



01.02.11/Galatians 3:26-29, Galatians 4:1-7

### Materials needed

a library card

### Activity

Show children the library card. Ask if they know what a library card is for and how it works. Tell the children that one of the great things about a library card is that it is available to everyone. It doesn't matter if you are young or old. It doesn't matter if you are a boy or a girl. It doesn't matter if your skin is red, brown, yellow, black, or white. It doesn't matter if you have a lot of money or not – everyone is welcome. But the best part about the library is that once you become a member, you are entitled to all of the benefits and services that the library provides. You can check out books and videos – even music on a CD. You can go to the library and read magazines and newspapers. You can even use the computer. Tell the children that tonight we are going to talk about how we are members of a very special family – God's family! And just like having a library card allows you to take part in all the benefits of the library, being in God's family means that we get to be a part of all the good stuff that comes with being called sons and daughters of the most High God!

### Galatians 3:26-29, Galatians 4:-7

"For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

### Discussion

Think about your family. How do you get to be a part of it? You can be born into it, you can get married into it, or maybe you were adopted into it. If you are a follower of Christ, you are an adopted son or daughter in God's family because God chose to forgive you and bring you into His family! In a family, parents love each of their children the same and don't have favorites – that's how it is in God's family also! God doesn't care about age, money, skin color, where we live – He loves us all the same, because we are all His children!

### Question 1

Paul says that believers are "heirs" through God. If someone is an "heir," it means they are "next in line" for something. When a king has a son, that son is an "heir" to the throne – meaning that someday the son will inherit the entire kingdom that his father, the king, has. As heirs to God, what kind of kingdom do we have to look forward to? *As believers, death is not the end for us – it is just the beginning! We will spend eternity in with God in heaven! There will be no more suffering or sadness – only the joy and happiness that comes from being in the presence of God the Father!*

### Discussion

The Creator God became a human, Jesus Christ, and walked the earth just like us. When Jesus lived a perfect life as a man and then paid for our sin by dying on the cross and being resurrected (coming back to life) He changed our relationship with God the Father. Now, if we believe in Him, we are no longer slaves to sin, but sons and daughters of the most High God. What an amazing and wonderful truth!

**Discussion**

Parents try to do what is best for their children, even if the child doesn't understand it at the time. A 3 year old boy might get upset when he is told that he can't play in the street, but in a few years he will understand that his parents are just trying to keep him safe. The same is true with God. He knows what is best for us, and is far wiser than we could ever imagine. Sometimes he may intervene in our lives in ways that we don't understand. In our eyes, it might not seem like what is best for us, but someday we will understand that God our Heavenly Father is doing what is best for us. Can you think of a time when God allowed something to happen in your life that seemed bad at the time, but you later realized that it was for the best? *Go around the room and share if everyone feels comfortable.*

**Reflection**

What things about your everyday life might change if you lived in an awareness of being sons and daughters of the Most High? *Answers will vary, but may include: less focus on earthly things, more focus on things of eternal value, showing more respect to others, caring for our neighbors, making healthy choices, etc.*

**Wrap Up**

Close in prayer by thanking God for sending his Son Jesus to earth to pay for the penalty of sin. Thank God for accepting us into His Kingdom even though we don't deserve it! Pray that the group would see themselves and others as children of God, and will reflect that in their interactions with others on a day to day basis. Pray that in this upcoming year we would celebrate Jesus' birth and what it means for us throughout the year, and not just during the Advent season. Pray that those who do not yet follow Jesus would begin to trust Him instead of trusting themselves.