

Gospel Identity

Session 4 – Join the Family!

Serge

Our Gospel identity is our adoption into God's family. It also means our Gospel Identity means we learn to trust in our heavenly adoptive Father's love, care, protection, direction and discipline. Not only that but it ALSO means we are adopted into God's whole family, that means we have brothers and sisters in Christ whom we are meant to care for and about.

Let's start by taking a look at our relationship with our own parents. Because the way we think about and treat our earthly parents can and will affect the way we treat our heavenly Father.

Now you don't have to share this part if you don't want too, but you do have to spend time thinking about it. If you need to talk at all with a leader please do, we are here for you and are a safe place to speak.

1. What is your relationship with your parents like right now?

2. What are some pleasant memories with them? Or with each of them individually? What are some ways your parents have disappointed you or harmed you? (Big or small)

3. In what way's do you think your relationship with your mother or father has affected the way you view your Heavenly Father?

Good or bad relationships with your parents -can both- fuel your understanding of our Heavenly Father for the better. A good and loving relationship with them may show you a glimpse of what He is like, where the absence of His character is obvious and may give you the longing for what your Heavenly Father has in store for you.

Divide up these 6 passages amongst your group and then each of you answer questions 4 and 5! And then share your answers with your group.

- Acts 2:21
- Galatians 3:23-27
- Romans 8:14-17
- Galatians 4:1-7
- Romans 8:38-39
- Hebrews 2:10-15

4. According to your passages, what does it mean to be a child of God?

5. What encourages you about this passage? What intimidates you? Is there anything you have trouble understanding?

Share your answers with each other.

6. Think about the things that worry or frighten you. When faced with those things, what do you tend to turn to for comfort or security other than your Heavenly Father?
7. How do your fears expose what you put your faith in? Read John 14:18...when we doubt God's love for us as His sons or daughters, we can develop the mindset of being a spiritual orphan. In what ways do you respond like an orphan, rather than a child of God?

“If you want to judge how well someone understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father.”

-J.I. Packer

Read Peter 5:7-11, and then discuss the following questions:

8. What are some healthy ways we can respond to our anxieties?
9. How might understanding and believing that you really have been adopted into God's family, change the way you see yourself? Or the way you see others?

Read 1 John 3:10-18, and then discuss the following questions:

10. What are the implications of this passage when it comes to our relationship with others, especially other Christians?

11. Reread verse 16. What would laying your life down for others, just as God's son did for you, look like right now?

Weekly Challenge

- Think about your answer to question 10. What are actual steps you could take to not only have an answer, but be an answer in someone else's life? Do it.
- Do you struggle with the idea of God being your heavenly Father? Talk with God about it. Ask Him to help you truly receive that truth in your life. Do it.
- Build up your relationship with your adoptive family! Spend time with your brothers or sisters in Christ. Go to coffee with someone whom you don't know that well, ask your family to invite another family over for dinner. CONNECT! It's actually pretty fun. Do it.

Who is your accountability partner? _____ When you calling them? _____