

## On Predestination

These Children's Materials are inspired by John Wesley's sermon. The intention is for both adults and children to be studying similar Bible materials at the same time, to facilitate family discussion. These suggested materials are therefore meant to help plan the children's programme of inter-generational connect groups.

You can use these materials to plan for a children's programme of 50-60 mins (excluding worship, prayer etc). The basic components are as follows –

Bible Story/ Stories

Discussion

Activities/ Games

It is important for all facilitators to pray and prepare before the 'lesson' proper. The 'lesson' is only the beginning. May you continue to walk with the children, especially your own, over these materials after the 'lesson'.

### SUMMARY

For children to know that God has plans for every child to become a believer in the God who knows everything. When they become children of God, they are made right with God and will become more and more like Jesus.

### GOALS FOR CHILDREN

1. When they believe in Jesus and become children of God, they are made right with God (justification).
2. To trust God to help them become more and more like Jesus (sanctification). It is a process done by God.
3. To understand God is eternal (7-12yo).

## On Predestination

### A. Bible Story

Use the children's personal Bible to share the Bible verse. Romans 8:29-30

God knew them before he made the world. And God chose them to be like his Son. Then Jesus would be the firstborn of many brothers. God planned for them to be like his Son. And those he planned to be like his Son, he also called. And those he called, he also made right with him. And those he made right, he also glorified. (International Children's bible)

For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son, so that his Son would be the First, with many brothers. And having chosen us, he called us to come to him; and when we came, he declared us “not guilty,” filled us with Christ's goodness, gave us right standing with himself, and promised us his glory. (Living Bible)

- It is suggested to use the International Children's Bible for 4-6yo and the Living Bible for 7-12yo.
- Predestination is a big term, which means God knows who will become His children. It is in God's plan that these are the ones who will respond to His love and who will be saved from their sin.
- God is eternal and all-knowing. He exists outside of time, so He sees the past, the present and the future. Therefore, God knows and sees the heart of every man.
- It is wrong to say that since God knows and plans, the choice to become God's children or not is God's alone and not ours also. Everyone must be responsible for his or her own choice of whether he or she will become God's child or God's enemy (not God's child).
- Watch [https://youtu.be/Gp\\_TRnXLet0](https://youtu.be/Gp_TRnXLet0) to understand about justification and sanctification (about 1.1min)
- When we become children of God, God says that we are 'not guilty' of our sins because Jesus paid the price of sin by dying on the Cross. This is called justification. We become righteous, made right with God.
- God will also make us more and more like Jesus. This is called sanctification, which is a process of walking God's way that will end only when we die.
- All these happen because of the grace of God and faith in God. Grace is favour from God that we don't deserve. Faith is trusting and believing that Jesus is our Saviour, who saves us from our sins by dying on the Cross.

### B. Discussion

Suggested Discussion Questions	4-6yo	7-9yo	10-12yo
What do you understand about Predestination?		√	√
Do you want to know more about Predestination? What do you want to know?		√	√
What do you understand about justification?		√	√
What do you understand about sanctification?		√	√
Are you saved and is a child of God? If not, do you want to become a child of God?	√	√	√

- For the primary school children (7-12yo), spend more time in discussion with them to clear their doubts. The section of activities/ games is shorter for them in this lesson.
- Predestination, justification and sanctification may be difficult for children of 7-12yo to fully understand. Even those who have been God's children for many years may not grasp everything. It is normal to face questions from the children that you cannot answer. Be honest with them that you don't have the answer and you will find an answer and get back to them.
- Encourage those children who are struggling to understand predestination, justification and sanctification by admitting that these are tough things to understand. Ask the children to pray to God to help them understand predestination, justification and sanctification better.
- For those who are not yet children of God and would want to become one, get the resource from Iris and pass the resource to the parents. Leave the privilege of bringing the child to Christ to the parent. If the child is not comfortable to receive Christ under the guidance of the parent, you as the facilitator can bring the child to Christ by saying the sinner's prayer with the child. Remember to inform the parents of their child's salvation.

### C. Activities/ Games

#### **Materials Needed**

- Appendix 3.1 Picture of boy and girl <http://www.clipartbest.com/clipart-eiMyA9xyT>
- Appendix 3.2 More like Jesus <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B0RweH-3RyI0UEFnY1pMektEVGc/edit?resourcekey=0-FtolqGRjWsSVDBd7cUWfwA>
- Appendix 3.3 Character of God (Jesus)
- Appendix 3.4 What is Jesus like?
- Black whiteboard markers, red coloured marker, scissors, coloured pencils, pencils, pens, tape, paper clips, plastic sheets and wet wipes and 2 large strips of paper.

#### For 4-6yo

- Place a plastic sheet over Appendix 3.1 picture of boy and girl, secure plastic sheet and paper together with a paper clip. Then ask the children to use the black whiteboard marker to colour black over the boy or the girl, depending on the gender of the child. Tell the children, this is everyone before he or she becomes a child of God. We are sinful, meaning we do things that God says are wrong. The black ink covering the boy or girl represents the sinfulness of the person.
- When we believe in Jesus and become children of God, God removes our sins and forgives them. Use a piece of wet wipe to remove the black ink. We are made right with God and are 'not guilty' of our sins.
- Ask the children to draw a cross over the boy or the girl using a red marker. *For the younger children (4-5yo), an adult's help may be needed to draw the Cross.* The cross represents the death of Jesus on the Cross. We are made right with God because of Jesus' death on the Cross. Jesus pays for our sins on the Cross. This is called justification. It is done when we believe in Jesus and become children of God.
- Ask the children what they like about Jesus. Appendix 3.3 has a list of God's character and its meaning as reference. Use Appendix 3.2 Grow to be more like Jesus. Fold on the line that separates the body and the legs, and fold upwards to shorten the body. Tell the children that they can pray to God to help them be more

like Jesus, to be what they like about Jesus. Pull at the leg to unfold the paper to show the growing of the body. The body is divided into 7 parts. Get the children to colour one part of the body. Tell the children to bring the paper home, to colour one part each day of the week till the whole person is coloured.

- Pray that God will help each child know that when he or she becomes a child of God, he or she will be made right with God. Pray that God will help the child to know that he or she is also slowly becoming more like Jesus, with the help of God.

#### For 7-12yo

- Use Appendix 3.4 What is Jesus like. Ask the children to fill in the column under Jesus what they know about Jesus. Appendix 3.3 has a list of God's character and its meaning as a reference. *For the younger children (7-8yo), an adult's help may be needed to fill in the table.*
- Then ask the children which of the character of Jesus they would like to have in themselves, to be like Jesus. Ask children to put a tick under the 'Me' column for the character that they wanted. *For the younger children (7-8yo), an adult's help may be needed to fill in the table.*
- Pray that God will help each child know that when he or she becomes a child of God, he or she will be made right with God, 'not guilty' anymore. Pray that God will help the child know that he or she is also slowly becoming more like Jesus, with the help of God.

#### Extra activity for 7-12yo

- This activity is to explain to the children that God is eternal. This can be done with younger children (4-6yo) but simpler age-appropriate language should be used.
- Use two strips of paper that are large enough for all the children to see.
  - Make a loop with one strip of paper and tape it together. (A)
  - With the other strip of paper, make a loop too. Before taping it together, turn one end 180 degrees and tape it (half-turn). The final product looks like an infinity sign. (B)
- Pick up loop A and ask. "How many sides does this have?"
- Ask a child to come forward with a marker and colour one side of the loop.
- Tell the children that only one side of the loop is coloured and one side is not. Loop A has 2 sides.
- Take loop B and ask the children, "How many sides do you think this loop has?"
- Ask another child to come forward with a marker. Instruct the child to use marker to make a path in the middle of the loop. Continue to mark a line down the middle of the loop until the marker is back where it started.
- Ask the children, "Can they find the side that has no marks?" (Every part of the loop has a mark on it. Loop B has 1 side only.)
- Loop A is like us. We have a body and a soul/ spirit. Ask the children, "Which part of us will live forever?" (The answer is soul/ spirit.)
- Loop B is like God. God is spirit and lives forever. God is eternal, exists outside of time. God does not have a side or a part of Him that will die some day.



Loop B

<http://storage.cloversites.com/waipunachapel/documents/Kaboom%20Week%209%20Eternal.pdf>

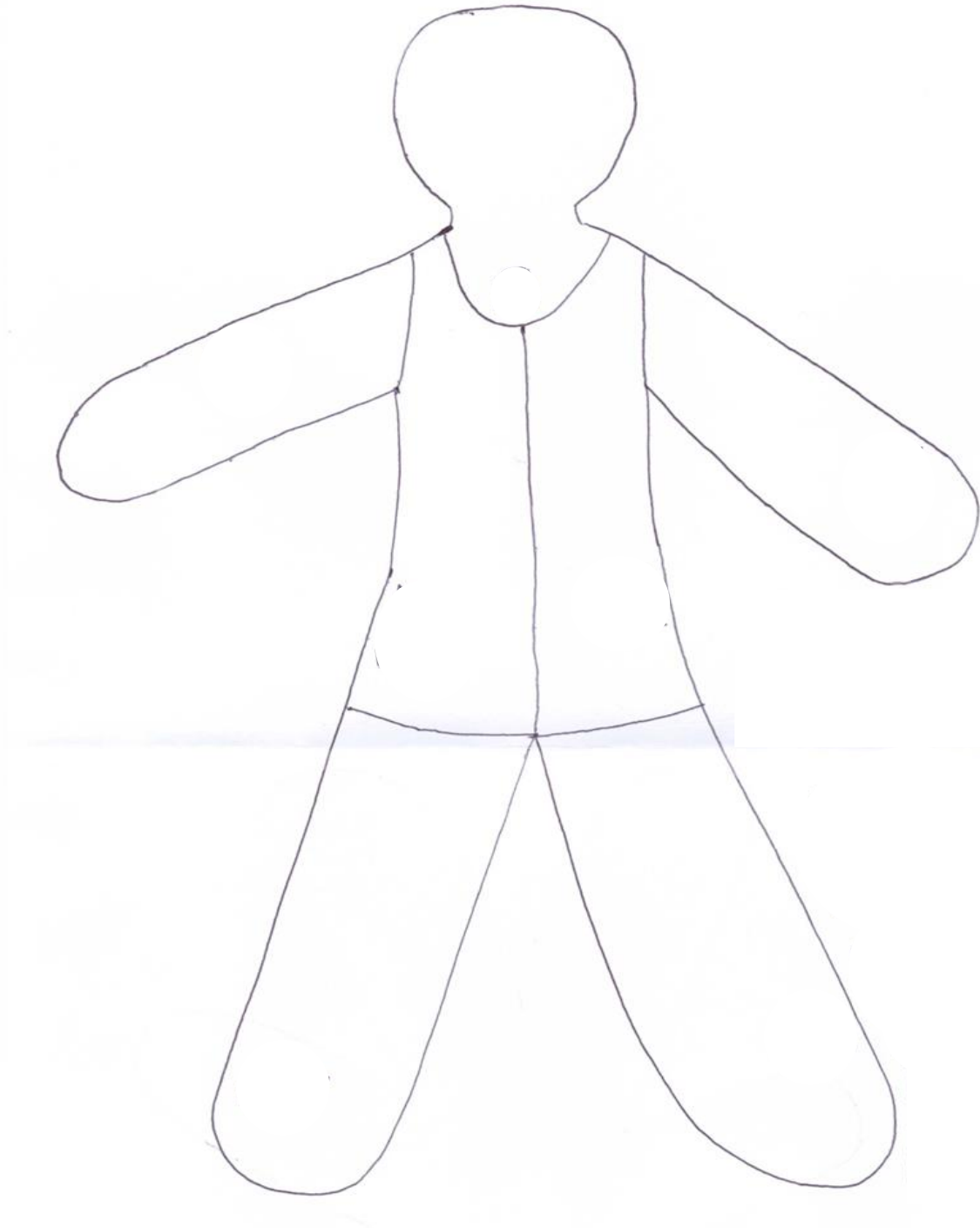
Appendix 3.1 Picture of boy and girl



<http://www.clipartbest.com/clipart-eiMyA9xyT>

Appendix 3.2 Grow more like Jesus

**Help me grow to be more like Jesus**



<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B0RweH-3RyI0UEFnY1pMektEVGc/edit?resourcekey=0-FtolqGRjWsSVDBd7cUWfwA>

Appendix 3.3 Character of God (Jesus)

<b>Character of God</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Accessible	God is near. His Spirit lives in every believer. He hears you when you pray.
Creator	God made everything. No one made God.
Eternal	God exists outside of time. God has always been and always will be.
Father	God is Father of those who believe in Him. He loves, protects, cares, trains and disciplines His children.
Faithful	God will do all He has promised. We can trust Him to keep all His promises.
Glory	God's glory is the total of all God's character. Jesus reveals God's glory completely.
Good	God's goodness is seen in His love and faithfulness. He is good to all people.
Gracious	Grace is God's kindness to those who do not deserve it. God shows grace to all people, even those who do not love Him.
Guide	God leads us in the way we should go, through His Word and the Holy Spirit.
Holy	God is whole, perfect in goodness and righteousness.
Immutable	God does not change. We can always trust Him.
Impartial	God saves people regardless of what they have done or will do.
Incomprehensible	We cannot understand God's thoughts and ways. God is infinite, eternal and knows all things.
Infinite	God has no beginning and no end. He has always existed and He always will. God is limitless.
Invisible	God is spirit. We cannot see Him or feel Him physically. God made Himself visible through the person of Jesus Christ.
Jealous	God's jealousy is one of protective love. When God's children turn their backs on Him, He pursues them.
Just	God's justice is perfect. His decisions are always based on His righteous character. God does not show favouritism.
Love	God has always been love. His love never fails. He showed His love by sending Jesus as Saviour.
Merciful	God, in His mercy, does not give us what our sins deserve. He forgives and restores those who repent and turn to Him in faith.
Omnipotent (all-powerful)	God has unlimited power, authority and influence. His power holds everything and sustains life.
Omnipresent (everywhere)	God is present everywhere, at all times.
Omniscient (all-knowing)	God is never surprised as He knows all there is to know. Nothing is hidden from God. God knows the past, the present and the future.
Patient	God is patient. He waits to reconcile repentant sinners to Himself.



<b>Character of God</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Perfect	Everything God is, does and says is completely free of fault or defect. His ways are flawless.
Person	God is a person. Like us, God has identity and personality. He is one being in three persons. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Preserver	When we trust Christ, we can know that God will continue the good work He had started in us. No one can take us out of God's hand.
Provider	God provides for every creature He had made. God's greatest gift is Jesus Christ.
Righteous	God is right in all He does. He always had been right and always will be right.
Savior	Jesus saves us from the penalty of sin and saves His children from sin's power.
Sovereign	God controls all things. Nothing can stop God's plan.
Wise	God always uses His knowledge to do exactly what is right. All wisdom comes from God, so to be wise, we must seek God.

Appendix 3.4 What is Jesus like?

**What is Jesus like? Write under the column of 'Jesus' His character. Put a tick under the 'Me' column for the character of Jesus that I want to see in myself, when I become more like Jesus.**

Jesus	Me