

Discovering God on Route 66
LESSON #43

CHILDREN OF GOD!

PREP: Place three rows of blanks on the board before children arrive.

Read the verses **Romans 8:14 - 17** to become familiar with the lesson.

Prepare a puppet show for the children. You will need 3 child puppets – 2 boys and 1 girl. Also, the teacher needs to memorize a few lines to interact with the puppets.

Print out the words and motions for singing the song *Father Abraham*. You may want to enlarge it for all the children to see.

Make a copy of Romans 8:14 for each group of about 5-10 children expected. Then, cut each verse into 10 sections. Stick the sections inside balloons, blow up the balloons, and tie the knots. Place the balloons in trash bags.

Copy FUNSHEETS to pass out to the children. Consider completing the FUNSHEET as a class by copying the chart provided in the lesson and cutting the word translations apart into 14 sections.

PRAY: Before the lesson ask the children for prayer requests. Pray that God will lead the children to understand that He loves them and wants to deepen their relationships.

OPEN: Before children arrive, put three rows of blanks on the board. The first row should have 4 blanks. The second row should have 5 blanks. And the third row should have 5 blanks.

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Play a version of “Hangman” with the children. Allow children to raise their hands to guess letters of the alphabet. If the correct letter is guessed, write it in all the appropriate blanks. When incorrect letters are guessed, write them to the side, but do not “hang a man”. Allow as many children to guess letters as possible, before allowing anyone to guess the words.

The answers are père, padre, and vater.

Ask the children: “These three words are in French, Italian, and German. Does anyone know what all three words mean in English?” (*Father.*)

“Today we are going to be discussing who our real father is! Did you realize that many of us have more than one father? Do you know who they are?” (*Our fathers, possibly step-fathers, fathers-in-law, and our Heavenly Father.*)

BIBLE VERSES: Allow the children to turn to **Romans 8:14-17**. Have 4 volunteers read these verses. Discuss each verse after it has been read. Following are some example questions to ask:

Verse 14:

“Who does the Bible say are ‘sons of God’?” (*Those who are led by the Spirit.*)

“Who is the ‘Spirit’?” (*The Holy Spirit – Part of the Trinity of God.*)

“What does it mean to be ‘led’?” (*It means you follow. For example, in follow the leader - you follow the person in front of you.*)

“So, how is a person ‘led by the Spirit’?” (*You are led by the Spirit if you have prayed to become a Christian by accepting Jesus as Savior and Lord. At that point, the Holy Spirit has come to live inside you and guide you. Thus, you obey what God teaches.*)

Verse 15:

“As Christians, what kind of Spirit did we receive?” (*A Spirit of Sonship – which means that we are sons or daughters of God!*)

“Being sons and daughters of God, what can we call God?” (*Abba which is the Hebrew word for Father.*)

Verse 16, 17:

“As Christians, whose child are we?” (*God’s.*)

“Who was a child of God that came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem?” (*Jesus.*)

PUPPETS: The puppet show should interrupt the last question that was being asked. Do not introduce it. The puppet show should just start, as if the puppets are some of the children attending Children’s Church.

HEIRS: After the puppet show, you can complete the discussion with the children about how we are heirs of God. Reread **Romans 8:17** or allow a child to read this verse. Say something like:

“As heirs of God we gain things from God our Father that fall into 2 main categories. Those categories are ‘suffering’ and ‘glory’”.

Ask the children if they can think of things that we may inherit or gain from God that would be considered “glorious”. List examples on the board. They could include:

Heaven	Forgiveness
Power	Family (<i>Christian brothers & sisters</i>)
Joy	Crown of Glory in Heaven
Hope	Rewards in Heaven
Peace	The Spirit to guide us

“This verse in Romans also says we will share in sufferings like Jesus had sufferings in His life. What kind of sufferings do you think we might experience?” *(Again write examples on the board.)*

<u>Other people may:</u> Make fun of us Laugh at us Leave us out We also suffer <u>sadness</u> when others do not believe.	<u>The apostles were:</u> Beaten Exiled Put in Jail Killed Laughed at
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“Unfortunately suffering will happen to us. However, what can we do when we experience suffering?” *(Go to God our Father in prayer. Seek other Christians who can offer encouragement. Read God’s Word - the Bible. Sing praises to God.)*

SONG: Even if you don’t always sing songs during children’s church, sing this one! It’s fun. It does not require any musical accompaniment (*just sing it a cappella*), and the kids enjoy it. The song is *Father Abraham*. The words and motions are found at the end of the lesson.

Before singing, explain to the children that as Christians who have been adopted by God, we are all descendents of the father of all Jews – Abraham. *(Galatians 3:29)*

GAME: PREP: Make one copy of the verse **Romans 8:14** for each group of 5-10 children expected. Then, cut each verse into 10 sections. Stick the sections inside balloons, blow up the balloons, and tie the knots. *(If possible blow up the balloons the same day as the lesson so that they won’t deflate too much and be difficult to pop.)* Stay organized by using specific color balloons for each team. *(So, there would be a blue team, a red team, a yellow team, etc.)* Put each team’s balloons in separate trash bags.

PLAY: Briefly review **Romans 8:14**. Divide the children up into equal teams of 10 or fewer. Mark a starting line for the children to stand behind.

On “Go”, one child from each team will run to the opposite side of the room where the bag of balloons is located. He should select one balloon out of the bag and pop it through whatever means available. *(Sitting on it, stepping on it, pinching it, etc.)* Then, he will need to find the paper with the word(s) from the verse written on it and set it on a table designated for his team. Next, he should run back past the starting line to the other teammates. Now, the next team member should run and select a balloon and continue the same process. When that team has popped all the balloons and retrieved all the words to the verse, the entire team should go to the table and put the verse in the correct order.

The first team to put all the words to the verse in the correct order wins.

*HINT: Announce that the first team to clean up all the balloon pieces from their team will also be a winner.

THOSE	OF GOD
WHO	ARE
ARE LED	SONS
BY THE	OF GOD.
SPIRIT	<i>ROMANS 8:14</i>

FUNSHEET: Consider using the following option for this week’s FUNSHEET. Give each child one of the 14 sections from the table below. *(Some children can work in pairs or larger groups as needed.)*

<i>Vater</i> is Dutch for father.	<i>Tochter</i> is Dutch for daughter.	<i>Sohn</i> is Dutch for son.
<i>Vater</i> is German for father.	<i>Tochter</i> is German for daughter.	<i>Sohn</i> is German for son.
<i>El padre</i> is Spanish for father.	<i>La hija</i> is already done.	<i>El hijo</i> is Spanish for son.
<i>Pere</i> is French for father.	<i>Fille</i> is French for daughter.	<i>Fils</i> is French for son.
<i>Padre</i> is Italian for father.	<i>Figlia</i> is Italian for daughter.	<i>Figlio</i> is Italian for son.

Pass out a FUNSHEET to each child or group of children. You should have groups in multiples of 14. So there would be 14 groups or 28 groups, etc. *(If you have fewer than 14 children, you can put some of the word translations around various parts of the room. Do not give any child more than one.)*

When you tell the children to “Go”, they can start writing in the correct words on their FUNSHEETS. They will need to go to 13 other children *(or groups)* to find out what all the words mean. Then they will know where to write the words on the table.

The winner is the one who completes the table on the FUNSHEET first.

If you don’t have time to play the game with the FUNSHEET, then let the children know that they will need their parents’ help in completing this week’s work. They can call friends who speak other languages. Or they can use the internet to translate the words.

CLOSE: Have all the children read **Romans 8:14** from the FUNSHEET together. Remind the children that we are not automatically children of God! We must choose to become a child of God by becoming a Christian. Give the children the opportunity to pray to become a Christian.

Close with prayer.

Father Abraham

Written By: Unknown & Copyright Unknown

Father Abraham had many sons, Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm!

Father Abraham had many sons, Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm!

Father Abraham had many sons, Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm, right foot!

Father Abraham had many sons, Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot!

Father Abraham had many sons, Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, Chin up!

Father Abraham had many sons, Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, Chin up, turn around!

Father Abraham had many sons, Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's all praise the Lord.
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, Chin up, turn around, sit down!

Actions:

Right arm: Clench fist, bend and extend arm upward repeatedly throughout song

Left arm: Add left arm in same motion as right

Right foot: Add right foot stepping up and down

Left foot: Add left foot stepping up and down

Chin up: Add head nodding up and down

Turn around: Add turning in place while continuing other motions

Sit down: Sit down :-)