a relationship with God. We can enjoy relationship with God because of our identity as his child. We can freely go into his presence and ask him to meet our daily needs. How amazing that we can call God ‘Abba’, which means ‘daddy’ or ‘father’.

As Heavenly Father, God never abandons his children. Nothing can separate us from his love.

### Practice Together Now

- How does being a child of God affect you?
- How does it make you feel towards God, your heavenly Father?
- How does it give you confidence and hope today?

Ask the Lord to help you live in this world in your full identity as a child of God. You can use these words as a starting point.

- Thank you, God, that I am truly your child. From now on I have full access to you.
- Thank you, God, that I am not a stranger to you, but a member of your family. Thank you for my brothers and sisters around the world. May our family grow.
- Thank you, God, that you are my 'Abba' father. Thank you that you care deeply for me and want to be close to me.

### **Review your Practice Daily**

- During your daily time with God, continue reading Luke and the Psalms. As you read, ask yourself these questions:
  - What does this passage tell me about God?
  - What does this mean for me today as his child?
- Also spend a few minutes each day with one of the verses below about being a child of God.
  - 1 John 3:1-2
  - Galatians 4:6-7
  - Romans 8:38-39
- Share what you learn with each other.
- Ask how you can pray for each other during the week.