

## ***"I'm Adopted!"***

### **Key Scriptures**

**Romans 8:12-17** Therefore, brethren, we are debtors-- not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

**1 Thess. 5:15-24** <sup>15</sup> See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies. <sup>21</sup> Test all things; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

**Key Point:** The Spirit doesn't base His assuring testimony on your progress in the Christian life. Rather, He leads us to call upon God as Father, to look away from ourselves to Him who established the relationship."

## **TALK IT OVER**

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Around this time of year, winter starts feeling a bit long. What are some of your favorite things to do this time of year before spring finally comes?

**Start thinking.** Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Is everyone a child of God? Why or why not? What are our privileges of being an adopted son of God?
- (v.15) What is the difference between the two "spirits"?
- Make a list of how a slave's relationship to a head of an estate would specifically differ from that of a son. Which list describes your relationship to God best?
- In 1 Thessalonians 5:15-24, how do you reconcile the commands Paul gives us with the statement about sanctification at the end?

**Start sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- Each of us must ask and answer the following question: Whose responsibility is my sanctification?
- How might the Spirit "testify" with your spirit that you belong to Him?

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Challenge yourself to speak with someone about what you learned on Sunday and in group time: That your Christianity is based on the fact that you have been adopted.

**Prayer Requests.** It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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