



Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

Adoption is the heart of the Gospel, a blessing that can only be understood through experience. Just as a couple adopts a child, forever grafting him into their family, so believers are grafted in forever as a result of the tender and faithful mercy of God. Jesus redeemed us—paid the price for us—through His blood. Not by our own merit, our own deserving, or our own works, but solely by the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, were we made a part of the family of God.

Why, then, do we so often take that which was so lavishly gifted to us and attempt to minimize it by falling back into slavery? This is exactly what the Galatians were tempted to do. Rather than rest in the security and blessing of their adoption as sons and daughters, they began falling back into the familiar, yet perilous legalism from which they had been redeemed. As we explore the opening verses of Galatians 4 this week, we will take a close look at our inheritance as sons and daughters of the Most High, and the blessings we receive in being fully part of the family of God.

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- Read Galatians 4:1-7. Adoption is the heart of the Gospel. What does adoption mean to the believer?
- Just as children in ancient times were put under the guardianship of a servant until the proper age, which was determined by their father, so the people of Israel had been put under the guardianship of the Law (Galatians 3:24). At what point in time did God choose to release His people from the enslavement of the Law and provide for them the guardian of grace? How do the guardianship of the Law and grace differ?
- What is redemption? How important is redemption to the believer? (Read Ephesians 2:1-10 as a reminder of where you were prior to Christ's redeeming you.)
- Discuss how slipping back into legalism showed a regression into childish ways or spiritual immaturity for the believers in Galatia. How does it do the same for believers today?
- Discuss regeneration. How is regeneration a part of the adoption process?
- What does God send to believers at regeneration?
- What does God's Spirit do for the believer?
- In the adoption process, a person goes from slave to son. Discuss some differences between being a slave and being a son.



- When we are adopted as sons and daughters, we become heirs through Christ Jesus. What does the Bible say about our inheritance as believers? (See Romans 8:16-17, Ephesians 1:1-14, Colossians 1:9-20 & others)
- In your current way of living, how are you acting more like a slave than like a son or daughter of God? What needs to change so that you can enjoy the blessings of your inheritance while on earth?

How I must obey Christ...

- Examine yourself. As a result of this study, identify a specific area in which you need to obey Christ this week.
- How do you specifically need to obey Christ in this area this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has He proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

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Use Colossians 1:9-20 as a guide for your prayer time this week.

