

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 4 • Unit 2 • Week 4

### GOD IS BUILDING HIS FAMILY

#### OBJECTIVE:

To show through God's Word that He is building a family—that has a father, mother, sisters and brothers—who will all inherit immortality just like Jesus Christ.

#### ATTENTION GETTER:

Say: Did you know God is going to take all the children and people in the whole wide world and bring them into His family as His own? Did you know He will share everything with them? That's what our lesson is about today—God is making a big family of which all of us will be a part.

#### BIBLE LESSON:

Ask: Who knows who the very first member of God's family is?

Do: Have a class member read Luke 1:26-35.

Ask: Did you notice another name given to Jesus Christ?

Say: He is also called the Son of the Highest. God began His family through Mary conceiving and bearing Jesus Christ. The Bible calls Jesus Christ the Son of God. Since Jesus is called the Son, who would God be? Father! That's a family, isn't it?

Ask: How does God want us to address Him when we talk to Him?

Do: Have a class member read Matthew 6:9.

Say: God wants us to call Him "Father" also because He gives us spiritual life and is building a big family.

Do: Have a class member read 1 Timothy 5:1-2.

Ask: How does God want His servants, the ministry, to think of others in the church?

Say: Since God is building a family, He wants the ministers to think of the members in terms of fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers.

Do: Have a class member read Galatians 4:26.

Ask: Why do you think God uses the term "mother" here? [Emphasize family once again.]

Say: The Church is called our "mother."

Ask: What does your mother do?

Say: She takes care of you, doesn't she? She feeds you, teaches you, reads to you, hugs you when you are hurt or sad, listens to you and rejoices when you do well in school or in an activity. This is why God gave us the Church and the people in it. The Church, just like our mother, teaches us, listens to us, helps us when we have problems and rejoices in our successes.

Do: Read Ephesians 4:11-13.

Say: The Church, through the messages we receive, helps us to become perfect.

Do: Read Matthew 12:48-50.

Ask: What family names did Christ use in these three verses?

Say: Christ is our Brother and He considers us as mothers, brothers and sisters.

Do: Read Acts 2:38-41 about the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Ask: Who can tell me what the Holy Spirit does and why it's so important for God's family?

Say: The Bible tells us that this is the way we are placed into God's family. When we are baptized, we receive the same Spirit that Jesus had. That Spirit is also called the "Spirit of adoption [sonship]" (Romans 8:15). If we are led by the Spirit which was in Jesus, we are called sons (children) of God (Romans 8:14). We belong to Jesus and God and can inherit the earth along with Jesus. Since we are children of God we are in God's family. God even tells us that we are not sure of what we will be like in the resurrection, but for sure, when we see Jesus, we will look like Him, meaning we will be glorified (1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:14-16).

Do: Read Ephesians 3:14-15. (God is the Father after whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.)

Say: Through Jesus Christ, who is our Savior, God is creating one big happy family which will be immortal, living in His kingdom for all eternity.

Do: Read or have a class member read the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10.

Ask: What does this story tell us? Does being in God's family have anything to do with obeying God?

Say: Tax collectors in the time of Christ were sometimes dishonest. Some were thieves. Religious people would consider them to be "lost" souls when the subject of eternal life was discussed. But Zacchaeus began following the teachings of Jesus Christ. That meant he could be in the family of God also. Everybody will have a chance to be in God's family someday.

**MUSIC:**

Sing "God Is Calling Children" from the United Church of God (p. 51).

**LESSON APPLICATION:**

Have each child draw a picture of someone in the congregation (perhaps to avoid one person receiving more than one picture, names could be drawn out of a hat). Below the picture the child can print the person's name. Also at the bottom of the page, have the student write out Matthew 12:48-50. Ask the children to show their drawings to the people they drew after services.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Ephesians 3:14-15 "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

# *family activity*

## **THE POINT:**

This week the class learned about how God is building His family. We discussed how Jesus Christ is God's first Son and how all of us are looked upon by Jesus as His mothers, brothers and sisters. We also saw how through the Spirit of Jesus Christ in us, we will be adopted into God's very family (even Zacchaeus, the tax collector) if we obey God and inherit everything along with Jesus Christ.

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

- Since we are all one family, go over the following scriptures with your child.

Ephesians 3:14-15 "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

1 John 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death."

- Make a list of the names of people in your congregation. Try to learn all the names of the family members in our church.

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

Ephesians 3:14-15 "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."