



Paul Describes Living by God's Spirit

Romans 8:9-17

In Romans 8:9-17, Paul describes living by God's Spirit. While little ones do not understand what "living by God's Spirit" means, they can live for God in small ways. Begin by teaching them kindness, sharing, and praise as ways to live for God. Create an atmosphere of enthusiasm as you talk to each child about living for God and being God's child. Children should perceive living for God as exciting. Emphasize that by living for God, they're living as God's children.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Finding God's Child Follow a mirror to find God's child.	blanket, hand-held mirror	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Showing Love Hug a doll to express living for God through love.	doll	
	Living as God's Child Do an action rhyme about living for God.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Bible Point
We can live for God.

Key Verse
"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will learn that they can live for God and be God's children.





TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Where Is God's Child? Learn a song about being God's child and living for God.	Bible, hand-held mirror	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	What Do I Wear? Play a game to learn about living for God through smiles.	hat, coat, shoes, mittens	In the play area, lay out a hat, a coat, a pair of shoes, and a pair of mittens.
	Going to God's House Do a rhyme and learn how they can live for God by going to church.	smiley-face stickers, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Going to God's House" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Set out smiley-face stickers.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





2-YEAR-OLD



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Who Do You See? Look at a mirror hidden in a box to identify one of God's children.	Bible, shoe box with lid, hand-held mirror	Place the mirror faceup in a shoe box. Cover the box.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Hide 'n' Pop Up Play a game and sing a song about finding one of God's children.	bedsheet	
	Thumbodies in God's House Use their thumbprints to make children in God's house.	colored ink pad, baby wipes, fine-tipped marker, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Going to God's House" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Set out a colored ink pad and baby wipes.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





INFANT

1 GETTING
STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "God Made Us All" (track 19) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" anytime during the session. During the song, gently clap the baby's hands to the rhythm.

God made the big giraffe. (*Stretch up tall.*)
God made the tiny fish. (*Make a tiny space between thumb and index finger.*)
God made each of us (*turn around*)
Just the way he wished. (*Clap hands.*)

God made the elephant (*take two big stomps*)
Look just like it should. (*Hold arm out like a trunk in front of nose.*)
God made me the way I am (*hold both hands over chest*)
And said, "It is good." (*Clap hands.*)

I'm glad I'm not a cat. (*Meow and "wash" like a cat.*)
I'm glad I'm not a dog. (*Pant and bark like a dog.*)
I'm glad that I am God's dear child (*hug self*)
And not a big bullfrog! (*Bounce and jump.*)

Sing "Living for God" (not on CD) to the tune of "Frère Jacques" anytime during the session. Sing it as a lullaby while you rock an infant.

Living for God, living for God (*point to sky*)
Every day! Every way! (*Count on fingers.*)
We will be his children, (*hug self*)
And we'll try to please God (*use fingers to turn up mouth into a smile*)
Every day! Every way! (*Count on fingers.*)



Sing and Celebrate Supplies

- CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "God Made Us All"
(track 19)





Finding God's Child Supplies

blanket
hand-held mirror

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Finding God's Child

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Lay an infant on a blanket in front of you. Have the mirror hidden behind you. Hold the infant's hand.

Say: **Paul wrote a letter to his friends.** Trace imaginary letters on the baby's palm as you speak. **He said, "You can live for God, and you can be God's child.** Gently cross the baby's arms over his or her chest in a hug. **God's Spirit can help you live for him.** Point to the sky with the baby's arm. **You do not have to be afraid.** Cover the infant's eyes with his or her hands, and then quickly remove them. **You are God's child; you can call him Father.** Clap the baby's hands together.

Let's look for God's child.

Put the mirror to the left side of the infant's head. Slowly move it to catch the child's attention until it is directly in front and the child is looking at the reflection.

Say: **I see God's child!** [Child's name] **is God's child!** [Child's name] **can live for God!** Repeat the activity starting at the right side of the infant's head.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Showing Love

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hold an infant on your lap. Place a doll near you.

Say: **We can live for God by showing love to others.** Show the doll to the infant. **Can** [child's name] **show dolly that you love her?** Help the infant wrap his or her arms around the doll and give it a hug.

That was nice. Hugging is a good way to show love. I will show love to [child's name]. Give the baby a gentle hug.

God loves [child's name], **too, and God is happy when we live for him by showing love to others. We can live for God.**

Showing Love Supplies

doll



Living as God's Child

What You'll Do

Hold an infant on your lap. Do the motions with the child's hands as you say this rhyme.

I am God's child. (*Point to self.*)
I'll give a cheer! (*Put baby's arms in the air.*)
He lives inside me, (*put baby's hands over his or her heart*)
So I have nothing to fear! (*Clap baby's hands.*)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

TODDLER

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "God Made Us All" (track 19) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" anytime during the session. Lead the toddlers in a march around the room as they sing.

God made the big giraffe. (*Stretch up tall.*)
God made the tiny fish. (*Make a tiny space between thumb and index finger.*)
God made each of us (*turn around*)
Just the way he wished. (*Clap hands.*)

God made the elephant (*take two big stomps*)
Look just like it should. (*Hold arm out like a trunk in front of nose.*)
God made me the way I am (*hold both hands over chest*)
And said, "It is good." (*Clap hands.*)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Sing and Celebrate Supplies


CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "God Made Us All" (track 19)





I'm glad I'm not a cat. (*Meow and "wash" like a cat.*)
I'm glad I'm not a dog. (*Pant and bark like a dog.*)
I'm glad that I am God's dear child (*hug self*)
And not a big bullfrog! (*Bounce and jump.*)

Sing "Living for God" (not on CD) to the tune of "Frère Jacques" anytime during the session. During the song, have the toddlers do the motions listed in parentheses.

 **Living for God, living for God** (*point to sky*)
Every day! Every way! (*Count on fingers.*)
We will be his children, (*hug self*)
And we'll try to please God (*use fingers to turn up mouth into a smile*)
Every day! Every way! (*Count on fingers.*)

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Where Is God's Child? Supplies

Bible
hand-held mirror


Where Is God's Child?

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Romans 8:9-17. Lay the mirror facedown on your Bible. Work with one or two toddlers at a time.

Say: **Paul wrote a letter to his friends. He said, "Now that you belong to Christ, you do not have to be bad. God's Spirit will help you live for God. You will be called God's child because you are part of God's family. God will share his treasures with us, and we can live for God."**

Sing the following song, "Where Is God's Child?" (not on CD), to the tune of "Where Is Thumbkin?"

 **Where is God's child? Where is God's child?** (*Put your hand to your forehead as if searching for someone.*)
Here he [she] is! Here he [she] is! (*Put the mirror directly in front of a toddler's face.*)
We can live for God! We can live for God! (*Point to sky.*)
I found God's child—here he [she] is! (*Point to toddler.*)



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

What Do I Wear?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Work with two toddlers at a time. Play a game with the children, having them guess what they need.

Say: **God's children need something to wear on their heads. What can you find for God's children to wear?**

Encourage the toddlers to choose the hat and take turns putting it on. Then repeat the question, naming another part of the body one of the items can be worn on. Continue until the toddlers have worn all the items.

Say: **God wants his children to wear something on their faces, too—a big smile!** Use your fingers to push your mouth into a big smile.

When we smile, we make other people happy. We can live for God, making others happy and showing love. Encourage toddlers to show you their smiles.

Going to God's House

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Work with two or three toddlers at a time. Teach the children this rhyme, and do the motions with them.

We can go to God's house (*put fingertips together to represent a house*)

To sing and praise and pray. (*Wave arms; then fold hands in prayer.*)

But we can live for God (*point to the sky*)

At our house every day! (*Count on fingers; then throw hands open.*)

Give each child a copy of the "Going to God's House" page, and let kids put smiley-face stickers inside the church to represent happy children in God's house.

Say: **We can live for God by going to his house.**



What Do I Wear? Supplies

hat
coat
shoes
mittens

What Do I Wear? Easy Prep

In the play area, lay out a hat, a coat, a pair of shoes, and a pair of mittens.

Going to God's House Supplies

smiley-face stickers
My Bible Snuggles or
1 copy per child of
the "Going to God's
House" page (at the
end of the lesson)

Going to God's House Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Set out smiley-face stickers.





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "God Made Us All"
(track 19)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.


2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■


Sing "God Made Us All" (track 19) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" anytime during the session. Lead children in doing the motions.

 **God made the big giraffe.** (*Stretch up tall.*)
God made the tiny fish. (*Make a tiny space between thumb and index finger.*)
God made each of us (*turn around*)
Just the way he wished. (*Clap hands.*)

God made the elephant (*take two big stomps*)
Look just like it should. (*Hold arm out like a trunk in front of nose.*)
God made me the way I am (*hold both hands over chest*)
And said, "It is good." (*Clap hands.*)

I'm glad I'm not a cat. (*Meow and "wash" like a cat.*)
I'm glad I'm not a dog. (*Pant and bark like a dog.*)
I'm glad that I am God's dear child (*hug self*)
And not a big bullfrog! (*Bounce and jump.*)

Sing "Living for God" (not on CD) to the tune of "Frère Jacques" anytime during the session. During the song, have the children sit on the floor and wave their arms in worship as they sing.

 **Living for God, living for God** (*point to sky*)
Every day! Every way! (*Count on fingers.*)
We will be his children, (*hug self*)
And we'll try to please God (*use fingers to turn up mouth into a smile*)
Every day! Every way! (*Count on fingers.*)



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Who Do You See?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Romans 8:9-17.

Say: **Paul wrote a letter to his friends in Rome. He said, "Dear friends, when you have Christ living in you, you belong to him. You do not have to keep doing bad things. God's Spirit can help you. You don't have to live in fear; you can live for God. You will be called God's children, and God will share his treasures with you. You can call God 'Father' because you are now part of his family."**

Show the children the box.

Say: ► **WE CAN LIVE FOR GOD and be called his children. Look in the box, and you'll see one of God's children.**

Ask:

- Who did you see?

Say: **Yes, you saw [child's name]! You are God's child. You can live for God.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Hide 'n' Pop Up

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Let the children take turns hiding under a bedsheet. (They don't have to cover their faces if they don't want to.) Walk around the sheet with the other 2-year-olds as you sing this song to the tune of "Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?" (not on CD):

♪ **Oh where, oh where has [child's name] gone?
Oh where, oh where can he [she] be?
Oh where, oh where has [child's name] gone?
It's God's child that I'd like to see!**

Encourage the hiding child to pop up and say, "Here I am!" Play until each child has a turn to hide and pop up.



Who Do You See? Supplies

Bible
shoe box with lid
hand-held mirror

Who Do You See? Easy Prep

Place the mirror
faceup in a shoe
box. Cover the box.

Hide 'n' Pop Up Supplies

bedsheet





Thumbodies in God's House Supplies

colored ink pad
baby wipes
fine-tipped marker
My Bible Snuggles or
1 copy per child of
the "Going to God's
House" page (at the
end of the lesson)

Thumbodies in God's House Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 12
pages from each My
Bible Snuggles student
book. Set out a colored
ink pad and baby wipes.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
"Growing With Jesus"
page (at the end of the
lesson)

Say: **We have found our friends! We are all God's children, and ► WE CAN LIVE FOR GOD.**

Thumbodies in God's House

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Work with one 2-year-old at a time. Help a 2-year-old press a thumb on the ink pad and then on the inside of the church from the "Going to God's House" page. After helping the child make several prints, clean the thumb with the wipes. Let the child hold a fine-tipped marker as you use your hand to guide it. Draw faces, arms, and legs on the thumbprints. Ask the child to identify his or her parents among the thumbprint people, and label them as such. On the picture, write, "Thanks for taking me to church."

Say: **We're making children in God's house.**

Ask:

- **What can you do in God's house?**

Say: **God is happy when his children come to his house. ► WE CAN LIVE FOR GOD by going to his house.**

Be sure children take their "Going to God's House" pages and give the pages to their parents as a thank-you for bringing them to church.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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Growing With Jesus



Your child learned we can live for God (from Romans 8:9-17). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Living as God's Child

Hold your infant on your lap, and do the motions with your child's hands as you say this rhyme.

I am God's child. (*Point to self.*)

I'll give a cheer! (*Put baby's arms in the air.*)

He lives inside me, (*put baby's hands over his or her heart*)

So I have nothing to fear! (*Clap baby's hands.*)

TODDLER

Going to God's House

Teach your 2-year-old this rhyme, and do the motions with him or her.

We can go to God's house (*put fingertips together to represent a house*)

To sing and praise and pray. (*Wave arms; then fold hands in prayer.*)

But we can live for God (*point to the sky*)

At our house every day! (*Count on fingers; then throw hands open.*)

2-YEAR-OLD

Hide 'n' Pop Up

Let your child hide under a bedsheet, and walk around the sheet as you sing this song to the tune of "Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?"

Oh where, oh where has [child's name] gone?

Oh where, oh where can he [she] be?

Oh where, oh where has [child's name] gone?

It's God's child that I'd like to see!

Encourage your hiding child to pop up and say "Here I am!"



Pleasing Pointers

To very young children, living for God means learning to be what God wants them to be—such as good, kind, and loving. Their best role models are the ones they see in their own homes every day. Affirm that kindness and goodness are part of your family's identity: "Because we love Jesus, this is how we act in our family." Don't teach from only wrongdoing, but rather, try to find positive examples. When your child puts away a toy, say, "I like the way you're living for God by being a good helper." Your child will learn the most when your teaching connects with what he or she does and is interested in.

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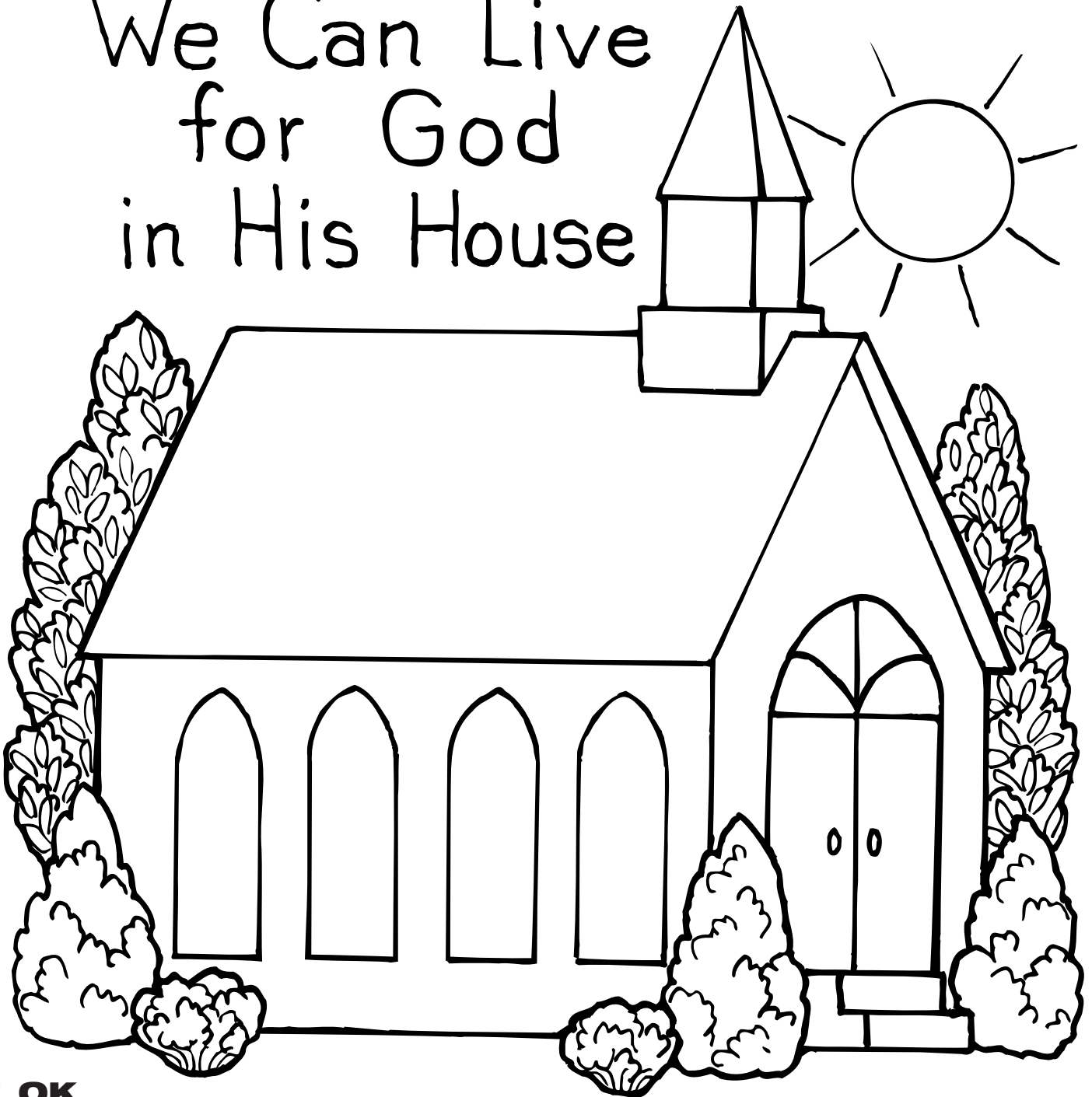
Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

- Look through picture books, and have your child point out the children in the pictures. Then say, "These kids can be God's children, too—they can live for him."
- Going to church is an important way for children to learn to live for God. Create fond memories that your child will associate with church time like a favorite breakfast or singing in the car on the way to church.



Going to God's House

We Can Live
for God
in His House



OK
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Illustrated by Nancy Munger.