

BEING A CHILD OF GOD  
GALATIANS 3:23-4:7

**LESSON PREP**

This week, we will discuss what it means to be adopted children and heirs of God. Your students will discuss an important truth from Paul: We are no longer slaves to our former lives of sin because we have been adopted as God's children, and everything God the Father does for his Son, he will do also for us. Realize that statistically speaking, almost half of your fellow students come from divorced or broken homes. Be aware that there may lie wounds of abandonment and shame due to poor relationships with parents. Take time to pray for your students this week in preparation for the study as well as being patient with how the study unfolds in your life group.

**PRE LG TEXT**

**MESSAGE QUESTIONS**

Have you ever wondered if you were adopted? You were. I'll give you more details tonight when our group meets.

Know anyone who was adopted? Find out what you have in common with them tonight at group.

**SCRIPTURE  
MEMORIZATION**

John 1:12

**10N1 FOLLOWUP**

What does being a "child of God" & "clothed in Christ" say to you about being a Christian?

**INTRODUCTION**

Imagine for a moment that you're adopting a child. As you meet with a social worker in the last stage of the process, you're told that this child has been in and out of psychotherapy since he was 3. You find out he has expressed much violence, far beyond anything this social worker has seen. You hear that he often "acts out sexually," but not many details are provided. She continues with the family history, telling you that his mother is an alcoholic and his dad is in prison for murder.

Think about this. Would you continue with this adoption? And if you did, would you keep a close eye on him? Would you leave him alone with your daughter? Would you be a little more cautious about where you hid the kitchen knives?

**Read Galatians 3:23-4:7**

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Before you think this is crazy, understand this: This child is you, and he's me. We, too, were children of wrath, living in sin, but God sent his Son to rescue us and adopt us as his children. This is the gospel. God redeemed us and did whatever it took to make us his own. In case you think I'm exaggerating the case and it's not that bad, look at the cross. This is no minor offense Jesus is covering for. He is determined to adopt us. He died to rescue us.*

**1. God rescues us from our past**

- Have you ever considered this before? What's your reaction to thinking about adoption by God in these terms?
- According to verse 3, what did God rescue us from? What is Paul talking about in this verse?
- What has God specifically rescued **you** from? Is anyone willing to talk about your past before Christ?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Jesus came at just the right time, with all of the right qualifications to rescue you and adopt you. You have been brought into God's family. How amazing is that? Believe it or not, it gets even better. We now have the privileges of being God's children.*

**2. God adopts us into his family**

- What does it mean to be adopted as a child of God? What does this reveal to you about God's character?
- What kind of picture do you have in your head when you think of God as a father?
- How does our earthly father affect the way we think about God as a father? How is God the perfect example of a father?
- According to verses 4-5, why was Jesus the only one qualified to make our adoption possible?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *God adopted us and sent us his Spirit so that we might experience a family relationship with him. As sons and daughters, we now experience intimacy with our heavenly Father. Instead of being slaves and held captive by the Law, we are now free and captivated by God's love. Furthermore, we now receive an eternal inheritance.*

**3. God provides a future for us that is better than we could ever imagine**

- What privileges do you enjoy as a son or daughter in your own earthly family?
- Look at verses 6-7. In that culture, a son was the one who had rights to the inheritance. Some Bible translations use the word child instead of son. But with the cultural background in mind, why is it significant that Paul would use a gender-specific noun to describe a Christian's position in God's family?
- What are the privileges of being a child of God?

**APPLICATION**

How do we neglect the family of God when we attempt to live life in isolation? How can you be part of God's family this week and live in community with one another?