

Growing up in God's Family



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Those who are sorry for their sin and believe that Jesus died and rose again as the punishment for their sin become children of God. They receive the free gift of eternal life! Becoming a child of God is the most important thing that could ever happen to you.

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. *Romans 10:9*

As we grow up in God's family, we want to become like our Heavenly Father.

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! *1 John 3:1*



God created you!

We were created in God's image—we don't share an ancestor with the animals! We need to know more about our Creator so that we can become more like Him. We can learn about Him by studying His Word—the Bible.

You can begin learning more about your Creator and Savior by reading a few verses each day from the Bible. A good place to start is a book called John. Your parents or teachers will be glad to help you read and study the Bible.

I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14



God wants you to obey Him!

God is holy. That means He is without sin. He wants us to be holy like He is. We can show our love for God by obeying His commands. We can learn what He wants us to do by reading the Bible.

Here are some of His commands:

- Love one another (John 15:12).
- Obey your father and mother (Ephesians 6:1–3).
- Be kind (Ephesians 4:32).
- Tell the truth (Ephesians 4:25).

What other commands can you find in the Bible?

If you love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:15



God wants you to talk to Him!

While Jesus was on earth, He talked with His disciples. He also talked to His heavenly Father through prayer. We can follow His example by talking to God.

We can pray anytime, anywhere, and about anything. We can tell God that we love Him and that we're thankful for everything He does for us. We can ask Him for things. For example, we can ask Him to save our friends from hell, or to heal our sister.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6



God forgives you!

Even though we have become children of God, we will still sin (disobey God). But we should want to stop sinning (for example, stop lying, cheating, envying, being unkind, being quick to anger). Instead, we should want to do what pleases God (telling the truth, loving others more than we love ourselves, serving others).

When we sin, we should pray and confess our sin to God. We can tell Him we are sorry, and He will forgive us. We can ask God to help us to honor Him in all that we do and say.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9



God wants you to share the good news!

No matter what we look like or where we live, all people are part of Adam and Eve's family. We are all sinners. Everyone needs to hear how they can become part of God's family through Jesus Christ. This is good news, and we should share it!

We can start by sharing the good news of salvation with our family, friends, and neighbors! Do you know someone you can tell about Jesus?

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations. Matthew 28:19



God wants you to spend time with others in His family!

Since you're part of the family of God, you're not alone! You have many brothers and sisters all around the world. All of those who repent and believe that Jesus was punished for them on the cross are part of God's family.

We please God when we spend time with others in His family. God wants us to attend a church that teaches God's Word completely and truthfully. He also wants us to look for ways to do kind things for other people.

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another.

Hebrews 10:24–25



God wants you to love Him!

In the future, God will create a new heavens and earth for us! Because we have received the free gift of eternal life, we can look forward to living forever with Him. Until then, we can learn to love Him more than we love anyone or anything else.

We will never know all there is to know about God, but the more we know about Him, the more we will love Him. We can find out more about Him in the Bible.

What are some ways you can show your love for God?

Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31



God loves you!

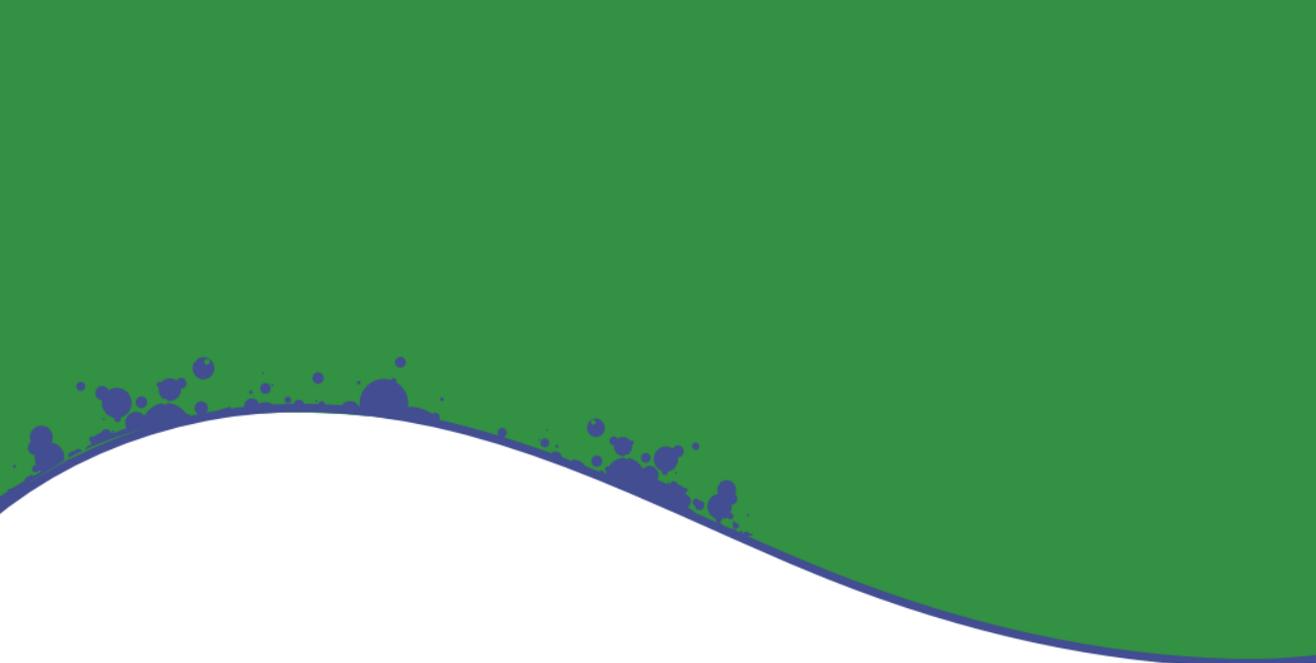
Being a child of God isn't always easy. We may be teased because of our love for God. Or we may be confused about what we hear about God in school or on TV. We need to read and study the Bible to look for answers. We can also ask older Christians (such as our parents) to help us understand the truth about God and His Word.

We need to remember that God loves us. He is in control of everything, and we can trust Him to always do what is best for us. He has given us the Bible to help us grow up in His family and to help us understand the world around us. We need to continue to study it, and we need to continue to grow as His child.

I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:20





1:1

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