

Galatians 3:26-4:7

A Royal Invitation

Scripture: Galatians 3:26-4:7

Memory Verse: Galatians 4:7 "Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Lesson Focus: Kids love imagining themselves as royalty (kings and queens). The amazing truth we will learn about in this passage is that God invites all to become His royal princes and princesses through simple faith and trust in Jesus Christ!

Activities and Crafts: Word Search and Bring It Home Discussion Qs for 3rd - 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Royalty Crown

Starter Activity: Royalty for a Day

What must it be like to be royalty, to even sit on a throne! To get the lesson started, consider having a few kids pretend to be royalty, a prince or princess. * We will provide you with a fancy chair * that you can use as a "royal throne". Have a few kids take turns coming up, sitting on the "throne", and sharing with the class what they would do if they could be royalty for a day. To make it more fun, prepare a few props like a crown, a cloak, and/or a scepter that they can wear/use.

As kids share what they would do as royalty, listen to their answers and lead a little discussion with the class and each kid. Consider questions like:

Q: Why would do you do those things if you were royalty?

Q: Do you think it would be hard or easy to be royalty?

Q: Do you think people would like having you be their next king or queen?

Afterwards, transition into the lesson by reminding the kids about what we have learned in the first half of Galatians. Paul has been walking the Galatians (and us) through the "nuts and bolts" of the gospel. * Verse by verse, Paul has been making his case that salvation comes by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ ALONE and not through our good works or obedience to the law AT ALL!

He has been building up to this passage today that is perhaps the climax of the whole letter: That through simple faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we may not only be saved, but may also become royalty! WOW! Let's take a look!

Bible Study:

Review Galatians 3:24-25 to remind kids how the "point" of God's Law was to reveal to us how bad our sin and rebellion actually is * and how desperately we need a Savior to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. * Yet, once we put our faith and trust in Jesus, our status changes. We are no longer under this "tutor".

Galatians 3:26: Instead, we become children of the King Himself! In other words, we become royalty! Princes and princesses! *

Q: Again, how do we become God's princes and princesses according to this verse?

A: Through FAITH in Jesus alone! *

Just as we learned what the "point" of the Law was, this is the "point" of the gospel: That us rebels and sinners might become God's own special people, restored to Him in relationship forever!

Galatians 3:27: Paul mentions how many of these Galatians were baptized.

(**Teachers:** Consider having some discussion like below or illustrate baptism with a small character figure and a bin of water) *

Q: How many of you have been baptized before? Tell us what happened!

A1: First, someone completely dunked you into the water. Just like Jesus died on the cross and was buried, this pictures how you were dead and "buried" by your sin.

A2: But then you came out of the water and everyone celebrated! And just like Jesus rose from the dead, this pictures your new life of faith and trust in Him, forgiven of all of your sins, and committed to walking in His ways. *

Baptism doesn't save you, but it is an important step of obedience for all believers. Plus, the experience helps you remember that you belong to Jesus now and are a prince or princess of the King! If you are a believer in Jesus and you want to get baptized, talk to your parents about this!

Galatians 3:28: Look around at the other kids in your class. You will see boys and girls, rich and poor, even black, Hispanic, or white kids. In our broken world, we so quickly judge and size others up based on these categories. * But when you believe in Jesus, royalty becomes your primary identity. You are a child of the King BEFORE you are any of those other things! And therefore, you are united with all other children of the King, equally loved, such that none is superior to the other! *

Galatians 3:29: In wrapping up this chapter, Paul refers again to Abraham, the ancient father of the Jewish people who modeled the way to become princes and princesses of the King: FAITH! (see **Galatians 3:6-9**)

Paul now hits the pause button * to discuss the reality of this new royal identity that believers have. For one thing, he says that believers are **heirs** of the promise.
Q: What does it mean to be an **heir**? A: It means you are "guaranteed" a special gift or inheritance, typically from a relative. *

Galatians 4:1-2: Imagine a very young child that is to inherit a large fortune, let's say a million bucks. Is that child capable of actually receiving that large fortune yet? NO! * Imagine giving a million bucks to a 2-year old! * The child needs to "grow up" first! Until then the child will not enjoy the inheritance instead being completely under the control of this guardian.

Galatians 4:3: Paul uses this to illustrate what all people are like before they become believers in Jesus. Before Jesus, these Galatians were under control of their former false religions. * The Jews were under the control of their religious rule-keeping. And if YOU are not a believer in Jesus, today you are in bondage to the ways of this world! It is time for you to "grow up" into faith in Jesus Christ!

Galatians 4:4-5: For according to God the Father's plan, Jesus came into the world to redeem and rescue us from whatever had control over us that we might become true "heirs" as God's princes and princesses.

Q: Again, how do we become God's princes and princesses? A: FAITH in Jesus!

Galatians 4:6: One royal blessing that God's princes and princesses experience immediately is the Holy Spirit dwelling inside of them. * The Spirit reminds us that as part of God's royal family we are privileged to call out to God as our "Abba"!

Q: What do you call your Dad? * "Abba" is a word like Daddy or Papa...how a child talks to his Dad that he knows dearly loves him.

Think about that for a second! God is the creator of the whole universe! He is awesome in power and holiness. And yet He welcomes us rebels, if we have become part of His family through faith, to boldly approach Him as a child does his Dad! *

Galatians 4:7: Paul reiterates again, that God's princes and princesses are also His heirs. Q: How do we become God's princes and princesses? A: FAITH in Jesus!

Key Point: Little kids, especially girls, like to dress-up and pretend to be royalty. God says we do not have to pretend! God invites us all to join His royal family.

Q: How did Ariel and Rapunzel become princesses? A: They were born that way because their biological parents were royalty (according to the Disney stories)! But it's not that way for you and me. We were born rebels and sinners! But when we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins and **adopts** us rebels into His royal family! Have you done that? * If not, accept God's royal invitation today!

Bring It Home

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,

To the saints who are faithful in Christ Jesus:

*Greetings! Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

First

Read Galatians 4:7. What does it mean to be an heir? How does someone become an heir of God's promises?

Second

Read Galatians 4:6. What does "Abba" mean? Why is it so amazing that God invites us to call Him "Abba"?

Parent Challenge

How do we all become princes and princesses of the King of Kings (see Galatians 3:26)?

By His Grace,

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