

Bible Study Guide: No Longer a Slave

Scripture: Galatians 4:7

"So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." (ESV)

Theme

In Christ, we live as God's children, not as slaves.

Study Objective

To understand that through faith in Jesus Christ, believers are adopted into God's family. We are no longer slaves to sin, fear, or the law but are God's children and heirs of His promises.

Background

In Galatians 4, Paul explains that before Christ came, people were under the guardianship of the Law. But when God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, He redeemed those under the law so they could receive adoption as His children. Through the Holy Spirit, believers can now call God "Abba, Father," expressing a close and personal relationship with

Him. Because of this adoption, Christians are no longer slaves but sons and daughters who share in God's eternal inheritance.

Key Truth

Through Jesus Christ, God has adopted believers into His family, giving them the freedom, privileges, and inheritance of His children.

Cross References

Romans 8:15–17

"You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"

Truth: Believers are adopted into God's family and become heirs with Christ.

John 1:12

"To all who did receive him... he gave the right to become children of God."

Truth: Faith in Christ makes us God's children.

Ephesians 1:5

God predestined believers for adoption through Jesus Christ according to His loving purpose.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

1 John 3:1

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God."

Truth: Our identity as God's children is a demonstration of His great love.

Observation Questions

1. What does Paul say believers are no longer?
 2. What new relationship with God do believers receive?
 3. What does it mean to be an heir through God?
 4. What words in this verse describe the believer's new identity?
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Interpretation

Paul contrasts slavery with sonship to show the dramatic change that takes place when a person trusts in Christ. Slaves have no inheritance or family rights, but sons and daughters belong to the family and receive its blessings. Through Christ's redeeming work, believers are adopted into God's family and enjoy a personal relationship with Him. They are no longer bound by the fear of condemnation or the impossible burden of earning God's favor. Instead, they live in the freedom and assurance of being His beloved children.

Application

Ask yourself:

- Do I live with the confidence of being God's child?
- Am I still allowing fear, guilt, or legalism to control my life?
- How does knowing I am an heir of God change my daily perspective?
- In what ways can I reflect my identity as God's child?

Practical applications:

- Thank God daily for adopting you into His family.

- Approach God confidently in prayer as your loving Father.
 - Reject feelings of condemnation and embrace the freedom Christ provides.
 - Live with the assurance that your identity is secure in Christ.
 - Treat fellow believers as brothers and sisters in God's family.
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Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between living as a slave and living as God's child?
 2. What does adoption into God's family mean for believers?
 3. How does knowing God as Father change your relationship with Him?
 4. What inheritance has God promised His children?
 5. How should our identity as God's children influence the way we live?
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Key Lessons

- Believers are no longer slaves but children of God.

- God adopts us into His family through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - Christians have a personal relationship with God as their Father.
 - As God's children, we are heirs of His promises and eternal inheritance.
 - Our identity is rooted in God's love, grace, and acceptance.
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Memory Verse

Galatians 4:7

"So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family through Jesus Christ. Thank You that I am no longer a slave to sin, fear, or condemnation, but Your beloved child and heir of Your promises. Help me to live each day with confidence in Your love and to reflect my identity as Your child through my thoughts, words, and actions. Teach me to trust

You fully and to walk in the freedom You have given me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Takeaway

Through faith in Jesus Christ, our identity is transformed. We are no longer slaves living in fear or trying to earn God's favor—we are His beloved children, secure in His love and heirs of His eternal promises.