

# I am a child of God



*We review the previous three lessons in which the focal point was that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We too are privileged to be children of God. God is our heavenly Father who loves and cares for us. But he also expects something from us in return.*

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The children feel that they have a heavenly Father.  
God is the best and strongest Father they could wish to have.  
They should experience, time and again, that he cares for them and  
has the best possible intentions for them.

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## John the Baptist

In John the Baptist, God gave a man who was to prepare the people for the activities of his Son by allowing themselves to be baptized by John as a sign of their repentance and conversion and preparing themselves for a new life. God also cares for us. We were also baptized with water. Baptism is part of the rebirth. All sins are forgiven. God makes a covenant with us.

### Jesus is baptized and sealed

After the baptism with water, God filled the Lord Jesus with his Spirit, the Holy Spirit.

We are also sealed with the Holy Spirit. It helps and strengthens us in all circumstances of life. All who carry God's Spirit within them, are his children, and have reason to look forward joyfully to eternal life.

### John acknowledges

John proclaimed: The Lord Jesus is the Son of God. He has come to the earth from heaven. He was one with God, his heavenly Father. Jesus Christ teaches us that God is also our Father. Because he loves us so much he made us his own

children. We are filled with his Spirit and should try to be like him. If we seek his nearness, believe in him and trust him, the eternal, heavenly life will grow in us.

With a few sentences we lead up to the following story or conversation about our heavenly Father: "We have heard that Jesus Christ said that God is not only his, but also our heavenly Father. We are therefore privileged to be his children. Do you know what this means? Listen to how Cathy's mother explains it to her:

Cathy and her mother are sitting under a tree in a meadow covered with flowers. They are delighted about the abundance of variety and colours. Mother knows the name of each flower. Cathy tries to remember the names too, but she keeps mixing them up. "There are just too many," she sighs. "Yes, there certainly are many," answers her mother. "We can only marvel at the Creator, our Father in heaven." Cathy looks up at her mother in surprise. "You know very well that I do not mean your daddy," Mother says reassuringly. "The dear Lord is our heavenly Father. Jesus has told us that. Naturally each child also needs a father and mother here on earth. Parents provide for their children. They are concerned about them and help them wherever they can. But there are also many things they cannot do. Your father and I are very happy therefore that the dear Lord is also our Father. We may all pray to him and trust him."

## Jesus Christ is the Son of God

"Does the dear Lord know everybody then? There are so many, many people!" Cathy says thoughtfully. "Yes, he knows us all, just as well as I know you and your brother. Because he is so incredibly great and powerful, he can do that. He also loves each and every person wholeheartedly. He created us after all. That is why he is not indifferent to us. He sees everything we do. He is happy when we do that which is good. He is troubled when we have something in mind which is not good.

"Then he must be very busy! I won't dare to ask the Lord for anything any more," says Cathy. "The Lord always has time for his children," replies her mother. "We can pray to him at any time. He is happy when we seek his nearness in prayer.

In this way we can also show him that we love him. But there is something of great importance which you must never forget! Do you know what it is? I also don't like to have to remind you of it."

"To say thank you!" exclaims Cathy. "When one asks for something and then receives it, one must say thank you. Isn't that so?"

"Yes, that is exactly what I meant," replies her mother. "We have reason to thank the Lord every single day. The heavenly Father gives us so much. What do you think he gives us every day?" Cathy starts enumerating the many, many things for which she can thank the Lord.

What do you think all these could have been?



*We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We are happy to be children of God.*

- 1 We look at the pictures of the previous lessons with the children. Encourage the Sunday-school students to speak freely of that which pleased them particularly.**
- 2 The Lord Jesus is the Son of God. By grace we are also children of God. With this in mind, we briefly explain the contents of the previous lessons. (The meaning of baptism and sealing is dealt with more explicitly in future lessons.)**