



Two thousand years ago, the Apostle John wrote these words for every follower of Jesus to ponder: “*See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we would be called **children of God**.*” Then John added in, literally with gleeful delight: “*And such we are!*” (1 John 3:1). Wow! When you hear those words, you can only draw one conclusion: **God loves kids!** He really and truly does. So much so that He wants you and me, despite all our sinful baggage (our hurts, hang-ups and habits), to become His children. But hold on a minute. What exactly does it mean to be a **child of God**? The Apostle John knew the answer, and it got him so excited that he could hardly contain himself. Perhaps if you and I knew what John knew about being one of God’s kids, our hearts would also resonate with praise to the Father in Heaven just like John’s did. Let’s give it a shot ...

AREN'T WE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD?

WHAT ARE GOD'S PLANS & BLESSINGS FOR HIS KIDS?

1. (Ephesians 2:19) Forever ...
2. (Acts 17:29) Learn who and what God ...
3. (1 Timothy 3:15) Become part of God's ...

4. (Romans 8:6) Receive the partnership of ...
5. (Romans 8:15; Mark 14:36) An incredible level of ...
6. (Philippians 2:15) The ability ...
7. (Matthew 5:9) The ministry opportunity to become a ...
8. (1 John 3:2) An “off the charts” eternal adventure ...

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

1. (Matthew 18:32) Reconnect with Jesus by ...
2. (1 John 3:1) Ramp up honoring of the Father by ...
3. (Mark 10:14) Rejoice that “the Child” is why ...

FOR THOUGHT AND TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. Read aloud 1 John 3:3a and then choose an additional 5 or 6 other verses to read aloud from this message. What was the impact upon the 90+ year old Apostle John when he thought about being a child of God? What does it mean that God's love has been imported into our lives? Why is it important to be reminded *often* that we are children of God?
2. Describe what “childlike faith” *is* and what it *is not*. Matthew 18:32 says, “*Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*” What are some ways of “turning” to Jesus, moment-by-moment?
3. Why is it so very important to constantly celebrate (like John did) that we are children of the Heavenly Father? What happens to you when you don't? When you do?
4. What was God speaking into your life from this message about *you* being *His* kid forever? How do you think what you heard can help make you happier and healthier in your walk with Jesus?