



Session 4

Big Idea:

We are adopted through Jesus Christ.

GROUP OPENER

There's something deep within the human heart that wants to be claimed, nurtured, protected, and parented by a good authority and loving family. Why do you think that is true or not true?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Read Galatians 3 and 4. Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

ACTION STEPS

I will statement . . .

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable. Share it with the group.

January 28

WEEKEND

As a Group

Paul uses the language of adoption strongly in these chapters. We had one family, one identity that we came from. Through Jesus, we are given a new family identity.

What does Paul mean when he says we were "slaves to the law"?

Here is a definition of the original word for adoption in these passages.

Greco-Roman Legal Transaction – the immediate change of familial status.

- Disavowal of old familial identity.
- Surrender of property.
- Renunciation of personal autonomy.
- Surrender to authority/discipline of father.
- Receive full inheritance rights.
- Enjoy legal coverage and social status.

The implications of this adoption are:

We are trapped in slavery with orphan hearts.

- Our debt of sin is unpayable.
- Our despondency of soul is unshakable.
- By faith, Jesus pays our debt and frees us.
- Then God adopts us as daughters and sons.
- The Spirit of adoption fills our orphan hearts
- We disavow our old identity and personal rights.
- We receive a new status in Christ and the inheritance rights of Christ.
- It's all grace, y'all!

The process of discipleship or following the way of Jesus is the process of understanding and living out of this adoption. It is living in the new identity that we are given when we enter the family of God.

How does this process work itself out?

What parts of living out of that new identity are easy? What parts are difficult?

On your Own

Where are you not living out of the identity as an adopted child of God?