

HEIDI DOXEY



TINY TALKS



I AM A CHILD OF GOD



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MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES

“I Am a Child of God,” YouTube video, 2:54, posted by “Mormon Channel,” May 11, 2011, www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOrcqqpHCt8.

“God Is Our Father,” YouTube video, 3:05, posted by “Mormon Channel,” August 10, 2011, www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0y2G0hpZK8.

“Going to Grandma’s,” YouTube video, 4:02, posted by “Mormon Channel,” February 21, 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=11GgH0Kmc2I.

“Introduction: Our Heavenly Father’s Plan,” YouTube video, 4:07, posted by “Mormon Channel,” January 3, 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=UukuRsECBkE.

SONG LIST

- “I Am a Child of God” (2)
- “I Lived in Heaven” (4)
- “I Will Follow God’s Plan” (164)
- “Teach Me to Walk in the Light” (177)

GOSPEL ART BOOK

Christ and Children from around the World (no. 116)

Week 1: God Is My Heavenly Father

SCRIPTURE

Articles of Faith 1:1

TALK

When Alma the Younger was a young man, he did not want to listen to his father, who was the prophet. Alma the Younger made trouble for the Church, and he did not believe in Jesus. But Alma the Elder never stopped loving his son. Alma the Elder prayed that Alma the Younger would learn the truth and make good choices. One day, an angel appeared and told Alma the Younger to repent. The angel said that Heavenly Father had heard Alma the Elder's prayers for his son.

Each one of us has a father like Alma the Elder. It is our Heavenly Father. Our Heavenly Father loves us even if we make bad choices. He hopes that we will repent so that we can return to live with Him someday.

Alma the Younger did repent. He gained a testimony of Jesus and became a powerful prophet like his father. We can become more like our Heavenly Father when we make good choices. Our Heavenly Father knows each one of us. He created our spirits and our bodies. He sent us to earth to learn how to become like Him. Each day, He blesses us with the things we need because He loves us so much.

LESSON

DISCUSSION: Tell the children that this year in Primary, you will be talking about someone who loves them very much. This person is Heavenly Father. Ask the children what they already know about

Heavenly Father. Invite a few teachers or members of the Primary presidency to join you at the front of the room and take turns sharing answers to the following questions:

- How do we know that Heavenly Father loves us?
- Why is it important to know that we are children of God?
- How does knowing that you are a child of God change how you see yourself and your choices?
- What are some ways we can develop a closer relationship with our Heavenly Father?
- How can we show Heavenly Father that we love Him?

ACTIVITY: Read the lyrics of the song, “I Am a Child of God” (2), pausing occasionally and asking the children what word comes next. Repeat this activity with the lyrics to the song, “My Heavenly Father Loves Me” (228). Point out the important doctrines that these songs teach us about our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW: Testify that you know that Heavenly Father loves His children and that He wants us to love one another and return to live with Him someday. Share how you have gained a testimony of Heavenly Father’s love for you and how you know that Heavenly Father loves each of the children in your Primary as well.

Week 2: Heavenly Father Has a Plan for Me

SCRIPTURE

Moses 1:39

TALK

Naya was excited when Elsie’s mom asked Naya to help her plan a surprise birthday party for Elsie. Naya wanted everything to be perfect for her friend, so she told Elsie’s mom exactly what kind of cake to get

and which games to play at the party. On Elsie's birthday, Naya was so excited she had a hard time keeping the secret. After school, she helped to decorate Elsie's house while Elsie and her dad went shopping.

The party was a success! Elsie was so surprised, and she loved the cake and party games. When it was time for Naya to leave, Elsie gave Naya a big hug and thanked her for helping to plan the surprise party.

Whenever we want to do something well, it's important to have a plan. Plans help us decide what to do next; they make sure we don't forget anything. Heavenly Father has a plan for each one of us. His plan is not a surprise, like Elsie's party. We can learn about His plan in the scriptures. Because of Heavenly Father's plan, we always know what to do next, and we know that no one will be forgotten. Heavenly Father wants all of us to follow His plan so we can all return to Him someday.

LESSON

DISCUSSION: Explain to the children that before we were born, we lived with Heavenly Father. He wanted us to learn how to become more like Him. He had a plan for us, but Satan had another plan. We chose to follow Heavenly Father's plan and come to earth.

ACTIVITY: Tell the children that Heavenly Father's plan has three different parts. Write the words "Premortal Life" on the board, and explain that the first part of the plan happened before we were born. Write the words "Mortal Life" on the board, and tell the children that the second part of the plan is happening now. Then write the words "Postmortal Life" on the board, and explain that the third part will happen after we die. Divide the children into three groups and assign each group one part of the plan. Have the groups discuss their parts for a few minutes with the help of teachers or leaders. Then invite a few children from each group to stand and explain their part of the plan, starting with the premortal life, then mortal life, and then the postmortal life.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW: Help the children understand that Heavenly Father gave us His plan because He loves us. His plan helps us

to know what is most important. By following His plan, we show Heavenly Father that we love Him and want to be like Him. Encourage the children to think about specific ways that they could follow Heavenly Father's plan this week and throughout the year.

Week 3: Heavenly Father's Plan Brings Us Joy

SCRIPTURE

2 Nephi 2:25

TALK

There are lots of things that make Luke happy and there are some things that make him sad. Luke feels happy when he gets to play in the water, when he gets to eat a yummy treat, or when he gets to go on vacations with his family. He feels sad when he gets hurt, when he makes a mistake, or when it's time to go to bed and he's not done playing.

Jesus explained that here on the earth there will be lots of things that will make us happy, but there will be other things that will make us sad. The things that make us sad are called trials or tribulations. But we don't need to be too sad because Jesus has overcome all of the tribulations in our world.

He has also prepared a better place for us to live with Him after we die. If we follow His plan and try to be like Him, we will be happy here on earth and, eternally, after we die. That is why we sometimes call Heavenly Father's plan the plan of happiness. Following His plan will make us happy forever.

LESSON

DISCUSSION: Tell the children that Heavenly Father knows we will make mistakes. If we repent when we make a wrong choice, His plan

will help us to be happy again. We can follow His plan by trying to choose the right. Ask the children what it means to have joy or what makes them feel joyful. Explain that while we will not be happy all the time in this life, joy is the happiness that we will feel eternally as we follow God's plan.

ACTIVITY: Help the children memorize 2 Nephi 2:25. Repeat the verse and scripture reference several times together. Then, once most of the children have learned the verse, point to a line of children or go around the room and have each child say one word in the verse and reference. If a child cannot remember the next word, fill it in yourself. Do this until the children do not miss a word.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW: Remind the children that one of the things that brings us joy is our families. Ask the children how they could encourage the other members of their families to follow God's plan so that they can be together forever. Share some things that bring you joy and encourage the children to strive to follow the plan of happiness.

Week 4: I Can Choose for Myself

SCRIPTURE

2 Nephi 10:23

TALK

Jesus told a story about a young man who made some bad choices. Instead of staying with his family and working, the young man used all of his money to travel, buy fancy clothes, and go to big parties. When his money was gone, the young man had nothing left. He had no home, no friends, and almost no food to eat. His bad choices had made him very sad.

The young man decided to return home and ask his father for a job. He hoped that his father would let him work and try to make up for his bad choices. As soon as his father saw the young man coming, he ran

out to meet him. The father was so happy to have his son back that he celebrated with all of his friends and family. The young man knew that he had made a good choice to come home.

This story is a parable because we are all like the young man. When we make bad choices, we go farther away from our Heavenly Father and this makes us sad. But when we repent and choose the right, we become closer to Heavenly Father and that makes us happy. Our good choices make Heavenly Father happy too. He wants each of us to repent and return to Him, and the only way we can do that is by following His plan. Jesus helps us repent and make good choices each day so that we can live with our Heavenly Father forever.

LESSON

DISCUSSION: Explain to the children that Heavenly Father sent us to earth so that we could learn how to choose the right. Here we are able to make all kinds of choices. Ask the children to name some choices they have made in the past few months. Point out that we are free to choose between good and bad, but that every choice we make has a consequence.

ACTIVITY: Tell the children that the scriptures are full of examples of people who made choices. Some people made good choices and were blessed. Others made bad choices and were not blessed.

Write the names from the following chart on the board. Have the children choose one name at a time. Read or summarize the scriptures listed for this person. Ask the children what choice this person made and what the consequence of that choice was. Use the chart to guide your discussion.

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