



# 8

## Children of God



### Key Passages

- John 1:12; 1 John 3:1a; Romans 8:16–17a

### Lesson Focus

- Sinners can become children of God.

## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will complete the God's Gift of Grace Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 7 and/or play with play dough.



### Circle Time

**Prayer**—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

**God's Word**—Everyone who receives God's grace becomes a child of God! God adopts us as His children! Then God prepares a special place for us with Him in heaven!

**Song Time**—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



### Activity 1: Family Portrait

Students will search the room for pictures of people to be in the family of God. When they find the pictures, students will glue them to the Family of God Poster.



### Activity 2: Family of God Puzzle

Students will assemble the Family of God Puzzle to remind them that all God's children are part of His family. If appropriate, you may want to have them color the puzzle, and then you can help them cut it into pieces to assemble.



### Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



### Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



### COME ON IN

- Print one God's Gift of Grace Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- God's Gift of Grace Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



### CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.
- Print the King and His Son Illustration from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible
- A Photo of your family
- King and His Son Illustration



### FAMILY PORTRAIT

- Get two sheets of bulletin board paper or use two poster boards. Tape them down low on the wall in your room.
- Optional: Draw or use border paper to create a frame around the edges of the paper to make a photo frame. Write "Family of God" on the poster.
- Cut out pictures of families and people from old magazines, enough for each student to find several different pictures.
- Hide the pictures around the classroom.

- Glue or tape
- Bulletin board paper or poster board
- Pictures of people and families hidden around the room



### FAMILY OF GOD PUZZLE

- Print and cut out one copy of the Family of God Puzzle from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student, preferably on cardstock.
- If appropriate, you may want the students to color the picture first and then help them cut the pieces to make a puzzle.

- Family of God Puzzle for each student
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Envelopes or small plastic bags, one per student



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- Print and cut out one set of the 9 Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use—preferably on cardstock. You will use these flashcards for Lessons 7–12.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Nine Memory Verse Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty



### APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

Sinners are not saved by works of righteousness (Titus 3:5). They are not justified by works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:16). The Bible tells us that it is by grace that we have been saved through faith. This grace is a free gift from God. It was God's plan that none would be saved by any works of righteousness, so no man could boast of his accomplishments (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Sinners who are saved by God's grace are not only forgiven, redeemed, and granted eternal life, but they are also adopted into God's family! The Bible tells us that all who receive Him—those who believe in His name—are given the right to become children of God (John 1:12). All true believers are led by the Spirit of God and are sons of God. They have received the Spirit of adoption and can now call God, "Abba, Father" (Romans 8:14–15). Just like salvation, this adoption is completely of God. No one deserves it, nor could anyone achieve it. It is God, through His mercy and love, who allows this privilege to sinners. It is unlikely that anyone in this life will thoroughly grasp the significance of this truth—that God has granted such love to sinners that we should be called His children (1 John 3:1)!

But what does all of this mean to those who are saved? It means we can know and trust God—the Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe—as a good and loving Father. The Bible tells us that even as a father pities his own children the Lord will pity those who fear Him (Psalm 103:13). We can know that He will give good gifts to those who ask Him, even more than an earthly father who gives good gifts to his children (Matthew 7:11).

Because God receives ALL believers into His family as adopted children, we know that our relationship with other Christians will change—they are brothers and sisters in Christ. Other believers—whether they are next door or across the globe—are now part of our family.

We are all children of God and no longer slaves but sons and heirs of God (Galatians 4:7). We are heirs and co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17). But what are we heirs of? In Christ, we have all been born again into an inheritance through His Resurrection. This inheritance promised to the children of God is incorruptible and will not decay like everything else on earth. It is an inheritance that is undefiled and perfect. It is unstained and free from all evil, unlike the things of the world. And this is an inheritance that will not fade away but will maintain all of its beauty and grandeur and promise—so unlike the

things of the world that fade, weaken, decline, and depreciate. This promised eternal inheritance is being reserved and kept in heaven for all believers (1 Peter 1:4).

This is the hope into which we are saved. As believers, we are eagerly waiting for the culmination of our inheritance, which includes the completion of our adoption and the redemption of our body. Through faith we wait, hoping for what we cannot see but believing and eagerly waiting for it with perseverance (Romans 8:23–25).

What a blessed thought to meditate on. We who are in Christ can come to God and cry, "Abba, Father!" The love that God has for us is everlasting and unquenchable. It led the Apostle Paul to proclaim,

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38–39).

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

In his epistles, the Apostle Paul uses the picture of adoption as a metaphor for God's redemptive work in His chosen ones. Paul makes reference to the Roman law and culture of his day in which slaves had an inferior standing, sons had an honored standing, and adoption had a redemptive purpose. The better we understand the Roman adoption practices of the first century, the better we'll understand the ramifications of this wonderful doctrine for those of us who believe.

Roman adoption was a very serious matter because of what is called the *patria potestas* ("the possession of the father"). The *patria potestas* was the father's power over his family; and this power included absolute disposal and control over his children. Paul alludes to this absolute power of the father in Galatians chapter 4 where he says, "Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave" (Galatians 4:1). In the early days of Rome the father's power actually included power over life and death. If a deformed child were born, for example, it was to be killed immediately. The *patria potestas* meant that in the case of divorce, custody of the children would always go to the father. Because of this absolute right of possession, adoption into another family was a very difficult and serious process.

To be legally adopted, a person had to pass from one *patria potestas* to another. For this transfer to happen in the Roman culture, two things had to be accomplished.

Both of these were done in the presence of seven witnesses so that the validity of the adoption could be defended beyond reasonable doubt.

1. The first step was a symbolic sale. According to Roman law, a father forfeited his potestas if he sold his son three times. For this reason, a legal ceremony took place in which the father went through the process of selling his son three times and then the son would pass completely to the possession of the adopter.
2. The “sale” of the son was followed by a legal ceremony. The adopting father went to a Roman magistrate in order to legally transfer the adopted son into his possession. When this process was completed, the adoption was complete.

It was common to adopt a freeman or a relative into a family. The adoption of a slave, however, was much less common. In the case of a master with no heir, a favored slave might be adopted for the purpose of having a legal heir to inherit the estate. In ancient times, a slave was never permitted to use the term Abba (father) or Imma (mother) when addressing the master or mistress of the house. But after the adoption, the slave-turned-son was considered a full son and was entitled to use these familial terms. The adopted son was now a co-heir with any natural-born sons. In fact, the adopted son became a member of the family just as if he had been born of the father.

The effect of adoption was fourfold for the adoptee: a change of family, a change of name, a change of home, and new responsibilities and privileges. In the same way, all who are adopted by God are made part of His family, bear His name, have heaven now as home, and have a new set of obligations and privileges as God’s children.

Bearing all these facts in mind, we can better understand the magnitude of Paul’s words as he wrote to the Roman Christians:

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs (Romans 8:15–17a).

As the seven witnesses could witness to the fact of an adoption, so the joint witness of the Holy Spirit and the spirit of believers witness to the same glorious fact—we are sons of God through faith in Christ.

What, then, should our response be as we realize we have been adopted as sons of God? First of all, God’s amazing grace toward us should produce overflowing praise. We are no longer slaves to sin and under the power of the evil one. Rather, we are sons of God, and

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Colossians 1:13). Our adoption gives us security as God’s child—no one can snatch us out of the Father’s hand (John 10:29). Through the Spirit we have intimate communication with God, characteristic of a father-son relationship (see Romans 8:26–27).

While God loves us, sustains us, and cares for us as our Father, we also have responsibilities to Him and to our new family. As God’s children, we are to walk in obedience and holiness.

As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Peter 1:14–19).

Furthermore, as believers who have been adopted into God’s family, we are called to now show love, respect, and honor—brotherly love—to our brothers and sisters in Christ (Romans 12:10).

Just as an adoptee under Roman law was now a permanent member of that family, so we who are believers will always be sons and daughters of the King. We can be confident of the full, immutable claim God has placed on us as His children. For believers, this becomes our status and our identity. Surely now, how we live should honor the one who paid so great a cost to adopt us into His family.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Abba Father, praise your almighty name! It is a very precious gift that sinners can be called children of God. Those who believe and trust in Jesus are chosen and adopted and loved by you—the Creator of the universe. We become co-heirs with Christ and are blessed with an eternal inheritance. Oh, how I long for all my students to receive this great gift. Father, grant them wisdom and understanding as we study these truths. I pray the veil will be lifted from even the hardest heart so they would realize their own sinfulness and desire forgiveness, salvation, and adoption into the family of God.



## COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color and complete the God's Gift of Grace Coloring Sheet.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

*During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.*



## REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Circle Time

*In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, King and His Son Illustration, family photo, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.*

### PRAYER

*This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or an appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.*

**We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

*Today Thanksgiving is suggested. You might proceed this way:*

**Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving—and thank God for the many blessings He's given us.**

*The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.*

**I'll start. Dear God, you are so good to me. You bless me in so many ways.**

**I want to thank you especially today for . . .** *(insert personal prayer).*

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking.

### Bible Pass Around

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

*Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God thank you for something special in their lives.*

**Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.**

## GOD'S WORD

*These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.*

- ? **What is sin?** *Sin is any disobedience against God.*
- ? **Who is a sinner?** *Every person is born in sin.*
- ? **Did Jesus ever sin?** *No. He lived a sinless life.*
- ? **Does everyone go to heaven?** *No. Only those whose hearts are changed and believe in Jesus.*
- ? **What does it mean to believe in Jesus?** *To trust that Jesus alone can save me.*

*The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.*

**We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible.** *Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number* *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* **We'll start right here.** *Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin.* *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

- ? *Refer to Lesson 7 Flip Chart.* **Why is this gift here on the Flip Chart? What is this gift supposed to be?** *Allow discussion.*

**This gift is God's gift of grace.**

- ? **Who is this gift for?** *Sinners.*

**Yes. God offers the free gift of grace to sinners. Whoever receives the gift of grace from God will be changed! They will begin to trust God more. They will want to obey Him more. And they will be really sorry when they don't obey Him. When sinners accept God's free gift of grace, they are**

saved from their sins! They become Christians! God promises that all who are saved—all Christians—will have eternal life with Him. That is great news for sinners! But God tells us something else! We are going to talk about another wonderful promise from God's Word!

*Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book of John is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

I am going to read from John 1:12. This verse tells us something about the people who receive God's gift of grace and receive Jesus Christ. Listen carefully! *Read John 1:12 enthusiastically.*

John 1:12

- ? OK. What do the people who receive Jesus, who believe in His name, become? *Children of God!*

Everyone who receives Jesus and believes in Him can become a child of God!

- ? But what does it mean to be a child of God? *Allow discussion.*

Being a child of God means you are ADOPTED into God's family. He is the heavenly Father, and everyone who trusts in Him becomes a child of God! So to be ADOPTED means you become a part of a new family—God's family!

- ? Who is in your family? Do you have a mom and dad? Do you have sisters and brothers? *Allow discussion.*

*Show the students your family photo. Here is a picture of me and my family. Tell them who the people are in your family.*

Some people have big families; some people have small families. But when a sinner receives God's grace, he becomes a member of God's family. And it's a big family with a lot of brothers and sisters from all over the world! God loves each and every one of His children so much, just like your family loves you!

I want to read something else to you. This is straight from God's Word and tells us something about God's love! It might sound familiar to you. *Read 1 John 3:1a.*

1 John 3:1a

- ? What does God give to the people He loves? What do they become? *Re-read 1 John 3:1a if necessary. Children of God!*

Yes! There it is again. God makes all who turn from their sins and believe in Jesus His children! He adds them to His family!

God wants us be sure we understand this. So, He said it again! Listen to Romans 8:16. It says something about us if we are saved! *Read Romans 8:16 emphasizing "children of God" as you read.*

Romans 8:16

- ? What does this verse say we are? *Children of God!*

Yes! Everyone who believes and trusts in Jesus becomes part of God's family. Each one is adopted by God!

? If Jesus is God's Son, and we are part of God's family, then who would our Brother be? Who is God's Son? *Allow discussion. Jesus!*

Yes! If we believe and trust in Jesus, we are adopted into God's family. And Jesus becomes our Brother! And that is not all that happens.

## Romans 8:17a

The Bible tells us about another thing promised for God's children. Let's find out about that promise. Listen as I read from Romans again. *Read Romans 8:17a.*

The Bible says we will be heirs with Jesus Christ! Heirs is a new word for us. Will you say "heirs" with me? *Heirs. Write the word on the board so they see what it looks like.*

*Refer to the King and His Son Illustration.* Let me explain what this means. Here is a picture of a king. A king is a powerful man. He rules an entire nation! This king's son is with him. One day, the king will grow old and die. When he dies, his son, this little boy, will be king in his place. The king's son is the HEIR to the throne. He will one day get everything the king has!

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* Well, if we believe in Jesus, we are children of God! Jesus is our Brother, and we are all in the same family. God is a GREAT King! He has a wonderful kingdom in heaven! And if we are His children, the Bible promises that we will one day inherit the kingdom of heaven! It will be a wonderful day for all God's children!

## SONG TIME

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

► Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.

*Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.* Our memory verse tells us that if we are children of God we should "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in all things give thanks!" Let's sing the Memory Verse Song. It is 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18. *Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times.*

Today we talked about people who receive Jesus and believe in Him! They become children of God. We have a new song to sing today. It is called "Child of God." Let's sing it a few times together. *Sing together while clapping.*

God's free gift is grace! We can take it! Trust it! And believe! God has given grace to those who turn from their sins and believe in Jesus who died for sinners! Let's sing that song now! *Sing "God's Free Gift" together while marching around the circle.*

*Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.*



## Family Portrait

### MATERIALS

- Pictures of families and people you brought from home hidden around the room (several pictures for each student to find)
- Glue or tape
- Poster paper or poster boards

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Before class begins, hide the pictures of people around the room. During the activity, have students search for the pictures. After finding the pictures, students can tape them to the poster. You may also want children to draw other people on the poster.*

I have hidden pictures of people and families around the room. I want you to look for the

pictures. And after you find them you can put them on the poster! All these people could be a part of God's family!

*If time allows, have the children draw different people on the poster.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Everyone who turns from sin and believes in Jesus can be a part of God's family! God sent Jesus so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. God makes all believers His children. They are adopted into His family!



## Family of God Puzzle

### MATERIALS

- Family of God Puzzle for each student
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Envelopes or plastic sandwich bags for each student

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the puzzles, cut out the pieces, and put them into plastic bags or envelopes. Have the students assemble the puzzle. If appropriate, you may want to have them color the puzzle, and then you can help them cut it into pieces to assemble.*

I have some puzzles for each of you. I want you to take your puzzle and put it together **all by yourself!** *Again, you may want the students to color the puzzle first, then cut it out and assemble it.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

All people can be a part of God's family. All they have to do is turn from their sin and believe in Jesus. God gives grace to everyone who trusts in Him! He adopts them into His family as His own children! You can take your puzzles home today and tell your family about God's children.



# Memory Verse Review and Activity

**1 Thessalonians 5:16–18** Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

## MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock (they will be used in Lesson 7–12)
- Tape or poster putty

## INSTRUCTIONS

Review the memory verse from the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one set of the Memory Verse Flashcards. Pass the flashcards to nine students. Ask, “Who has the first flashcard?” Instruct the student to put the flashcard on the wall or board. Do the same for the remaining flashcards until all of them are on the wall in the proper order. Then call on students to remove the cards one at a time—reciting the verse after each card is removed.

**We’re going to practice our memory verse. Let’s say it first.** Refer to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

Pass out the nine Memory Verse Flashcards. **Good job!** Now here are nine flashcards with the memory verse on them. I want you to bring

these flashcards up and put them on the board while we practice the verse. **Who has Flashcard #1?** Continue placing the flashcards in order on the board. Refer to the pictures and say the verse as the students bring the flashcards up.

**Good job! Now I’m going to ask one of you to come up and take one of our flashcards down. Then we’ll say the verse without that flashcard! Do you think we can do it? Of course we can! Ok let’s do it!** Call on a student to take down one flashcard then recite the verse together. Help the students to recite the verse after each flashcard is removed. Continue until the flashcards are gone.

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

It’s easy to rejoice when we are part of God’s family! God loves His children so much! He wants us to be thankful and happy because He has done wonderful things for us! He gave His Son to die on the Cross for our sins! All who believe in Jesus can be called children of God!



# Applying God's Word/Snack

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.*

All who receive God's free gift of grace will be called children of God! And not only children, but heirs with Jesus! That means God is our Father and Jesus is our Brother! He has given us a special gift! It is a place with Him in heaven one day!

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Some boys and girls do not have a father and a mother. Some do not have a brother or a sister. Some children do not have a nice family that loves them. But God offers a free gift to everyone who will receive it. When sinners receive God's grace, they become children of God. God becomes their Father, and Jesus Himself is their Brother. And all believers are part of their family.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



## Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for adopting sinners into His family.
- Praise God that everyone can be a child of God if he receives God's grace .
- Pray that more people will turn from sin and believe the message of the Cross.

**Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.**

# Song Sheet

## 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16–18

*(To the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”)*

Re-joyce always,  
*(Are you sleeping?)*

Pray with-out ceasing,  
*(Are you sleeping?)*

In everything  
*(Brother John?)*

Gi-ive thanks;  
*(Brother John?)*

For this is the will of God  
*(Morning bells are ringing,)*

In Christ Jesus for you.  
*(Morning bells are ringing.)*

1 Thessalonians  
*(Ding, ding, dong,)*

5:16–18  
*(Ding, ding, dong,)*

## CHILD OF GOD

*(To the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)*

You are a child of God,  
*(The farmer in the dell,)*

You are a child of God,  
*(The farmer in the dell.)*

If you receive His gift of grace  
*(Hi-ho the derry-o,)*

You are a child of God.  
*(The farmer in the dell.)*

## GOD’S FREE GIFT

*(To the tune of “London Bridge”)*

Take it, trust it and believe,  
*(London Bridge is falling down,)*

And believe, and believe.  
*(Falling down, falling down.)*

Take it, trust it and believe,  
*(London Bridge is falling down,)*

God’s free gi-ift.  
*(My fair lady!)*

Take it, trust it, and receive,  
And receive, and receive.

Take it, trust it, and receive,  
God’s gift of gra-ace!

**Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.**