

Destiny

SMALL GROUP STUDY | Adoption

The gospel is a wonderful thing, and while it is simple enough to be understood by a child, it also has great depth and many facets that need to be appreciated through study and meditation.

Regeneration, for example, is when God gives us new spiritual life within. Justification is when God gives us legal right standing before Him. Both of these things God gave us freely when we received Christ. But God went a step further and gave us the privilege of becoming part of His family. This is what the Bible calls 'adoption'. This study will focus on this aspect of the gospel.

READ | What does the Bible say?

Read John 8:31-47

REFLECT | What does the Bible mean?

- Q1. In this passage, Jesus was trying to open the eyes of the 'Jews' to a very hard truth. What is it?
- Q2. Jesus was addressing people who didn't accept Him. Does this imply anything generally about those who don't accept Jesus? If so, how do you feel about those implications?
- Q3. a. We've been learning in this series about the nature of God the Father. What does Jesus reveal here about the nature of the devil as a father?
b. What affect do you think having a father like that has on the lives of people?
c. Thinking back to before you accepted Jesus, in

retrospect, can you identify with any of these things?

- Q4. If you haven't accepted Jesus, the hard truth is that you are a child of the devil! Ephesians 2:3 tells us something else about our state outside of Christ. What is it?
- Q5. In light of these things, read 1 John 3:1. Meditate on it for a few moments in silence with the previous conversations in mind. Share any thoughts you have with the group.
- Q6. Being adopted into God's family is an amazing privilege. Discuss with the group some of the privileges of being an adopted child of God.

(Eg. John 17:23, Matt 6:32, Matt 7:11, Gal 4:6-7)

RESPOND | What do I need to do now?

- Q7. We used to be children of wrath, and have now become beloved children of God. This is an amazing truth that we should never grow tired of. Unfortunately, sometimes we do! How can we make sure we live our lives with an ongoing appreciation of the fact that we're adopted children of God?

Suggested memory verse(s):

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!...

(1 John 3:1 NIV)