

How to use This Guide:

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add any optional scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Our Main Idea:

Christians can continue to live day by day as slaves, instead of as the adopted sons of God that they are. If we want to understand who a Christian is, and why being a Christian is a privilege, we need to appreciate divine adoption.

Opening

Share a time when you received a gift or honor for which you didn't do anything to earn/deserve it. (For example, receiving an award, getting flowers, or a surprise gift.) How did this gift make you feel about the giver? How did this gift make you feel about yourself? Compare this situation with how you view salvation from God. Today we'll discuss God's grace in pursuing us even though we did nothing to deserve it.

Key Questions:

- Enlist a volunteer to read Galatians 3:23-26. How does Paul indicate that justification comes?
- Remind learners that justification is a one-time event in which God declares us right before Him. Justification changes our legal status before God. How does this doctrine demonstrate our freedom in Christ?
- Focusing on Galatians 3:25-26, note that because faith has pointed us to Jesus, the Law no longer enslaves the people of God. How has faith changed the relationship between God and man?
- What is the danger in only seeing God as a Judge? In only seeing Him as a Father? How does our view of God affect our relationship with Him?
- Enlist a volunteer to read Galatians 3:28-4:7. Although some translations read that we are children of God, the original text reads that we are "sons" of God. In the culture during the time of Galatians, a son was the one who had the most rights, including inheritance rights and responsibilities. What is the significance that we are not just children of God, but sons of God?
- In Galatians 3:28. Paul indicates that the unity of Christ eliminates racial, social, and gender boundaries. Who is adoption available to?
- What kind of a picture do you have in your head when you think of God as a Father? How can our experiences with our earthly fathers influence our view of God as Father? How can they be positive or negative? How is God the ultimate example of a Father?
- How might we interact differently with God as our Father rather than as a task master? What are some differences between the motivations for obedience between a son and a servant?
- **What was your biggest take-away from the weekend message?**

Next Steps

What did God say to you today through His Word? And what are you going to do about it! Finish your group time with prayer, asking God for help in living in Freedom

Experience

Your Relationship with God

What privileges do we miss out on when we leave our relationship with God at justification? What aspects of an abundant life are we missing out on?

Equip

Your Relationship with Others

How do we neglect the family of God in our attempts to live independently in our Christian journey rather than in community with fellow children of God's kingdom?

Engage

Your Relationship with the World

Does our position as a son affect our responsibilities as a son?