



CommunityGroups

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Promise Maker / Promise Keeper - Week 7

FELLOWSHIP & REFRESHMENTS (approx 10-15 minutes)

**THE GOAL:** Adoption - Lord of All; This past week you heard that through Christ we can be born again. We receive an invitation to be saved and in choosing to do so we are adopted into God's family. We can now call Him Father which indicates the closeness of the relationship we now have with God. This week in your CG, you'll see how as children of God we are to "put on Christ" which is now our identity. With this new identity in Christ we are free from the futility of a life of sin.

LOVING GOD (approx. 10 minutes)

- **Memory Verse:** (Have a volunteer read out loud.)  
For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"  
-Romans 8:15 ESV
- 2 minutes of silence:
- **Devotional:**  
Paul teaches that the gift of grace brings with it the status of sonship by adoption (i.e., permanent intimacy with God as one's heavenly Father, Gal. 3:26; 4:4-7). Adoption and regeneration accompany each other as two aspects of the salvation that Christ brings (John 1:12-13), but they are to be distinguished. Adoption is the bestowal of a relationship, while regeneration is the transformation of our moral nature. Yet the link is evident; God wants his children, whom he loves, to bear his character, and takes action accordingly.  
- J.I Packer
- **Question to consider:**  
Are you as intimate with God as your sonship allows?
- 2 minutes of silence:

*BUILDING COMMUNITY* (approx. 20-25 minutes)

- Growing Connected:  
Question: What is your favorite childhood memory?
- Discussion: Did last week's message encourage, challenge, or convict you?

*MAKING DISCIPLES* (approx. 30-35 minutes)

- Bible Study: Read Galatians 3:25-4:7 (Have a volunteer read out loud)
  1. How does a person become a child of God? (v. 26)
  2. In 3:26-29, what do we learn about those who are sons/children of God?
  3. Describe the child heir's position in Gal. 4:1-2. How does this relate to us? (Gal. 4:3)
  - 4 How has God changed this position for us? (v. 4-5)
  5. As God's child, what have we been given?
  6. What does it say about the nature of our relationship that we would call him "Abba Father?"
- Application:
  - How should the truth of our adoption as God's child affect our daily lives?
  - Imagine yourself as an orphan being brought into a King's castle to live as his child. You would need to learn a new way of dressing, speaking, behaving, and representing the royal family. What part of your new life might be most difficult for you to adjust to? How does this relate to our adoption by the King of Kings? What area of your new life as His child has been/is the most difficult for you?

- What is God saying to you through this week's study?
  
- What action step will you take as a result of what God is saying?
  
- Going Deeper Resources:
  - <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.gotquestions.org/amp/Abba-Father.html> - An article explaining God as Abba Father.
  - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/couldnt-call-god-father/> - An article on the difficulty of some viewing God as their father.
  - <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/what-does-it-mean-call-god-father/> - An article that describes what it truly means to call God father.
  - <http://www.truthortradition.com/articles/adopted-by-god> - A great article depicting what adoption meant in the Roman world during New Testament times.

PRAYER REQUESTS / TIME OF PRAYER