

Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church
Sermon Series: Breaking Fake – September 25, 2022



*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

Inquire if anyone in your group was adopted as a child or if they had someone close to them who was adopted. Ask, "What do you know about the process of adoption and some of the difficulties those who are adopted may have growing up in an adoptive family?"

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Galatians 4:4-5. Paul was using the Roman understanding of adoption which include the following characteristics of one who was adopted: all their debts were cancelled, all their criminal charges were dropped, they could not be legally put to death by their new father, and they could not be disinherited by their new father. Discuss how this view of adoption parallels being adopted by God as sons and daughter through salvation in Christ.

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Galatians 4:6. Paul uses the word "Abba" which is a term of endearment meaning "Daddy." Ask, "Why do you think Paul uses this word instead of the normal term for father? What might it mean for us in our walk with God and especially our prayer life?"

Read John 1:12-13. Those who have been adopted as God's children were powerless to become children but notice how God acted on our behalf. The power given to those who believe overcomes every obstacle to faith. Ask, "How did God overcome your inability to become His child? What did God do in your life to bring you to the point of trusting in Jesus for salvation?"

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Romans 8:12-17. Paul also speaks of adoption in this passage in Romans. Notice how in verse 14 he connects being a child of God with being led by the Holy Spirit. This means that our adoption into God's family is to lead to a family resemblance. God is more concerned with our holiness than our worldly happiness. Ask, "Since you have become a follower of Christ, how have you been led by the Holy Spirit? Have there been parts of your life that have changed because of your new relationship with God? How has God been making you holy as He is holy?"

DOING THE WORD

Read Ephesians 6:1-3. If we are to obey our earthly fathers, how much more should we obey our heavenly Father. Obedience is not something we do to be saved, but something that is the natural outworking of God's grace at work in our lives through faith. **Read John 14:15.**

According to Jesus, the evidence of our love is our obedience. In perfect love, Jesus always obeyed the will of the Father. Discuss the concept of obedience in relationship to our earthly fathers. Then, discuss what our obedience to our heavenly Father should look like. Close with a challenge and prayer of commitment to "Abba" that we would be careful this week to be led by the Spirit and live in loving obedience to God the Father in the same way Jesus modeled this loving obedience for us.