

The Spirit of Adoption

1. The Truth of Adoption gives us: A New Identity (*Romans 8:15-16*)
2. The Truth of Adoption gives us: New Battles (*Romans 8:12-14*)
3. The Truth of Adoption gives us: New Experiences (*Romans 8:15-17, Mark 14:35-36*)

Small Group Discussion Questions:

- What's something that changed about your life when your last name or title or role changed? (Marriage, a new job, a degree, anything like that.)
- Was there anything from the sermon that you found encouraging, challenging, or thought-provoking?
- The sermon opened with the story of Octavian, an eighteen-year-old nobody who inherited Caesar's name, authority, and estate through adoption. Marc Antony tried everything to delegitimize him. If you were Octavian walking into Rome with nothing but a dead man's will and a new name, how do you think you would have responded to that kind of opposition?
- Read Romans 8:12-17. What do you make of the contrast Paul draws between a "spirit of slavery" and a "spirit of adoption"? (Why do you think he describes our old way of relating to God as slavery that leads to fear?)

- The sermon walked through the difference between fighting sin in your own power (downplaying it, white-knuckling it) and fighting it in the power of the Spirit (confession, self-examination before God, continual prayer). Which of those three Spirit-powered practices comes most naturally to you, and which is the hardest? Why?
- There was this idea that you can "have perfect theology and a slave's heart," with the image from *Cast Away* of someone who's been rescued but is still sleeping on the floor. Where have you seen that pattern play out, either in your own life or in the way people around you relate to God?
- The whole argument of Romans drives toward one experience in Romans 8: being able to cry out "Abba, Father!" to God – even in the dark, overwhelming moments when that's all you have. What might it look like for you this week to actually pray that way instead of trying to figure things out on your own? (And how can we encourage each other to live more like children than slaves?)