

WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE



Scripture: Galatians 4:4–7



Week of: December 8, 2025



Message Title: The Gift of Adoption



Speaker: Ps. Paul Springer

1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)

Think of a time when you moved from feeling like an outsider to feeling like you truly belonged. What happened, and what changed how you felt in that situation? If someone in your group has experience with adoption (in your family or extended family), they may also want to share a brief story of how adoption has shaped their view of family.

2. READ TOGETHER

*Have someone from your group read aloud **GALATIANS 4:4–7**.*

Ask: According to these verses, what has God done in sending his Son and his Spirit, and what has that changed about who you are?

3. GROUP DISCUSSION (30–40 MINS)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Use the most helpful questions for your group.)

1. Apostle Paul says this all happened “**when the fullness of time had come.**” How did Pastor Paul describe God’s perfect timing in sending Jesus, both in history and for God’s people who had been waiting for centuries? Where in your own life do you see that God’s timing was wiser than yours, even if it did not feel that way at the time?
2. The sermon described the incarnation as a **perfectly timed rescue mission** and Jesus’ choice to become human as “too much” for what we deserve. When you think about God the Son taking on flesh, being born under the law, and submitting to every requirement you could not keep, what stirs in you most: awe, confusion, gratitude, or something else? Why?

3. Pastor Paul made a distinction between **redemption** and **adoption**. How did he explain the difference between God saying, "I am not mad at you" (forgiveness) and God saying, "I love you and I want you home with me" (adoption)? Why is it important to see that God did not just set you free from slavery, but brought you all the way into his family?
4. Galatians 4:5 says that Jesus came "to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." Pastor Paul explained that "sons" language is actually good news for women too, because it points to full rights of inheritance. How does it change things to realize that in Christ you are not a second class family member, but have the same status and inheritance rights as a mature son?
5. The sermon said we are not just given a legal status on paper. God "**sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying 'Abba, Father.'**" How does the Spirit help you experience your adoption in a real, personal way rather than just know it in your head? Can you think of a time when the Spirit made God's Fatherly love especially real to you?
6. Pastor Paul challenged us to "**stop living like a slave**" and to live with a **son mentality** instead. Where do you still find a slave mentality in your life, marked by fear, striving, or trying to earn God's favor? What would it look like very practically this week to live more like a secure, loved son or daughter of the King?
7. In the sermon we heard that the Spirit never leaves a believer, and that you are never truly far from God even when you feel far. How do your feelings sometimes tell you that God is distant or disappointed with you, and how does Galatians 4:6 correct that? What habits could help you listen more to the Spirit's witness than to your fears or shame?
8. Galatians 4:7 says, "**You are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.**" How does the promise of being an heir, with a guaranteed inheritance that is imperishable and kept in heaven for you, affect the way you face suffering, disappointment, or uncertainty now?
9. Bethel's mission is to *proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God*. Pastor Paul reminded us that God did not only rescue us from slavery; he went all the way to bring us home as beloved children and heirs. When we live as people who know we are deeply loved, securely adopted, and indwelt by the Spirit, we show the world that the gospel is not just about guilt removed but about a Father who welcomes his children. Do you agree? Why or why not?

How could a clearer grasp of adoption shape the way we talk about Jesus with those who feel like outsiders, or with believers who still live as if they have to earn God's love?

10. How do our core values help us live out our adoption rather than slipping back into fear and performance?

Consider a few examples, then add your own:

Worship – Singing and praying to God as Father trains our hearts to approach him with affection and confidence, not as a distant judge.

Bible knowledge – Knowing passages like Galatians 4, Romans 8, and John 1:12 gives us solid truth when we doubt our identity as God's children.

Fellowship – Walking closely with other believers helps us remind each other, "You are not a slave, you are a son or daughter," especially when someone is discouraged or ashamed.

Prayer – Coming often to God in prayer is one way we practice crying "Abba, Father" and live in the reality that we have the Spirit of his Son in our hearts.

Service, evangelism, missions, giving – Serving and giving out of security, not insecurity, shows that we are not trying to buy God's approval but sharing the Father's heart with those who are still far from him.

Which value do you most need to lean into this week in order to live more fully as someone who has been adopted by God?

4. Prayer (10-15 mins)

Thank and trust the God who adopts

Prompt:

Thank God for sending his Son in the fullness of time, born of woman and born under the law, to redeem you and bring you into his family. Thank Jesus for doing what you could not do, living under the law perfectly and writing you into his will as an heir. Thank God for sending the Spirit of his Son into your heart so that you can cry "Abba, Father" with real affection and assurance. Confess where you have lived with a slave mentality, driven by fear, performance, or a sense that you are never enough. Ask the Spirit to help you live as a secure son or daughter this week, resting in the Father's love and walking in freedom. Pray for people you know who still feel far from God, that they would hear the good news not only of forgiveness but of adoption, and that God would use you and our church to welcome many more into his family.