

# I Am a Child of God

This is perhaps the most-beloved text in LDS Hymnody, and the single-word editing that occurred is perhaps the most well-known editing of any LDS hymn.

This hymn was introduced at an April 1957 General Primary Conference with a theme centered on the need to teach the children the gospel. It was the three verses as in the 1985 hymnal, but the chorus read:

Lead me, guide me walk beside me;  
Help me find the way  
Teach me all that I must know  
To live with Him someday.

A few years later Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Quorum of the Twelve expressed his love for this hymn as well as his concern for a single word in the chorus. He asked if the composer would consider changing 'know' to 'do'. Sister Randall wrote later that she gladly accepted his counsel.

The effect of this one-word change was dramatic to those of us who were children at the time. It was a lesson from an Apostle that 'knowing' was in fact important, but 'doing' was the required result of knowing. We will not return to Heavenly Father if we do not 'do' what we 'know' is right. This was an important lesson from someone whom we later knew as the President of the Church with the signs "Do It" and "Lengthen Your Stride" on his desk.

The fourth verse as in the 1989 Children's Songbook was also written by Sister Randall and was introduced in 1978 by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in a General Conference session. We were thrilled to have another verse to the hymn.

## Additional Lyrics to "I Am a Child of God"

*These are not officially-accepted by the Church Music Committee, but I take this moment to share them. I think we all have additional verses to this hymn inside us ... If you have some, send them to me and I'll post them and give you credit.*

I am a Child of God, My Father cares for me.  
He sends me teachers, leaders strong,  
And just like them I'll be.  
*Bruce T. Forbes*

I am a Child of God, And when I'm called to teach  
I'll teach them all the gospel plan,  
And for our home we'll reach.  
*Bruce T. Forbes*

I am a Child of God, And when I'm called to lead  
I'll lead just like my Father would –  
I'll lead through word and deed.  
*Bruce T. Forbes*

I am a Child of God, His priesthood soon I'll hold.  
I'll magnify each calling then,  
So His face I'll behold.  
*Bruce T. Forbes*

I am a Child of God, To temples I will go.  
I'll feel His Spirit and His peace,  
And in His strength I'll grow.  
*Bruce T. Forbes*

I am a Child of God, My children I will teach  
I'll teach that Father's hand is there  
If they will only reach.  
*Bruce T. Forbes*

I am a Child of God, On Father I'll depend.  
I'll take to Him all of my needs –

His strength to me He'll lend.

*Bruce T. Forbes*

I am a Child of God, My faith will never fail.

His words I will live faithfully;

He'll greet me at the veil.

*Bruce T. Forbes*

I am a Child of God, And at his feet I'll kneel.

His feet I'll wash with all my tears,

And of His love I'll feel.

*Bruce T. Forbes*

I am a Child of God, Like Father I will be.

He'll give me kingdoms without end –

My own Eternity.

*Bruce T. Forbes*