

# BELOVED CHILD

**Beloved children love and relate with their father.**

*“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father...’” (Matthew 6:9)*

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to*

*us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. (1 John 3:1)*

*“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...” (Romans 8:16)*

Jesus calls all his disciples to love and relate with God as a beloved child with their father. If you feel God nudging you to grow as a BELOVED CHILD, you can:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPIRITUAL</b> Engage with God in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-starting all prayers with “My Father”</li> <li>-adopting a new daily prayer rhythm</li> <li>-praying prayers of gratitude for all God has lovingly given you in life</li> <li>-writing prayers to God in a journal, addressing them to “My Father”</li> <li>-asking God daily to remind you that you are his beloved child</li> <li>-writing a note to God your father, using a crayon and small words</li> <li>-asking God to heal you of anything that makes you resist his loving presence</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RELATIONAL</b> Engage with others in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-addressing other Christians as “brother” or “sister”</li> <li>-talking with people who have had loving earthly fathers about that experience</li> <li>-asking a few Christians how they experience God’s fatherly love</li> <li>-processing with a trusted friend ways you consciously or unconsciously resist God’s loving presence</li> <li>-asking someone to send you a note or text every week that says “Remember: you are a beloved child of God!”</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INSTRUCTIONAL</b> Engage with the Bible in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-studying the doctrine of adoption</li> <li>-memorizing the Prodigal Son parable</li> <li>-reading Henri Nouwen’s <i>Life of the Beloved</i> or another book about God’s love</li> <li>-memorizing one or more of the scripture passages above</li> <li>-reflecting personally on passages about the cross and God’s love for you</li> <li>-reading one of the 4 gospels with an eye out for Jesus’ loving encounters</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXPERIENTIAL</b> Engage with everyday life in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-wearing or carrying an item that reminds you of your status as God’s child</li> <li>-spending time with young children and their parents</li> <li>-telling 2 people every day God loves them</li> <li>-listen to music about God’s love</li> <li>-placing a sticky note that reads “You are a beloved child!” on your mirror</li> <li>-writing one of the scripture passages above in a place you will see it daily</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>

## APPRENTICE

**Apprentices are shaped by and actively learn from a master.**

“And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me...’” (Mark 1:17)

“As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

(Luke 8:15)

“Take care then how you hear...” (Luke 8:18a)

Jesus calls all his disciples to be shaped by and actively learn from him like an apprentice. If you feel God nudging you to grow as an APPRENTICE, you can:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPIRITUAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Engage with God in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-making confession and specific repentance a priority in your prayers</li> <li>-asking God daily to remind you that you are his apprentice</li> <li>-starting all prayers with “My Master”</li> <li>-asking God to give you an image or picture of how he wants to shape you in this next season</li> <li>-inviting the Holy Spirit to convict you of ways you are not obeying Jesus’ words</li> <li>-committing yourself to follow Jesus and his ways</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RELATIONAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Engage with others in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-asking a mature Christian to disciple you for a season of time</li> <li>-asking someone who knows you well to name ways you could be shaped more by Jesus</li> <li>-processing each week’s sermon (and your practical response) with another Christian</li> <li>-spending more time with people you consider active apprentices of Jesus</li> <li>-talking with a friend about how you have grown as an apprentice over time</li> <li>-offer to disciple a younger Christian</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INSTRUCTIONAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Engage with the Bible in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-reading Thomas a Kempis’ <i>The Imitation of Christ</i> or another “Lordship” book</li> <li>-studying the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)</li> <li>-studying a few of Jesus’ parables</li> <li>-starting a “Discipleship Journal” where you keep track of what you are learning from Jesus</li> <li>-attending a class or small group that is studying Jesus’ words</li> <li>-memorizing one or more of the scripture passages above</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXPERIENTIAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Engage with everyday life in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-researching fasting and undergoing a prayerful fast (or fasts)</li> <li>-finding a place where you can volunteer to teach or lead a small group that is considering Jesus’ words</li> <li>-attending an Alpha Course</li> <li>-listening to some Jesus-centered music, paying attention to the lyrics</li> <li>-writing one of the scripture passages above in a place you will see it daily</li> <li>-placing a sticky note that reads “You are an apprentice!” on your mirror</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>

# SERVANT

## Servants sacrifice and labor for others.

*“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:31)*

*would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” (Mark 9:35)*

*who...emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant...” (Philippians 2:5-7a)*

*“And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, ‘If anyone*

*“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,*

Jesus calls all his disciples to sacrifice and labor for others. If you feel God nudging you to grow as a SERVANT, you can:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPIRITUAL</b></p> <p>Engage with God in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-showing mercy to a needy person (Jesus in disguise as “the least”)</li> <li>-asking God daily to remind you that you are his servant</li> <li>-focusing your time in prayer on others by interceding, by name, for people in your life</li> <li>-regularly confessing any pride and self-centeredness to God</li> <li>-inviting the Holy Spirit to fill you with love for others and a desire to serve others</li> <li>-asking God to bring to mind people he wants you to serve</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RELATIONAL</b></p> <p>Engage with others in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-choosing one person in your life to serve in several new ways</li> <li>-inviting a friend to volunteer with you in a mercy ministry</li> <li>-spending time with a mature Christian whose servant heart you admire</li> <li>-asking someone what you can do to serve them or make their day easier</li> <li>-going up to people you see serving and thanking them for what they are doing</li> <li>-asking a trusted friend or mentor to give you “servant assignments” each week</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INSTRUCTIONAL</b></p> <p>Engage with the Bible in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-memorizing the Christ Hymn (Philippians 2:1-11)</li> <li>-reading Chuck Swindoll’s <i>Improving Your Serve</i> or another book that explores the biblical call to servanthood</li> <li>-reading a gospel, specifically looking for ways Jesus modeled servanthood</li> <li>-memorizing one or more of the scripture passages above</li> <li>-watching a documentary or film about a Christian who epitomized servanthood, like the Petrie’s <i>Mother Teresa</i></li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXPERIENTIAL</b></p> <p>Engage with everyday life in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-volunteering for a behind-the-scenes role at an upcoming event or program</li> <li>-contacting a mercy or mission ministry to find ways you could partner with them</li> <li>-making an unplanned donation to a ministry that serves marginalized people</li> <li>-writing one of the scripture passages above in a place you will see it daily</li> <li>-create a list of people who’ve served you</li> <li>-placing a sticky note that reads “You are a servant!” on your mirror</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>

# EVANGELIST

Evangelists talk about their faith.

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*

*“And how are they to hear without someone preaching? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” (Romans 10:14b-15)*

*“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” (2 Corinthians 4:7)*

Jesus calls all his disciples to talk about their faith. If you feel God nudging you to grow as an EVANGELIST, you can:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPIRITUAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Engage with God in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-choosing two non-Christians and praying for them three times a day</li> <li>-asking God daily to remind you that you are his witness</li> <li>-thanking God for ways he has redeemed you and made a difference in your life (reflecting on where you'd be without him)</li> <li>-inviting the Holy Spirit to make your heart beat with compassion for people living without Jesus</li> <li>-confessing to God all the reasons you are reticent to talk about your faith with others</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RELATIONAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Engage with others in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-initiating an everyday conversation with five people you don't know</li> <li>-asking a new Christian to share the story of their journey to faith with you</li> <li>-modifying part of your daily schedule so you will be around new people</li> <li>-asking a more experienced witness to mentor you</li> <li>-investing time in a relationship you have with someone who doesn't share your faith</li> <li>-inviting 2 trusted friends to attend an Alpha Course with you</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INSTRUCTIONAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Engage with the Bible in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-memorizing Colossians 4:5-6</li> <li>-studying Psalm 107 and reflecting on the various ways humans can be lost, found</li> <li>-studying Peter's sermon in Acts 2 and reflecting on its contemporary relevance</li> <li>-reading Don Everts' <i>The Reluctant Witness</i> or another book on relational witness</li> <li>-memorizing one or more of the scripture passages above</li> <li>-taking the online course <i>Prepared to Respond</i> from <a href="http://lhm.org/learn">lhm.org/learn</a></li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXPERIENTIAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Engage with everyday life in new ways by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-filling out a Curve Card and carrying it with you every day (<a href="http://lhm.org/curve">lhm.org/curve</a>)</li> <li>-placing an item on your table or in your car that reminds you that you are called to be salt and light (saltshaker, light bulb...)</li> <li>-lighting a candle during prayer to remind you Jesus is the light of the world</li> <li>-writing one of the scripture passages above in a place you will see it daily</li> <li>-placing a sticky note that reads "You are an evangelist!" on your mirror</li> <li>-thinking up or getting new ideas from others (write them here):</li> </ul>