

Part of the Family

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 **Lesson 2****Focus:**Jesus wants us to be
in His family.**Lesson 2****Bible Basis:**

John 3:1-16

Lesson 2**Memory Verse:**“Everyone who believes in him may
have eternal life in him.”
—John 3:15

Students will discuss what makes family important as they explore how Jesus wants us to be in His family.

Materials:

- Printer
- “Wanted! The Perfect Sibling” worksheet (1 per student; template found at the end of this PDF)
- Pens/pencils

Before class, print out enough “Wanted! The Perfect Sibling” worksheets for your class (one per student; template found at the end of this PDF.) If your class is meeting online, email the template for families to print ahead of time. Invite students to bring printouts and pens/pencils with them to class.

Distribute the “Wanted! The Perfect Sibling” worksheets and pens/pencils. (If your class is meeting online, invite students to have those items ready.) Display the worksheet on the whiteboard so all students can see it (or use the screen sharing feature on your video chat software to display it online).

This morning, you get to imagine what you would want if you could have the perfect sibling. Anything about a sibling that would be important to you—their age, whether they are a boy or girl, what they look like, how they act—can be included as you think about what the perfect sibling would be like.

Give students time to complete the worksheet. If students finish early, allow them to draw a picture of their perfect sibling on the back of their worksheet. When students are finished, discuss their ideas for the perfect sibling:

- **If you could have the perfect sibling, what would they be like?** (Accept all reasonable responses.)
- **Of all these traits that a sibling could have, which is the most important to you? Why?** (Accept all reasonable responses.)

➤ **Would having a perfect sibling make your life better? Why or why not?** (Accept all reasonable answers.)

➤ **Is it possible to have a perfect sibling?** (Answers will vary.)

It can be fun to imagine having a sibling who is always kind, never takes something of ours, never frustrates us or fights with us, and who likes to do all the same kinds of things that we do. Family members aren't perfect, but they are an important part of our lives.

➤ **Why is family so important to us?** (Allow students to respond.)

While we can list why our families mean the world to us, we can also list ways our families drive us crazy! No family is perfect; each one has its strengths and its weaknesses. But our families have an immeasurable impact on who we are. In our lesson today, Jesus teaches a man about becoming a member of a very special family—the family of God. Let's take a look at how Jesus invites us to become a part of His family.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 2 / March 9, 2025

Part of the Family

for use as
STEP 4 **Lesson 2**
Focus:Jesus wants us to be
in His family.**Lesson 2**
Bible Basis:

John 3:1-16

Lesson 2
Memory Verse:“Everyone who believes in him may
have eternal life in him.”
—John 3:15**Materials:**

- Internet access
- “I am a Child of God” bookmarks printed on cardstock (1 per student; template with 3 each of 2 styles found at the end of this PDF)
- Pens/pencils/markers
- Scissors or paper cutter

Before class, print out enough bookmarks on cardstock so that each of your students has at least one. The template (found at the end of this PDF) contains three bookmarks designed with flowers and three with space motifs. Print enough so that your students can choose or can make one of each style. Cut the bookmarks apart. (If your class is meeting online, email the template for families to print and cut ahead of time. Invite students to bring printouts and pens/pencils/markers with them to class.)

In our lesson today, Nicodemus struggled to understand how he could become a part of Jesus’ family. Since he wasn’t born into Jesus’ family or related to Jesus in any way, he didn’t think that being a part of Jesus’ family was an option. He didn’t understand right away that he could become a member of Jesus’ family through a spiritual birth.

There are different ways we can become part of a family. Many of us are born into our families. Others of us become part of our families through adoption.

➤ **What is adoption?** (Allow students to respond. If any students in the class have been adopted themselves or have an adopted sibling, allow them to share their understanding of what adoption is.)

Adoption allows a family to provide a permanent home to someone who doesn’t have one. It gives a child with no family the opportunity to have a “forever family.” It’s a choice made by moms and dads all over the world to share their love with a child who may not have a mom or dad.

If any of your families have walked through the adoption process or know a family who has, you know that it can be a very, very long journey for a family. There are all kinds of steps to take, details to understand, and tasks to accomplish before the family can welcome a new member into its home. When God puts the idea of adoption on the hearts of a family, they know that they are starting an adventure in which they will have to trust God's plan each step of the way.

Adoption is a lot like the spiritual birth that Nicodemus learned about in our lesson today. God loves us so much that He wants us to be in His family. Becoming a part of God's family isn't a long process full of paperwork and waiting. God is always, always ready and waiting for us to put our faith in Him.

Our memory verse for today is a familiar one. It tells us very clearly and simply how much God wants us to be in His family. Have a volunteer read the memory verse. Write the memory verse on the whiteboard (or display it on the screenshared document) so that students can reference it.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Give students time to color their bookmark and write their memory verse on the back. Optional: If you feel comfortable, you can play this song in the background as your preteens work [4:35]:

Third Day – Children of God – with Lyrics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9RqVRBtjM4>

When students finish their bookmark, come back together as a group.

This bookmark can be a very simple but powerful reminder of who God wants you to be—His child. If you're already a part of God's family, keep this bookmark as a reminder of how much God loves you and how thankful He is to have you as His child. If you haven't taken that step yet, this bookmark can be an encouragement of what God offers all of us—the chance to be a part of His family.

Assure students that you are available to talk and pray with anyone who might have questions about joining God's family; help in sharing the Gospel with this age group is found in your teacher's guide.

Close together in prayer, thanking God for His love for us, the gift of His Son, and the opportunity to be part of His family forever.

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THE PERFECT SIBLING

Imagine that you are creating an advertisement for the perfect sibling. Use the questions below to help you describe the kind of sibling you'd like to have.

~**Boy or girl?**

~**Age** (older or younger):

~**Appearance** (what do they look like?):

~**Personality** (Outgoing or shy? Funny or serious? Quiet or loud?)

~**Interests** (what kinds of things will they like to do?)

~**How they will treat you?**



