

### WARM-UP

- Share about one thing you bought recently that you think is worth more than you paid. Why do you think so?
- What was one of the games you enjoyed playing during your childhood? Why did you enjoy it?
- Name a father or father figure that you admire. Why do you look up to him?

**WORD** *<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”*

**GALATIANS 4:4-6**

The life we have in Jesus is not just marked by salvation and the forgiveness of sin—He came to adopt us as sons and daughters. Because of Him, we now belong to God’s family. This is the hope He brought when He came to earth on that first Christmas. The Apostle Paul explains that redemption is just the beginning, and that ultimately we will be brought back to God’s kingdom as His children. What does this mean for us?

## 1 | We have been adopted into God's family.

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

**GALATIANS 4:4,5**

During the time of Paul, adoption was about taking a person into a family and giving him or her the treatment and rights of a biological child. The adopted would be considered equal to the rest of the sons and daughters. Jesus bought us at a price and adopted us into a new family as sons and daughters. We did not earn our position in God's family. Our adoption is something that was freely given to us. What does 1 John 3:1 tell us about the love of God?

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## 2 | We can call God our Father.

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

The most important part about our adoption is the fact that we have a new relationship with God. We were His enemies because of sin, but because Jesus came, we are now His sons and daughters and we can relate to Him as our Father. In fact, the Bible says that we can call Him "Abba Father," which is a term of endearment that shows the intimate relationship between a father and a son. This is the relationship that Jesus has with God, and the one we can now have with Him. We have a Father who is real, near, and personal to us, and we belong to Him. How have you experienced God as your Father?

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## APPLICATION

- How does knowing that you are a child of God affect how you relate with Him? What is one thing you can do this week to deepen your relationship with Him as your Father?
- Meditate on Psalm 139:13–18 this week. What is one aspect of your life that will change now that you know you are God's precious child and that He is mindful of you?
- How does knowing that we are sons and daughters of God affect how you relate with others? This week, help someone know and believe that they have a place in God's family.

## PRAYER

- Thank God for sending Jesus to redeem us and adopt us into His family. Thank Him that it is all by His grace and that we can never earn or lose our status as His children.
- Ask God to continually remind you that you are His precious child and that you belong to His family. Pray for the confidence to live according to your identity in God.
- Pray that God will use you to help others know their identity as sons and daughters belonging to God's family this Christmas.

