

PRAYER

- Thank God for adopting you as His child. Pray that you will always be joyful and in awe of what God did for you through Jesus.
- Pray that you will continuously grow in confidence as a child of God. Ask God to give you open doors to share the relationship you have with God to those around you.
- Pray for friends and relatives who are still slaves to the world. Pray that God would give you the words to say to bring them to Christ. Pray that they too would receive the redemption that is from Christ.

NOTES

REDISCOVERING CHRISTMAS

WEEK 4

Jesus the Redeemer

WARM-UP

- What privilege from your parents do you enjoy most?
- What was the most difficult house rule you had to follow growing up? Why was it hard to obey?
- If you could inherit any physical characteristic from your parents, which would you choose and why?

WORD

So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. GALATIANS 4:7

(Read also **GALATIANS 4:1-6.**)

The apostle Paul made clear in this verse who we are in Christ. Jesus came to free us from being slaves and made us sons and heirs. Our identity in God is not something we have to work hard for; it is a free gift. Today, we will see how Christ redeems us from slavery into being God's children and heirs.



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1 Slave

In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. **GALATIANS 4:3**

As children before the coming of Christ, people were ruled by the laws given to them. As Paul puts it, we were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. Before the coming of Christ, we were as good as slaves under the law, having no freedom—but Jesus came to redeem us. What does Galatians 4:8 say about those who do not know God? How can people today still be slaves to the world?

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2 Son

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

GALATIANS 4:4,5

Jesus was sent to the earth, born as a human like us, under the law, to redeem us from slavery. To redeem means to be bought at a price—Jesus bought us back from slavery with His blood, paying for us with His life. Because of this sacrifice, we can receive adoption as sons. How are slaves different from sons? What does 2 Corinthians 6:18 say about our relationship with God?

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3 Heir

So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. **GALATIANS 4:7**

We know through Scripture not only who we are in God, but also what we have in Him. God sent Jesus to redeem us from slavery, to be His sons and daughters and, ultimately, His heirs. As heirs, we are assured of an inheritance from our Father (Titus 3:7). According to Ephesians 3:6, who can be *fellow heirs* and what can they partake of? What are some of the things that you have enjoyed since you received Christ?

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APPLICATION

- Do you have the assurance that you are a child of God? What can you do this week to grow deeper in your understanding of God as your Father?
- Is there an area in your life that you feel is still enslaved to the world? Talk to a person who is mature in the faith to help you claim the freedom that you already have in Christ
- Do you know someone who needs to experience the freedom Christ brings? What can you do this week to introduce Jesus to this person?