

I am a child of God

Week 1

(10-13 minutes)

Introduce song: Ask several questions like, “If you have blue eyes, stand up. If you have a brother, stand up. If you live in a two story home, stand up. If you have brown hair, stand up.” Ask the question, have them stand up, then sit then back down and ask another question.

After a few questions, remind the children that we are all unique and different but Heavenly Father loves each of us the same. We are all His children.

Sing 1st verse of I am a child of God

Watch video, “I am a child of God”

Replay video and have children sing along.

Testify that Heavenly Father loves them. He knows them. He wants them to be happy. He has a plan for us.

Possible activity for remainder of time:

Ask, “what does ‘lead me, guide me’ mean?”

Sing “Do as I’m Doing” and use actions for things that will lead us back to Heavenly Father. Ex: pray, read scriptures, giving service, etc. You could have the ideas written on slips of paper and let a child come up and pick a slip of paper and then decide on how exactly to show the idea (folding arms and bowing head for “praying”). You could also give each class a slip of paper with the idea on it and have them come up with an action that fits the idea. Or you could have each class come up with something we need to do to return to Heavenly Father and then have them come up with an action for it. Have one child from the class come up and demonstrate the action but DO NOT have them tell what their idea was. Sing the song with the action and then let the children guess what the action represented.

Week 2

(10 minutes)

Tell them we are going to sing the 1st verse of “I am a child of God” and as they sing they are to listen for rhyming words in the song.

After you’ve sung the first verse, see if the kids can tell you the rhyming words. (here – dear; way – someday). If they didn’t get the words on the verse, just sing the verse part again, not the chorus and make sure they figure out which ones rhyme.

Tell them that frequently songs have rhyming words in them. Sing the verse portion (I am a child of God and so my needs are great. Help me to understand his words before it grows too late) of the 2nd verse and have them listen for the rhyming words (great-late). If they don’t get the answer, sing the verse portion again.

Tell them you are going to sing the verse portion again and this time they are to listen for what is great? Sing verse and get answers. Ask them what “and so my needs are great” means.

Ask them to listen for what we need to understand. Then sing the verse portion again. Get answers from kids.

Sing the 2nd verse all together.

Week 3

(10 minutes)

Tell the children to close their eyes and picture in their mind what you are going to describe to them. Then start with, "Imagine you are in a beautiful place. In this place there are beautiful green trees, lovely flowers growing. I can hear a stream off in the distance. If I'm quiet I can hear the birds singing in the trees. When I look around I notice that my family is all here in this beautiful place with me. I feel so happy when I see them. As I walk around I feel very peaceful and calm." (You can make up whatever you want for the description and be as dramatic with it as you want. This is just a general idea!)

Have them keep their eyes closed and then tell them "We don't know exactly what it will be like to live with Heavenly Father again. But I know that it will be perfect and we will be filled with joy and love." You could have them raise their hands if they want to share how they think they will feel to live with Heavenly Father again.

Have them open their eyes. Tell them you are going to sing the 3rd verse of "I am a child of God". This verse talks about living with Heavenly Father again.

Have them listen for rhyming words, and then sing through 3rd verse. Get answers (store – more)

Ask them to listen for where our blessings are, and then sing through verse portion again. Get answers. Ask what does it mean that blessings are in store? Do we go to a grocery store to get our blessings? Explain answer.

Ask them to listen for what we need to do to return to Heavenly Father. Sing verse portion again. Get answers. Then ask how do we learn to do his will?

Sing all of verse 3 together.

Week 4

(review activity – whole time)

You will need: picture of the Earth or small globe

a picture of a family

scriptures

picture of President Monson

Picture of God & Christ

Put all these objects in a bag or you could gift wrap each one or put each item in a gift bag.

Sing through all verses of "I am a child of God"

Tell them that the objects in the bag represent some part of the song "I am a child of God". You will choose a child to come up and pick an object then the child will tell you what part of the song it goes with (they can ask the other kids for help if needed). After they've figured out which part of the song it goes, then everyone sings the corresponding song for that object (see below). The corresponding song goes along with the object and the matching part of "I am a child of God".

OBJECT	MATCHING PART FROM "I AM A CHILD OF GOD"	CORRESPONDING SONG
Earth	"He has sent me here, has given me an earthly home"	I lived in heaven, pg4
Pix family	"with parents kind and dear"	Families can be together forever pg188
Scriptures	"help me to understand His words"	Keep the commandments pg 146 OR Search, ponder, and pray pg 109
Pres Monson	"If I but learn to do His will"	Follow the prophet pg 110
Heavenly Father & Christ	"I'll live with Him once more"	I know my Father lives pg 5

Variations:

1. If it makes more sense to you or you want to discuss the topics in order, then wrap or put the objects in gift bags and number them in the order you want them to open them.
2. After they open the object and tell which part of the song it goes with, you could play hot/cold with the picture/object while you sing the corresponding song.
3. If they don't know the song, substitute one that they do know. Never be afraid to sing a song they don't know though! That is how they will learn them! If they don't know the song, just have them listen for specific things as you sing it. For example, "I lived in heaven" -- you could ask one side of the room to listen for "who lived in heaven with you" and ask the other side to listen for "what was Heavenly Father's plan about". After you sing it and get their answers, if you have time, sing it again and invite them to join in.

Other possible activities to go with this song

Turn on DVD and sing the whole song with Mormon Tabernacle choir.

Learn a verse in a different language.

Have the children practice singing in small groups. Ask for volunteers to come up to the front and sing in a small group. Have all the kids sing the verses (or chorus, but if you need to work on the verses then have everyone sing the verse) and then when it gets to the chorus have just the small group of kids that volunteered sing the chorus. As long as there is interest, you can do this quite a few times in a row. Have the first group sit down and ask for more volunteers. This is a great activity to do all throughout the year. If you practice this early with the children it helps them get more comfortable singing in front of a group and this is a great way to add variety to your Sacrament program when that comes around!

Talk about how the way you sing a song affects how the song feels to you and everyone listening. Try different ways of singing this song, ie sing it loud and strong, sing it calm, smoothly and quiet, sing it staccato (every word short and separated), sing it like you were going to march to it (you'll probably have to speed it up for this). Have the kids vote for which way they like best, which way fits the song best, etc. This is also a great way to practice the different verses multiple times.

Turn on the DVD from week 1 and sing along. Then see if you can replicate that on the other verses. Go down the line and have each child (or put them in groups of 2-5 kids) sing a phrase and go around the room.

Bring one or more (depending on size of primary) small handheld mirrors and while you are singing all 3 verses, have the kids look in the mirror at themselves and then pass it to the next person. (If possible, you could have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Everybody enjoys the variety of moving to a different place! Plus, after you've finished, you could sing another song and march in a circle while singing or do some fun action songs). After you can ask them what they saw in the mirror? What does Heavenly Father see when he looks at you? Testify of God's love for them.