

Life Group Guide  
February 19-25

**Prep:**

Review the video and Life Group Guide prior to your meeting.

**Welcome:**

Take a few minutes to let your group members settle in. It might be worth checking to see if anyone has some travel plans over the winter break.

**Video:**

Show the video. It is less than 3 minutes long. It will set up the conversation.

**Scripture**

**Galatians 3:** <sup>26</sup> So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

**Galatians 4:** <sup>1</sup> What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup> The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup> So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those

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under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

**OBSERVATION:** Paul declares that in Christ Jesus you ARE ALL children of God through faith. Paul does not suggest that we eventually become children of God, if we measure up to a religious standard. He insists that we become children of God the moment we place our trust in the work Christ did for us on the Cross.

**QUESTION:** Have you ever felt like you were not living up to the standard of being a Christian? Why did you feel that way? Did it cause you to question your identity in Christ or your maturity in Christ?

**OBSERVATION:** Paul also declares a kind of equality among God’s children. God does not separate us based on being Jew or Gentile. He does not separate us on being a slave or a free person. He does not separate us based on being male or female. Paul reveals that being a child of God shatters human barriers of culture, class and gender.

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**QUESTION:** In the above list that Paul gives, which do you think were advantages and why do you think they were considered advantages?

**OBSERVATION:** Paul affirms that in Christ you don't need any other advantage. More than that, in Christ there is no other advantages. If you are in Christ, you have a right to inherit the promises of God.

**QUESTION:** Have you ever inherited anything from someone? If you did, what did you think of the inheritance? What did you think of the person who willed it to you?

**QUESTION:** How does being a child of God change your identity?

**OBSERVATION:** God isn't just recruiting people to a cause. He seeks a relationship with His children.

**OBSERVATION:** In the Greco-Roman world, a **childless, wealthy man could adopt one of his servants**. At that moment the servant immediately ceased to be a slave. He received all the financial and legal privileges of an heir. This was recognized in the house and in the community.

**QUESTION:** Do you think it would be difficult or easy for a slave who was adopted to make the adjustment? Why do you think that?

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**OBSERVATION:** God sends His Holy Spirit into our lives to confirm this change of status from slave to child.

**QUESTION:** What kind of emotions or passions do you think a person will experience as they grow in their understanding of being a child of God?

**QUESTION:** How do you think the status as a child of God will influence your conversation with God? Do you think God prefers for His children to be formal or informal in their conversation with Him? Why?

**OBSERVATION:** In all Jewish prayer literature, no one in history ever called God Abba or Father until Jesus did. He prayed that way. He taught others to pray that way. He used that term when he was on the cross. Paul tells us that we have the same right to speak to God the way that Jesus did.

**QUESTION:** When you hear that we can speak to God the way Jesus did, how does that make you feel?

**OBSERVATION:** Slaves feared their masters. Sons were assured of their father's love and of their standing in the family.

**QUESTION:** How would it change the way you live if you were really assured that you are a child of God? How would it help you

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if others rejected you? How would it help you if someone tried to intimidate you?

**PRAYER:**

Please take a few minutes to ask for prayer concerns from your group members. Encourage your group to pray conversationally and informally. Talk to God as though He is your Father and loves you very much. Because He is!

If there is a significant issue in a group member's life, please make sure to follow up with a call, text or email. You might also want to pass this info along to Pastor Bob and Pastor Jonathan.