

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

Imagine a great earthly inheritance.

How would you feel about this?
What would you do with this?

How does this help us appreciate and think about our *eternal* inheritance from God?

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

Reflect on this question throughout the week:

In what places am I acting like a slave who is afraid of God instead of like a child who is assured of the Father's love? How can I bring the reality of God's love to those places?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Along with the two recommended books from previous weeks, here are two other resources:

Grace by Max Lucado

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/preach-the-gospel-to-yourself>

MEMORY VERSE:

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:24-26, ESV

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

Keep taking time to reflect on God's presence throughout your days. The Prayer of Examen is an ancient practice designed to help you notice the places that God shows up in your day. There are four steps to this daily practice: (1) Acknowledge and invite God's presence in, (2) Express gratitude to him, (3) Examen your past day alongside God, (4) Look ahead and ask for guidance and help. Use one of the following questions to help you examine your day with God in step 3: *Where did I experience Christ living through me? Where was the fruit of the Spirit evident or lacking?*

Where is God trying to get my attention?



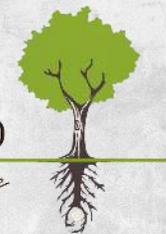
To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.

Leader Resource Guide for October 24, 2021

Pastor Brian Berg

Galatians 4

The Greatest Gifts of Grace **ROOTED**
in Grace



SERMON NOTES

I. ADOPTION

2. INDWELLING

3. INHERITANCE

COMMUNITY BUILDING

If you inherited a million dollars, what would you do with the money?

How did you preach the Gospel to yourself this week? What difference does that make in your life?

CHRIST CENTERED DISCUSSION:

- 1. Read through Galatians 4 together. Where do you see the gospel articulated in Galatians 4?**
If you're struggling, review some of the gospel passages that have been included in the past three weeks: Galatians 1:4, Colossians 1:13-14, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Titus 2:11-14, Colossians 2:13-14; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:3-5.
- 2. In order to receive the gifts of grace mentioned in this passage, you need to accept the free gift of forgiveness through Jesus. This is the message of the Gospel. Have you done that?**
What a beautiful question to revisit and ask directly. For those who have accepted the free gift of forgiveness through Jesus, celebrate again! Pray in advance for those who haven't yet, that this would be a week of God working to bring salvation to image bearers in your group.
- 3. How do Galatians Chapters 3 & 4 help us understand the Old Testament? What is man's condition being under the law? What one word captures that for you?**
Bondage, others. See Galatians 4:3,8-10,21,24
- 4. The Greek had no blessing under the Mosaic law. The female and slave had no rights under the Roman law. How does Paul revolutionize thinking about equality in this passage?**
Look again at Galatians 3:26-29. Keller's commentary asks us to consider what it meant to be a son at the time this epistle was written - son means "legal heir"; for the others mentioned in this question, that status was forbidden. Keller says, "If we don't let Paul call Christian women {slaves, Greeks} 'sons of God', we miss how radical and wonderful a claim this is."
- 5. Think about the scenario of a slave (who had no rights previously) who was adopted by the Master. What would this mean? What would it feel like? Why is it wonderful to be a son of God? Look at Galatians 3:29. Then, answer from Galatians 4:1-5 & 7. Finally, how does Galatians 4:6 answer the question?**

- 6. What is the connection between the work of the Son and the Spirit? (Galatians 4:4-7)**
The "Good Book Guide to Galatians" says that the "Son's purpose is to secure for us the objective legal status of sonship. Sonship is about faith, not feelings. The Spirit's purpose is, by contrast is, to secure for us the experience of sonship... we receive the Spirit to enable us to enjoy that relationship."
- 7. What are some of the privileges of being adopted by God that the Spirit helps us experience?**
 - *According to Vincent in 'The Gospel Primer', part of our inheritance is each other (Ephesians 2:19 & 22) and being a part of the body of the Church.*
 - *Experiencing the Father's love (Galatians 4:6)*
 - *Confident and direct access to the Father (Hebrews 4:16)*
 - *Christ's righteousness is placed on us. We didn't and don't have to work for it.*
- 8. Am I acting like a slave who is afraid of God or like a child who is assured of the Father's love?**
Being assured of the Father's love takes away any inclination or ability to earn the blessings of being a son or daughter. Just like we cannot choose who our parents are, we did not choose to be loved by God. He adopted us before we could earn it (Romans 5:8). If you haven't discussed the practical implications of these truths yet, ask these questions: What does it mean to you that God is your Father, if indeed he is? What does having God as your Father look like practically in your life? What is the only qualification for God being your Father? What does it mean that Jesus indwells you by the Holy Spirit? What does that look like practically?
- 9. Discuss the illustration Brian used regarding the TV shows "Extreme Makeover" and "Alone". How do they illustrate the difference between being saved by God's grace (Sarah) and the Law (Hagar)?**