

Lesson 1 for  
January 7,  
2023



**PART OF GOD'S FAMILY**



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



**“Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?”  
(Mal. 2:10). We share the same origin and the same father.  
Does that make us part of God’s family?**

**If we are part of God’s family, what can we receive from  
our Father? What are our responsibilities?**

**The Bible encourages us to manage for the Lord until He  
comes back.**



**Who is part of God’s family?**



**Who is the owner of everything?**



**What resources are at our disposal?**



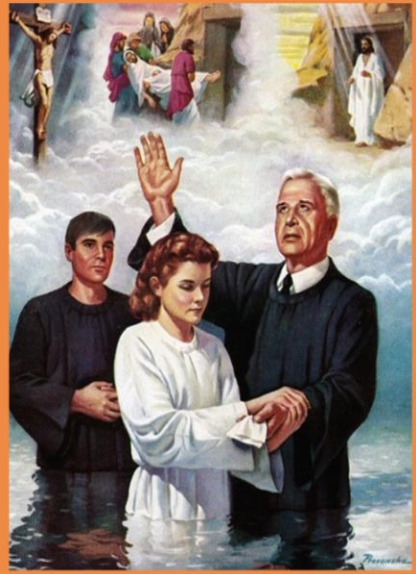
**What are our responsibilities?**



**What should we do with what we have?**

# WHO IS PART OF GOD'S FAMILY?

*"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."* (Galatians 3:26)



Adam was "the son of God" (Lk. 3:38). Does it mean that all his descendants are children of God too (Mal. 2:10)?

All humans are children of God because of Creation.

However, this doesn't make us part of God's family. In order to be part of His family we must be "born of God."

(1Jn. 5:1)

John explained that we are children of God because He loves us (1Jn. 3:1-2). When Jesus became human, He became part of our family so anyone who wants to be part of God's family can be so (Heb. 2:11-18). This is why Jesus talked about "my Father" and "your Father." (Jn. 20:17)







# WHO IS THE OWNER OF EVERYTHING?



**"[...] for the world is mine, and all that is in it." (Psalm 50:12 NIV)**

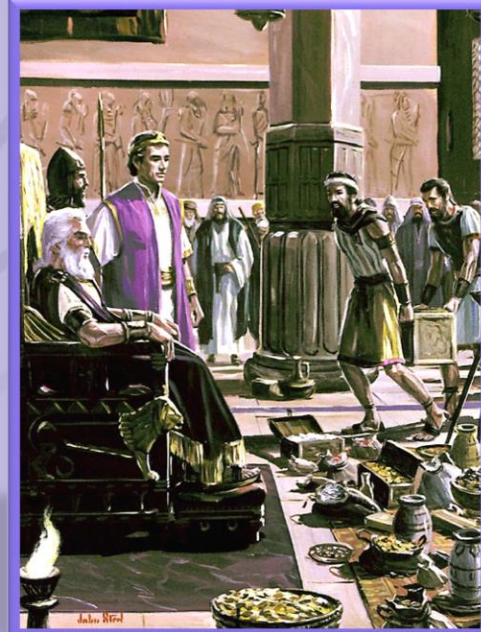
God told David that he couldn't build the temple, so his son Solomon would do it. David prepared all the materials needed (1Chr. 22:6-10, 14).

Then, David invited the people to bring a special offering for the construction (1Chr. 29:6-10). David responded to their generosity by praying as follows (1Chr. 29:11-16 NIV):



- "Everything in heaven and earth is Yours" (11)
- "Wealth and honor come from You" (12)
- "Everything comes from You" (14)
- "We have given You only what comes from Your hand" (14)
- "All this abundance [...] comes from Your hand" (16)
- "All of it belongs to You" (16)

Everything we have is God's. Therefore, we must praise Him and thank Him for His kindness.



**“All that man receives of God's bounty still belongs to God. Whatever God has bestowed in the valuable and beautiful things of earth is placed in the hands of men to test them—to sound the depths of their love for Him and their appreciation of His favors. Whether it be the treasures of wealth or of intellect, they are to be laid, a willing offering, at the feet of Jesus; the giver saying, meanwhile, with David, ‘All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.’”**

**E. G. W. (Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 73, p. 753)**

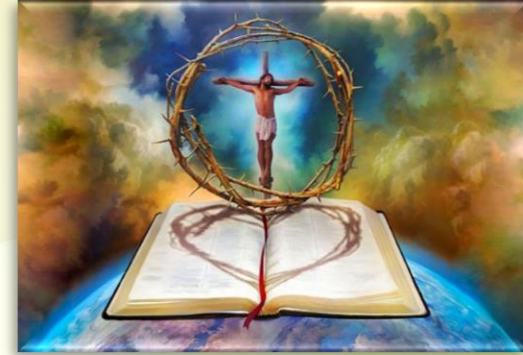
# WHAT RESOURCES ARE AT OUR DISPOSAL?

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)



God is the owner of all the resources in this planet. He's willing to give them to His children.

However, the greatest gift He's given us is His Son, Jesus (Jn. 3:16).



What spiritual and physical gifts is God offering to us?



Existence  
(Acts 17:25)



Salvation  
(1P. 1:5)



The Holy Spirit  
(Lk. 11:13)



Spiritual gifts  
(1Co. 12:7-11)



Material blessings  
(Mt. 6:31-33)



# WHAT ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES?

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:5)

God has given us everything, and He has appointed us as stewards of it (Gn. 1:27-28).

He’s also expecting a response of love (Mt. 22:37). How can we show that we love Him?

John explained it: “In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.” (1Jn. 5:3 NIV)

Loving God involves obeying His commandments. We cannot say that we love our Heavenly Father if we are not willing to obey Him.





# WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE?

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.” (Matthew 6:19)



If God gives us everything and asks us to take care of it, why did Jesus say that we must not have treasures on earth?

There are people in the Bible who were wealthy and remained faithful to God, like Abraham or Job. However, their trust was not set in their riches. They considered their wealth something temporary, borrowed, fungible... (Job 1:21)



**Jesus encouraged us to lay up “treasures in heaven.” (Mt. 6:20). How can we do that?**

Making God and His cause our top priority

Mt. 6:33

Using our resources to satisfy our needs

1Tim. 5:8

Preaching the Gospel both by speaking and by our example

Ro. 10:14-15

Blessing others with our resources and our actions

Lk. 10:36-37

**“Be polite to those with whom you come in contact; thus you will be polite to God. Praise Him for His goodness; thus you are witnesses for Him, and you are preparing for the society of the angels. You are learning in this world how to conduct yourselves in the family of Christ in heaven.**

**Lose no time in becoming acquainted with the principles that the children of God must follow. We are here to copy the character of Christ, to become familiar with His gentleness, His lowliness. This will place us where our record will be, ‘Ye are complete in him.’ (Colossians 2:10)”**

**E. G. W. (The Upward Look, August 22)**