

## Family Worship at Home. February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Going back to school. Belonging to God.

**Message:** Have a collection of the children's new books, pencils, backpack or lunchbox etc.

I hope you are excited about going back to school. One of the best things about going back to school is getting to use new school supplies. Look at the wonderful new school items I have here that you might have to use. I've got some pens. I've got a ruler for measuring and making straight lines. I have some nice new crayons for drawing. Do you know what this item is for? Etc. One of the things we need is a backpack or bag to put our things in as we go to school. Here is one.

Did you notice anything that is on these items? Yes, you're right. I've put a piece of tape with my name written on it. That way if I share it with someone else, I can know it belongs to me and I can get it back when they are finished with it. It's important for me to know what items belong to me and what items don't belong to me. That's pretty important but here is something that is also important. When we head off to school it's important for us to know that WE belong to God. In much the same way that we mark things that belong to us, God has marked us (his children) with the Holy Spirit. Now we can't see the Holy Spirit but the bible makes it clear that God has placed his mark of ownership on us. We have His tag on us. If we are followers of Jesus we belong to God and are a part of his family. As you go to school and see your name on things I hope you will also remember that you belong to Jesus Christ and God has marked you with his Holy Spirit.

**Bible Stories:** There are a number of different stories that talk about belonging to God. Choose one to read as a family group or watch a clip of your chosen story.

Moses as a baby: He belonged to God and God took care of him when he was a baby and used him as an adult to lead God's people out of slavery.

The Good Shepherd – Jesus loves all his children and knows them all by name.

### **Prayer:**

God of fresh starts and new beginnings,  
we bring ourselves, our feelings, and our backpacks to you.

God, our friend who comforts us, be with us in all we go through each day this year.

In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations.

There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring—

of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all.

Be with us as we ride the bus.

Be with us as we walk.

Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes.

However we get there, and whatever we wear,

bless this journey into something new.

Amen.

Songs: [I Belong to God | Kids Church Praise Dance Video - YouTube](#)  
[Big Family of God : Remix with Actions & Lyrics \(by Nick & Becky Drake\) - Kids Worship - YouTube](#)  
[I Am a Child of God | Bible Adventure Worship | LifeKids - YouTube](#)

**Activities:** Who does this belong to?

Have a bag (maybe a pillow case) full of items that belong to different members of the family as well as a family photo or individual photos. Each person takes in turn putting their hand into the bag, feeling for an item, first guessing what it is and then who it belongs to. Pull it out and see if they are right. If a photo is pulled out discuss who it belongs to – emphasise that each of us belong to God and as a family we all belong to God.