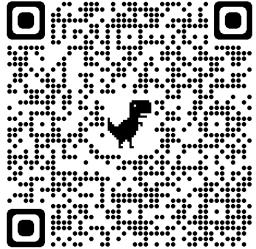


**"Chosen Child"** is designed to help children understand that they are loved and valued by God just as they are. Through lessons on repentance, inheritance, and living a life that reflects their faith, the curriculum seeks to instill in children a sense of confidence in their relationship with God and encourage them to live a life that honors Him. The overarching message is that as God's chosen children, they are enough and have a unique purpose in God's kingdom.

- Lesson 1: Justified! "Trust in Jesus" Luke 23:32-43
- Lesson 2: Sanctified! "Turn from sin" Luke 19:1-10
- Lesson 3: Unified! "Claim your inheritance" Eph. 1:3-14
- Lesson 4: Qualified! "Live your faith" Eph. 4:20-32

#### Memory Verse: Romans 8:38-39

**Big Idea**: Because Jesus loves me, He saves me when I have faith, makes me more like Him, and adopts me into His family.



You are viewing the week #1 lesson. Use this link to purchase the complete series.

https://sundayschool.store/products/chosen-child-4-week-childrens-ministry-curriculum



4-Week Children's Ministry Curriculum

Romans 8:38–39 NIV For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



4-Week Children's Ministry Curriculum

Romans 8:38–39 KJV 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 creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



4-Week Children's Ministry Curriculum

Romans 8:38–39 ESV For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



# Lesson 1: Justified! "Trust in Jesus" Luke 23:32-43

**Summary**: You are enough! There is nothing you can do to make God love you more. There is nothing you can do to make God love you less. You don't have to be anyone but yourself. God loves YOU! The moment you put faith in Jesus, God says you are righteous, and that's enough. The Bible teaches that God is perfect love. His love for us is revealed to us through His son Jesus Christ and in Jesus we are made perfect too. If Jesus lives in you, then YOU are enough—Just as you are.

#### Memory Verse: Romans 8:38-39

**Big Idea**: Because Jesus loves me, He saves me when I have faith, makes me more like Him, and adopts me into His family.

**Additional Passages and Stories:** Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 43:25, John 1:12, Romans 6:11, Romans 6:22, 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, 2 Corinthians 5:17

### Memory Verse Activity:

**Picture Words** 

Suggested time: 10 minutes

Supplies: White board; Dry-erase markers, Dry eraser

Instructions:

- Write out the memory verse on the white board.
- Challenge the kids to create a rebus puzzle by coming up with pictures to replace words in the verse.
  - (Ex: *For*=the number 4, *I*=an eye, *death*=a skull and crossbones etc.)
- Erase and replace words in the key passage according to the key developed.
- Work with the kids to recite the memory verse while picturing the words in their minds from the pictures drawn.

### **Lesson Illustration**

Eraser Foam Demonstration

Suggested time: 5-10 minutes

Supplies: Melamine foam "eraser"; A small cup of water; Dingy white tennis shoes

Instructions:

- Dip the melamine foam into the water and wring it out so it's damp but not wet.
- Use it to demonstrate cleaning a scuff mark on a wall or tennis shoe

LEADER: Sin in our lives makes us unclean in God's eyes— just like a scuffed wall or these tennis shoes. But when we ask God to forgive our sins and invite Jesus into our hearts, God wipes our sins away and they "vanish" from His memory. Jesus wipes us clean just like this foam eraser wipes the scuffs off the wall or tennis shoes and makes them clean.

#### Transition to Large Group Teaching.

### Large Group Teaching:

Suggested Time: 15-20 minutes

Discuss different ways you can learn about the gospel message. (Through a friend or family member, a church sermon, a stranger, through reading the Bible etc. God uses all kinds of people, His Word, and even dreams to reach us with the good news about Jesus.)

LEADER: Can you think of a family member or friend who is not yet a Christian? [*Allow responses.*] All of us probably know at least one person in our lives who isn't a believer. However, just because they don't believe right now, doesn't mean they won't come to know Jesus someday. What do you think are some reasons that people don't accept the gospel message right away? [*Allow responses.*] Yes! Some people might have doubts or might believe their sin can make them happy. Some might not understand the gospel or think they are good enough without Jesus. And others might think they have sinned too much for God to forgive them. Let's hear a story about two people who met Jesus at the same time, but made very different choices about how they responded to Him.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, there were two thieves also being crucified with him...

#### READ: Luke 23:32-34

LEADER: Did you hear what Jesus said even as He and the two other men were dying on the cross? [*Allow responses*.] Yes! Jesus asked God the Father to forgive the very people who were crucifying Him. Why do you think Jesus prayed for God to forgive them? [*Allow responses*.] Good answers! Jesus loves everyone, even those who hated Him, and wanted them to repent and have their sins forgiven. Even while dying on the cross, God showed His love for all people through His son Jesus's simple prayer.

READ: Luke 23:35-38

LEADER: The people all around Jesus were insulting Him and making fun of Him. They were mean and cruel. Remember, God gave up His son Jesus to be crucified for *their* sins, so that in Him their sins could be forgiven. This wonderful act of forgiveness shows how much love God has for each one of us.

#### READ: Luke 23:39-42

LEADER: The two men on each side of Jesus were also being crucified. Jesus was sinless and innocent, but the two criminals on the cross were thieves. Despite whatever sinful choices had brought them to their crosses, Jesus still loved them. However, only one of the thieves understood Jesus's love. The first criminal mocked Jesus and suggested Jesus wasn't really the Messiah. But the second criminal admitted to his wrong-doing and turned to Jesus in his final moments.

#### READ Luke 23:43

LEADER: LEADER: Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would join Him in paradise. Can you guess what Jesus meant by that? [*Allow responses*.] Yes! It meant that he would be joining Jesus in heaven!

God's love for us is overwhelming. No matter how much sin is in someone's life, no matter what they do or how long it takes, God is ready to forgive until their last breath.

If you have yet not asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins, is there anything still standing in your way? If so, what? [*Allow responses*.] How about family or friends that you know? Can you think of anything you can do to help them understand this truth? [*Allow responses*.] Absolutely! You can share what you have learned with them. And if you know someone who is not yet saved, don't worry. Keep sharing and praying for them! God hears our prayers, and He is patient with us. His desire is for all people to repent and be saved. [Additional Scripture: 2 Peter 3:9]

### **Small Group Discussion and Prayer:**

Suggested time: 10–15 minutes

Discuss the following questions. Choose questions that are most appropriate for your group's age and attention level.

- Can we do anything to make God love us more or less?
- Why does God love everyone perfectly?
- How is Jesus like a bridge?
- Who did Jesus die for?
- How can we be sure we will live forever with Jesus?
- What happened with the two criminals on crosses with Jesus?
- What can we do if we know a family member or friend does not know Jesus?

Take some time to share prayer requests. Then lead the kids in prayer. You may also read the prayer below.

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us just as we are!

Help us to remember this truth when we feel like we are not good enough.

And help us to trust that Jesus

Forgives us and makes us new.

Above all, help us to share this message

with others.

In Jesus name, Amen!

Chosen Child / Accepted: Lesson 1 - Justified

### **Application Game**

I'm going on a Picnic

Suggested time: 10-15 minutes

Supplies: none

Instructions:

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle. Come up with a secret rule about what foods kids can bring on an imaginary picnic. For example, foods that begin with *G*.
- Start the game by saying "I'm going on a picnic, and I'm going to bring..." ending with a food that fits your secret rule. Then, allow the kid to your left to take a turn saying the same thing, filling in their own idea.
- Respond to the suggested food by saying either "Yum, sounds good!" or "No, we can't bring [kid's suggestion] on this picnic!"
- As you play, kids should begin to guess the secret rule as they notice what foods do and do not get approved.
- Play again as time allows, selecting kids to make up a new secret rule each round.

LEADER: In that game, it might have felt frustrating to offer a suggestion, only to have it shot down because you didn't know the rules about what you could and could not bring on the picnic. In life, some people think God is like the picnic planner in our game. They assume that God has rules about who he will and won't let into heaven, and they try their best to be the kind of person they think God wants them to be.

Today we learned that God loves us no matter what. Jesus did not come to save just some people, but to save every person who has faith in Him.

### **Application Game**

Blind Faith

Suggested time: 10-15 minutes

Supplies: Two Blindfolds; A stopwatch or timer

#### Instructions:

- Forms teams of two kids.
- Choose two teams who will go first and instruct one member from each team to go to the opposite side of the room from their teammate.
- Ask one child from each of the two playing teams to put on a blindfold.
- At the start of each round, instruct the remaining teams to sit quietly on the floor next to their teammate in various parts of the room to act as "barriers".
- To play, the two non-blindfolded teammates must use their voices to help navigate their blindfolded teammate from one side of the room to the other, making sure that they do not run into any obstacles! ("barriers", tables, chairs, etc.)
- Teammates using their voice can say things like: This way!, Over here!, Stop!, Turn left! (or right), Barrier! etc.
- Once both teams get their blindfolded teammate to the other side of the room, write down their time and instruct two more teams to compete.
  ("Barriers" can relocate around the room before the beginning of each new round, but not once a new round is in play.)
- Write down how long it takes each team to finish the challenge. The fastest team wins!

LEADER: In that game, it might have felt nerve-racking for the blindfolded person to place trust in their teammate to help them get to the other side of the room safely. It can feel scary to walk by faith. Thankfully, we can completely trust in Jesus when we place our faith in Him. He will always keep us on the right path!

## **Application Craft**

Passport to Heaven

Suggested time: 10 minutes

Supplies: White cardstock or white construction paper; colored pencils

Instructions:

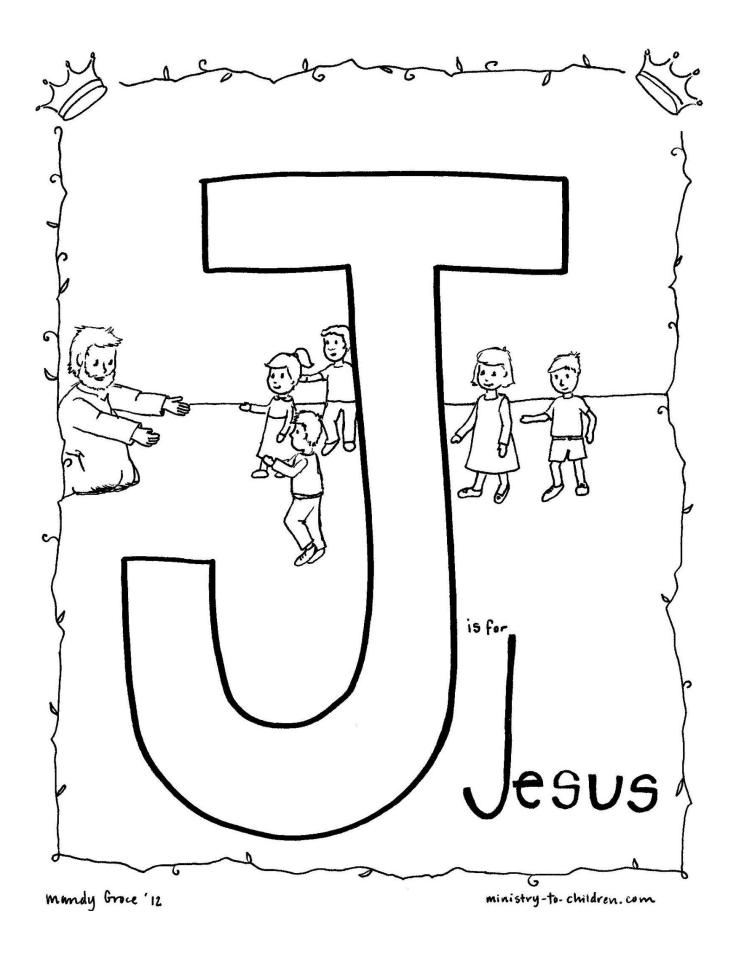
 Instruct the kids to fold the paper into quarters to form a small booklet.



- Next, direct the kids to write *PASSPORT* on the front of the booklet.
- Inside the booklet, instruct the kids to draw and color a self portrait on the right-hand side..
- Assist the kids in writing their names, ages and gender on the left-hand side of the inside of their passports.

LEADER: To travel from one country to another, you often need a passport. Getting a passport can sometimes be tricky, and it can require you to meet special criteria that countries set. Even with a passport, you may still need to meet other special criteria to get permission to go to some countries.

Thankfully, heaven isn't like that. God loves everyone, and everyone who has faith in Jesus will be welcomed in heaven. Your passport into heaven is Jesus' love. His death and resurrection made the way for us to be saved.



Chosen Child / Accepted: Lesson 1 - Justified

### **Bible Word Search**

Trust - Jesus - Bible - Love - Saved - Faith

Luke - Chosen - Joy - Believe - Heaven - Cross

G	S	Т	W	W	Y	L	0	V	Е	Ρ
С	А	J	Q	D	L	U	А	Y	С	J
L	G	Μ	С	0	Κ	К	U	W	Н	0
Q	В	В	Е	L	Ι	Е	V	Е	0	Y
F	А	Ι	Т	Н	А	А	Х	Ι	S	U
Y	G	В	Ρ	L	U	S	А	V	Е	D
R	С	L	С	U	G	Ν	J	Ι	Ν	U
D	Η	Е	А	V	Е	Ν	Е	А	S	В
С	U	L	С	С	R	0	S	S	F	G
W	V	L	W	С	V	W	U	Х	R	Т
F	Κ	J	0	Т	R	U	S	Т	Ζ	G



### A Note for Parents

God loves us just as we are. There is nothing we can do to make Him love us more than He already does and there is nothing we can do that will make Him love us any less. Our lesson was about putting our trust in Jesus. In Jesus, we are made perfect and complete.

Today's story was from Luke 23:32-43. We learned that God will forgive any and all sins as soon as you ask Jesus to save you.

As we go through these lessons, spend some time at home talking about each principle and what was discussed. Guide your kids to put into practice the principles they are learning in church. Some possible suggestions for conversation or activity include:

- How do we know God loves us just as we are?
- How does God's view of us differ from the world's view of us?
- How do we know we are a child of God?
- What does it mean to "repent?"
- Why did Jesus forgive one of the thieves?
- Practice the memory verse (Romans 8:38-39) with your kids.

Review and discuss the lessons with your children regularly. You might already have a dedicated prayer or Bible time in your home. If so, great! If not, perhaps it is the time to start one. It doesn't have to be formal. You can speak about God's truth on the way to activities or around the dinner table. Remember that training a child is a constant task, but it is also the most significant and rewarding one we can undertake.