

Dear Life Group Leaders,

Midway through this study you'll be halfway through our series in Galatians! In this study we reach the climax of what Paul has said so far. That is, through Christ we are adopted as God's sons. These are verses to savour and enjoy. This week you might consider spending an extended time in worship, glorying in what Christ has done for us, and celebrating communion together.

God bless, take care and stay strong,

Andy

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Galatians 3:26-4:7

This Week's BIG IDEA: We've received adoption to sonship!!

Please read Galatians 3:26-4:7

1. v26, if we believe in Jesus, what is our identity now?
[Leaders note: we're sons of God! It's important we keep this notion of sonship as it is so strongly linked to inheritance, an idea Paul will pick up later in this passage.]
2. v27, this verse links those who are baptised with being clothed in Christ. Let's explore Paul's metaphor of being clothed with Christ. What functions does clothing play in our everyday lives? And how might these different functions translate across to our relationship with Christ?
[Leaders note: These are the types of answers I have in mind... clothing covers us, and so does Christ so we're acceptable to God (cf Genesis 3:7, 21). When we wear them our clothes go everywhere we do, and Christ is with us too. Clothing identifies us (e.g. wearing a football top) and so our ultimate identity is in him. We deliberately put them on, like our choice to be baptised and be identified with Christ. Etc...]
3. v28, why do you think Paul includes this list of neither-nors here? What do you notice about the distinctions Paul references here?
[Leaders note: Paul is emphasising what he has just said in v26-27. This is for anyone who believes in Jesus. Paul references cultural and ethnic, economic and gender divides]
4. What barriers divide people in our church and wider community? How are those broken down within our church; and what do you do to help this?
5. v29, what's our because we belong to Christ?
[Leaders note: an inheritance! And we're caught up in to Abraham's/Israel's/God's people's story.]
6. v1-5, what is Paul clarifying here? Is what he is saying clear in your own mind?
[Leaders note: Our passage today builds on what Paul has been saying since the beginning of chapter 3. E.g. link 4:2 with 3:23-25. NB "basic principles/elementary principles/elemental spiritual forces" referenced at the end of v3 refers to the pagan practices the Gentile believers used to follow, cf 4:9.]
7. v5, how do you feel about being adopted by God?
8. v4, 6, what two things did God send?
9. v6-7, what's ours because we are now sons?
[Leaders note: we receive the Spirit, we have intimacy with the Father and we stand to inherit all things with Christ. Dwell on each of these three things. Don't rush on too quickly. Unpack and enjoy! E.g. "calls out, 'Abba, Father'". 'Calls out', not prepare speeches, this speaks of spontaneous communication. And intimacy, not only is Abba like saying 'daddy', the Father is close to hear our cry... savour what these things means for the way we can interact with God.]
10. Some further application questions to consider:
 - a. What has most excited you in this Bible section?
 - b. Is adoption something you experience as well as understand? How can you meditate on the Son's work more, and ask the Spirit to work on your affections more?
[Leaders note: note the Spirit's role in v6-7, this intimacy is something we experience.]