

## **Bible Study Guide: Adopted by God**

### **Key Scripture:** Ephesians 1:4–5

"For He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will." (ESV)

### **Theme**

God lovingly adopts believers into His family through Jesus Christ, giving them a new identity, purpose, and inheritance.

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### **Opening Question**

- What does it mean to belong to a family?
  - How does being chosen and accepted make a difference in a person's life?
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### **Background**

The Apostle Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians by praising God for the spiritual blessings believers have received through Christ. One of the greatest blessings is adoption into God's family. In the

Roman world, adoption granted a person full rights, privileges, and inheritance within the family. Paul uses this image to help believers understand their relationship with God.

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## **1. God Chose Us in Love**

**Scripture:** Ephesians 1:4–5

"For He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world..."

### **Key Truth**

Our relationship with God begins with His love and grace, not our performance.

God's plan to redeem and adopt His children existed before creation. His love for us was not an afterthought.

### **Biblical Example**

#### **Israel as God's Chosen People**

- Deuteronomy 7:7–8
- God chose Israel not because they were great, but because He loved them.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How does knowing God chose you affect your view of yourself?
2. Why is it important to remember that God's love is based on grace rather than performance?
3. What insecurities can be overcome by understanding God's love?

### **Fill in the Blank**

God chose us because of His \_\_\_\_\_, not because of our \_\_\_\_\_.

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## **2. Adoption Gives Us a New Identity**

**Scripture:** Romans 8:15

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

### **Key Truth**

When we trust Christ, we become children of God.

Our identity is no longer defined by our failures, past mistakes, career, possessions, or reputation. We belong to God.

### **Biblical Example**

#### **The Prodigal Son**

- Luke 15:11–24
- The father restored his son and welcomed him back into the family.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What identities do people often place on themselves?
2. How does being God's child change how you see yourself?
3. What does calling God "Father" mean to you?

## **Fill in the Blank**

Through Christ, I am a \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

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## **3. Adoption Brings Acceptance and Security**

**Scripture:** John 10:28

"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

### **Key Truth**

God's children are secure in His love.

Human relationships may fail, but God's commitment to His children never changes.

## **Biblical Example**

### **Mephibosheth**

- 2 Samuel 9
- David welcomed Mephibosheth into his household and treated him like family.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why do people often struggle with feelings of rejection?
2. How does God's acceptance differ from human acceptance?
3. What fears can be overcome through God's security?

### **Fill in the Blank**

Nothing can separate me from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

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## **4. Adoption Gives Us an Inheritance**

**Scripture:** Romans 8:17

"And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ."

### **Key Truth**

As God's children, we share in His promises and eternal inheritance.

Believers have a future that extends beyond this life.

## **Biblical Example**

### **The Promised Land**

- Joshua 21:43–45
- God faithfully gave Israel the inheritance He promised.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What does it mean to be an heir of God?
2. How should our future inheritance affect the way we live today?
3. What promises of God encourage you most?

## **Fill in the Blank**

Because I am God's child, I am also His

\_\_\_\_\_.

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## **5. Adopted Children Reflect Their Father**

**Scripture:** Ephesians 5:1

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children."

## **Key Truth**

God's children are called to reflect His character in the world.

Our actions should demonstrate the love, grace, mercy, and truth of our Heavenly Father.

## **Biblical Example**

### **Jesus**

- John 14:9
- Jesus perfectly revealed the character of the Father.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What characteristics of God should be evident in our lives?
2. How can we better represent God in our families and communities?
3. What areas of your life need to reflect God more clearly?

## **Fill in the Blank**

As God's child, I am called to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

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## **Life Application**

This week:

- Thank God daily for adopting you into His family.
  - Read Ephesians 1:3–14 and list the blessings God has given you.
  - Replace negative labels with God's truth about your identity.
  - Look for opportunities to show God's love to others.
  - Share with someone what it means to be a child of God.
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## **Memory Verse**

### **Ephesians 1:5**

"He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will."

## **Closing Prayer**

Father, thank You for choosing us and adopting us into Your family through Jesus Christ. Help us live confidently as Your children, secure in Your love and grateful for the inheritance You have prepared for us. Teach us to reflect Your character and share Your love with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

