

## WEEKLY MINISTRY PACKAGE

**Sermon Title:** *Is God Your Father?*

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:26–4:7

**Theme:** Through faith in Jesus Christ, believers are adopted into God's family, become heirs of His promise<sup>1</sup>, and enjoy a personal relationship with Him as Father.

### CONGREGATIONAL EMAIL

#### Subject Line

Is God Your Father?

#### Preview Text

Through faith in Christ, we are no longer slaves—we are sons of God.<sup>2</sup>

#### Email Body

Dear Church Family,

This past Sunday we explored one of the most encouraging truths in all of Scripture: through faith in Jesus Christ, we are adopted into God's family.

In Galatians 3:26–4:7, Paul reminds us that salvation is not earned through keeping rules, religious traditions, or personal effort. Salvation comes through faith in Christ alone. When we trust Jesus, we are welcomed into God's family and become heirs of His promise.

The Apostle Paul uses the beautiful picture of adoption. Just as an adopted child receives all the rights and privileges of a family member, believers receive a new identity in Christ. We are no longer separated from God. We can call Him "Abba, Father" and enjoy a personal relationship with Him.

Many people spend their lives trying to earn God's approval. The Gospel tells a different story. Because of Jesus, we are accepted, loved, forgiven, and adopted.

This week, take time to reflect on your identity in Christ. You are not a slave to fear, guilt, or striving. You are a child of God, loved by your Heavenly Father.

Grace and Peace,

**Pastor Terry**

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<sup>1</sup> "Promise" in the singular refers to God's promise in Genesis 12:3 where He tells Abraham, "I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>2</sup> Please listen to the sermon and read the text to understand this phrasing as this refers to Old Testament Jewish inheritance law.

## **BLOG ARTICLE**

### **More Than Forgiven: Adopted**

Many Christians understand that Jesus forgives sin. What we sometimes overlook is what happens next.

God doesn't simply forgive us and leave us standing outside the family.

He adopts us.

Paul highlights this incredible truth in Galatians 3:26–4:7. Through faith in Christ, believers become sons and heirs of God.

In the ancient world, adoption was a powerful legal act. An adopted child received the full rights and privileges of a biological child. They became a permanent member of the family and an heir to the inheritance.

Paul uses this image to help us understand our relationship with God.

Before Christ, humanity lived under the bondage of sin and the inability to satisfy God's perfect standard. The Law revealed our need but could not save us.

Then, at just the right time, God sent His Son.

Jesus came to redeem those under the Law so that we might receive adoption as sons.

What a beautiful picture of grace.

God doesn't merely tolerate us.

He welcomes us.

He doesn't simply forgive us.

He embraces us.

He doesn't leave us as servants.

He makes us heirs.

This changes how we view ourselves and how we live.

We no longer serve God in order to earn acceptance.

We serve because we have already been accepted.

We no longer obey out of fear.

We obey out of love.

The Gospel is more than forgiveness.

It is adoption.

And because we belong to God's family, we can live with confidence, security, and hope.

### **Reflection Questions**

- Do I truly believe God loves me as His child?
- Am I trying to earn acceptance that Christ has already secured?
- How should my identity in Christ shape my daily life?

### **PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL**

#### **Adopted by Grace**

**Scripture:** Galatians 4:4–7

One of the most beautiful words in this passage is "adoption."

God could have chosen many ways to describe our salvation, but He chose the language of family.

Through Christ, believers are brought into a relationship with God that is personal, secure, and permanent.

Think about the comfort found in those words: "Abba, Father."

This was a term of intimacy and trust.

Paul is teaching that believers are not distant from God. We are welcomed into His presence because of Jesus.

When life becomes difficult, remember who you are.

You are loved.

You are forgiven.

You are adopted.

You are an heir of God's promise.

Your identity is not found in your successes or failures. It is found in Christ.

Today, thank God for making you part of His family.

#### **Prayer**

Father, thank You for loving me and adopting me through Jesus Christ. Help me live each day with confidence in Your love and faithfulness. Teach me to rest in my identity as Your child. Amen.

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

### **Opening Prayer**

Father, thank You for welcoming us into Your family through Jesus Christ. Open our hearts to understand Your love more deeply today. Amen.

### **Icebreaker**

What is one characteristic or tradition that makes your family unique?

### **Scripture Reading**

Galatians 3:26–4:7

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What does Paul mean when he says we are "sons of God through faith"?
2. Why is adoption such a powerful picture of salvation?
3. What does it mean to be an heir of God's promise?
4. How does knowing God as Father change our relationship with Him?
5. Why do people often struggle to believe they are fully accepted by God?
6. How does the Gospel free us from trying to earn God's approval?
7. What practical difference should our identity in Christ make this week?

### **Application Challenge**

Each day this week, begin your prayer time by thanking God for one blessing that comes from being His child.

### **Closing Prayer**

Thank God for His grace, His love, and the privilege of belonging to His family.

## **CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for Your amazing love and grace.

Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, at just the right time to redeem us from sin and bring us into Your family.

Thank You that through faith in Christ we are no longer slaves but sons and daughters, heirs of Your promise and recipients of Your mercy.

Forgive us when we try to earn what You have freely given. Help us rest in Your love and walk confidently as Your children.

Strengthen our faith. Deepen our trust. Help us reflect Your love to those around us.

May our lives bring honor and glory to You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

## **BRIDGE TO NEXT WEEK'S SERMON**

### **Looking Ahead**

This week we learned that through Christ we are adopted into God's family and become heirs of His promise.

Next week, Paul will express his deep concern for the Galatians as they begin drifting away from the freedom of the Gospel. We'll see the heart of a pastor who longs for believers to remain faithful to Christ and avoid returning to spiritual bondage.

### **Teaser Paragraph**

What happens when believers begin to drift from the truth? How do we remain grounded in the freedom Christ has given us? Join us next Sunday as we continue our study through Galatians and discover Paul's passionate plea for believers to remain steadfast in the Gospel.