

WILL GOD EVER LEAVE ME?



THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Will God ever leave or abandon me?

BIG IDEA

When you believed that Christ's crucifixion and resurrection are your only hope of salvation, you were **permanently adopted** into God's family. Your Heavenly Father will never leave you.

SCRIPTURE USED

Ephesians 1:5

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Hebrews 13:5b

"I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

Galatians 4:5

God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

OPENER

For the opener you will need:

- A Wile E. Coyote / Roadrunner cartoon (purchase, borrow, or rent a DVD, or find a short video clip online). Most any of the short clips should work. Be advised that they can range from 1 to 7 minutes long, so be sure to watch your selection ahead of time and check that it fits with the discussion below—this is not usually hard to do in Wile E.'s case!
- Video viewing equipment (and an internet connection if you are using an online video clip).

[Alternate Opener Option: *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* (Disney, PG, DVD release date: February 2015). At the time of publication this DVD had not yet been released. However, this movie has ample material for a relevant clip if you prefer this option.]

Introduce the clip:

Have you ever had a really bad day? I mean, a truly awful day? Well, I know I have, but this guy has a LOT of days where things just won't go his way!

Play the video.

ASK

- **Wile E. (or Alex) may be a fictional character, but what do you think are some of the emotions that they might be experiencing?** (anger, frustration, loneliness, despair, desperation, etc.)
- **Have you ever had a day or a series of things happen to you that made you feel like this?**
- **Even if you cannot pinpoint a series of events like those we have discussed, have you ever felt like God just wasn't there or wasn't listening?**
- **Is that what really can happen?**
- **Why do we sometimes feel like God isn't there or doesn't care?**

Leaders: You will be teaching this lesson with props. This is a helpful way to mix up your lesson and is especially impacting for visual learners. Before the lesson, take the following steps to prep your "Surprise: Good News" boxes:

- Find something that represents the following three items (toy versions of these may be the easiest to acquire, or search for "free clip art" and simply mount the image on cardstock):
 - o Surprise #1: a megaphone or speaker
 - o Surprise #2: a good report card or perfect scores
 - o Surprise #3: a cross
- Write the following Bible verse on a card that corresponds with each "surprise" box:
 - o Surprise #1: *"God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure"* (Ephesians 1:5).
 - o Surprise #2: *"I will never fail you. I will never abandon you"* (Hebrews 13:5b).
 - o Surprise #3: *"God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children"* (Galatians 4:5).
- Gift wrap the three different items in three gift boxes, gift bags or, at a minimum, brown paper sacks. Attach the corresponding Bible verse cards to the outside of the gift.