

# SERMON NOTES

Sunday 5 July  
sunnysidechurch

**Bible passages 1 John 2.28-3.24 and John 1.9-14**

## Introduction

'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!' 1 John 3.1

## Children of a loving heavenly Father

- It can be difficult for some to think of God as Father but he is our perfect heavenly Father who loves us
- He loves us and longs for relationship with us which he made possible through Jesus

## Children who look like our heavenly Father

- Created in God's image and called to look like him
- Jesus shows us what it looks like to love like God and the Holy Spirit empowers us to be righteous as he is righteous

## Children who are part of the family of our heavenly Father

- Children of God and therefore part of God's family, the Church
- There to love, encourage and support one another

## Conclusion

- 'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth'. 1 John 3.18
- Let's love God and one another in practical ways which is the best way of sharing God's love with others

Some questions for discussion

1. What does the phrase 'Children of God' make you think of?
2. Read 1 John 2.28-3.24. What do you notice?
3. In what ways do you find it helpful to think of God as your loving heavenly Father? In what ways is it challenging?
4. How has being part of God's family, the Church helped you in your journey of faith? How has it be challenging to you?
5. Read John 1.9-14. How does this passage deepen your understanding of what it means to be a child of God?
6. How might you want to more closely resemble your heavenly Father? The Holy Spirit is there to help you!
7. 'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth'. 1 John 3.18. What might this look like for you this week?
8. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!' 1 John 3.1

Why not spend some time thanking God that we are his children and ask him to help you live more fully as his child this week?

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