

NBCC KIDS

NEWSLETTER

August 2025

“You are majestic and holy. Your glory fills me with wonder. You do amazing things.”

-Exodus 15:11b (Nlrv)

Do you ever ask your children what they want to be when they grow up? I love asking kids that question. And depending on their ages, their answers can vary wildly! Preschoolers love to pretend and they fancy themselves heroes...usually of the caped variety. Superheroes lead very exciting lives and children of all ages want to emulate that lifestyle. And, let's be honest, the superhero costumes are pretty amazing! But, as children get a little older and a little wiser, they might choose a more noble career, police officer, or perhaps something in the medical field. Developmentally, children in first grade through third or fourth grade begin to connect certain values, such as justice and safety and helping others, to what they want to be when they grow up, and their desire is to have a career as a doctor or a teacher or perhaps, as a first responder of some kind. It's not just about fancy cars or cool clothes anymore. And then finally, as kids leave elementary school and begin to head into those preteen and teen years their interests broaden and they learn a few more specifics and they will consider that they want a career that is better suited to their interests. For some it's a hobby that sparked a desire to consider a full time career, for some it's dreaming of fortune and fame in a sport. For others it is realizing that certain subjects are too difficult and they don't want to pursue a career that requires them to have to use that specific skill.

But, perhaps a better question that can incite some deep and critical thinking is, WHO ARE YOU? It's interesting, if you ask an adult who they are, they will often tell you what they do for a living, and talk about their children. And that is all well and fine. Those are important details about us. And to a great degree who I am *is* what I do for a living and that I *am* a wife and mother. Those aren't just details to me, it is quite fundamental to *who I am*. But perhaps, we can dig a little deeper into ourselves and challenge our children to do the same.

This summer the children have been embarking on a bit of an adventure into self discovery. We have been discussing certain “I am because of God” statements. For example, we learned that because God knows me, I am known. Because Jesus loves me, I am loved. Because the Holy Spirit leads me, I am led. Because of Jesus, I am a child of God. And if you think about these statements they are very specific and profound. For a child, who may be only one in class of 20 in school, or perhaps even in a family with several brothers and sisters, and on a sports team of a dozen or more other children, they may feel slightly invisible. But God knows them and because God knows them, they are known. And even more impactful is that as for those children in older elementary school, approaching those preteen years, to learn **now** that they are known by the same God who created *everything*, He still loves them and *knows* them. So when they question who they are and where their place in this big world is, they can know without a doubt that God knows them and their identity is in God.

We have explored that because Jesus loves us, we are loved. Who doesn't want to be loved? But for a child who already feels insecure, and for that child who experiences bullying, for a child who feels insignificant and neglected, to know that Jesus loves them so much he willingly went to the cross for them. To know that Jesus loves them so much that he doesn't want to spend eternity without them. And to learn that fundamental truth now, so when things get even more complicated later in life, when friendships and relationships end, that child will have already learned that they are loved. And that love doesn't come with strings and that love is forever. Forever is very meaningful when so much of what we know and experience are temporary.

We want our children to grow up to be leaders. And leading can look very different to different people. But even leaders need a leader. This summer we are learning that because the Holy Spirit leads me, I am led. One of our recent memory verses was Romans 8:14; *“those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”* The kids did a great job memorizing that verse! But when we dove a little deeper into what it means for them, we discovered that God's very spirit is in us, and that if we accept Him into our lives, then we allow Him to lead us. And being led by Him means that we will be led into our own very specific calling. And we can expect that God will direct us and lead us. And speaking from personal experience, that kind of surrender and acceptance is so liberating! I've heard many people tell me that once they make a commitment to follow Jesus and allow Him into their lives they experience a complete transformation. Knowing this, then it makes sense that we want our kids to have that too! Only without all the pain and emptiness that comes before acceptance to God and His leadership. And, every effective leader needs a great leader, who better to lead our children than the Holy Spirit?

Our last lesson in this series will be because of Jesus, I am a child of God. Through Jesus, we are adopted into God's family, and that means that we are not just God's creation, we are actually his sons and daughters. Admittedly, I was preparing for this to be a harder concept for the kids to conceptualize, but then I saw a really beautiful encounter between a couple of these kids. We had some children get baptized recently, and afterwards I was talking with some of the kids, when another child ran up to a newly baptized (and still dripping child!) and wrapped his arms around his friend and yelled "Hey Brother! Now we're family!" And I was dumbfounded! I think these kids already get it! They see each other as family because they believe in Jesus! They know that they have this special and unique bond because of the love of Jesus, and they have no problems expressing it!

Honestly, these kids don't have any shyness when it comes to expressing themselves! I have noticed over the past few months, that in our worship and large group time, I have so many kids that want to be worship leaders. I now have to keep a waiting list for upcoming weeks! And to my delight, my biggest group of wanna-be worship leaders are the 3rd-5th grade boys! At the end of our time together, I ask the kids if anyone would like to pray for us, and once again, every hand flies up. The significance of this is not lost on me! These kids can't wait to worship and they aren't shy about it! The highlight of my week, every week is seeing these kids worship and praise our God! It makes my heart happy!

CHOCOLATE SUNDAY is coming up on August 31! These kids are great at memorizing their verses and I give out so much chocolate! Also, please remember that we are going to 2 services on September 7, at 9 am and 11 am. That being said, as we are transitioning to 2 services, I am looking for more volunteers to love on these kids. We have lots of babies to snuggle with all the way up to our 5th graders who need less snuggles but just as much attention! A higher degree in theology isn't required, but you should be prepared to answer 87 questions in under five minutes! (Just kidding, it's more like 3 minutes!)

As always, I want to take a moment and thank you for allowing me the honor of serving your family. I truly adore all these children and look forward to every Sunday that I get to spend time with them.

~Miss Amy