

“Orphan to Family”

The Line #3 - Adoption

INTRODUCTION

When we think of God and our relationship to Him, several things might come to mind. He is the Savior who rescues us. He is the Lord who has authority over our lives. He is the Bridegroom and we, the church, are His bride. But one of the most commonly referenced, and most precious relationship we have to God is as our Father. We became His children when we crossed the line from unbelief to faith in Jesus Christ. At that time it was through His mercy and His great pleasure that He adopted us to be his children. This study focuses on six blessings of being adopted as children into God’s family.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

Who was your favorite father as portrayed in television or film?

Study Questions (45 MIN)

We have intimacy with God as our Father.

Q1. Read Romans 8:15; Mark 14:36; Galatians 4:6

In Romans 8:15 what two terms does Paul use to identify God’s relationship to us? We have a unique intimacy with God as our Father; in fact, it is the kind of intimacy we see demonstrated by Jesus. He used the phrase, “Abba Father” in the garden of Gethsemane. (Mark 14:36) Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words tells us that “Abba” is the word framed by the lips of infants, and indicates unreasoning trust; “father” expresses an intelligent apprehension of the relationship. The two together express the love and intelligent confidence of the child.” Why do you think Jesus used both terms in his hour of greatest need? Has there been a time in your life that you needed to seek God as your “Abba”, even more than as your “Father?”

We have relationships with other followers of Christ as members of one family.

Q2. Read Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 3:26-28; John 15:12; 1 John 3:1; 1 John 4:7

When God adopted us, we not only gained a heavenly Father, we gained brothers and sisters and well (Ephesians 2:19). Despite our diverse beginnings, what does Galatians 3:28 tell us is our relationship to fellow believers in Christ? The key to the relationship we have with the household of God is love. John 15:12 command us to love. Thankfully we have a source from which to draw this love. Where does such love come from (1 John 3:1 & 4:7)? What acts of love have you seen demonstrated, or experienced yourself, from the family of believers?

We have the privilege to imitate and honor our Father in heaven.

Q3. Read Ephesians 5:1-2; Luke 6:35-36; 1 Peter 1:15-16

In these passages what are some of the ways we are called to be imitators of God? Which do you find the most challenging?

We have a new identity as God’s children.

Q4 Read 1 John 3:1-2

When you introduce yourself, do you typically describe your family (e.g. I’m married and have two children)? What reaction do you think you would get if you introduced yourself as “a child of God” to a stranger? What are some clues that would help you identify someone as being a “brother in the Lord?”

We have the Holy Spirit to lead us and to assure us.

Q5 Read Romans 8:14, 16

God takes care of His children. Just as a loving father would provide direction and reassurance to his child, how does our heavenly Father accomplish the same thing? In your own experience, how do you sense the Spirit’s leading?

We have an inheritance waiting for us.

Q6 Read Romans 8:17; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 3:21; John 17:24

As children of the king we are His heirs, in fact co-heirs with Christ! What an amazing promise that is. 1 Corinthians 2:9 says we can’t even imagine what God has in store for us. Revelation 3:21 and John 17:24 are a good starting place for what we might anticipate. When you think of your heavenly inheritance, what do you most look forward to?

Wrap-Up

In His great love and grace, God has adopted those of us who believe on the name of Jesus into His eternal family. The fullness of His blessings is extended to us through the relationships we have with Him and other believers, and by His provision for our lives now and eternally in our heavenly inheritance with Him.

Memory Verse

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,
John 1:12 ESV

Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more notes) _____

Challenge: *As you spend time with God this week remember that He adores you as His loving child, and receive afresh the love of your Abba Father.*

Q1

Romans 8:15 ESV - 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Mark 14:36 ESV - 36 And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Galatians 4:6 ESV - 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Q2

Ephesians 2:19 ESV - 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Galatians 3:26-28 ESV - 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, *for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

John 15:12 ESV - 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

1 John 4:7 ESV - 7 Beloved, let us love one another, *for love is from God*, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 3:1 ESV - 1 See what kind of *love the Father has given to us*, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Q3

Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV - 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Luke 6:35-36 ESV - 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

1 Peter 1:15-16 ESV - 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Q4

1 John 3:1-2 ESV - 1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does

not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Q5

Romans 8:14, 16 ESV - 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ... 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Q6

Romans 8:17 ESV - 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

1 Corinthians 2:9 ESV - 9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—

Revelation 3:21 ESV - 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

John 17:24 ESV - 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Prayer Notes cont.
