

GOD PROVIDES ADOPTION

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: I AM PART OF A FAMILY
SERIES: GOD IS FATHER — I AM ADOPTED

BIG TRUTH: GOD PROVIDES ADOPTION

1 Peter 2:10; 1 John 3:1; Galatians 4:5-7; Ephesians 1:5

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:14-16

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

BIG IDEAS

- Adoption is made possible through the Son.
- The Spirit is proof of adoption.
- Children of God live for the Father.

BIBLE PASSAGE: ROMANS 8:12-17

UNITE - I AM PART OF A FAMILY

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Family exists for God.
- Their heart was bought with a price.
- God is building His family through adoption.



Every student should feel...

- Broken over the ways that sin has fractured their family and the family of God.
- Hope that one day, their adoption as sons and daughters of God will be fully realized



Every student should strive to...

- Memorize Romans 8.
- Do one new thing each week to honor their parents or siblings.
- Find one new way to love and serve their church family.



Every student should want...

- To glorify God in their families.
- To see their family, and the church family, as gifts from God.
- To share the truth that Jesus made our adoption possible with someone

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:14-16

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When God redeems us, He makes us part of His family.

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”

- No one seeks God; instead, we all go our own way. God draws us to Himself through His Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads us to God and opens our eyes to understand that we are sinners and cannot save ourselves. The Holy Spirit guides us to understand that salvation is available only through Jesus. God is responsible for redeeming us. It has nothing to do with us or anything that we do.
- When God does redeem us, we become part of His family because we are no longer separated from Him. He has always existed as Father, and when we repent of our sins and turn toward God, we become His children. We are no longer His enemies. Instead, we are His sons and daughters.

Being part of God’s family is His work, not ours.

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

- Adoption is God’s work. Just as He created all things and sustains them in His power, making us become part of His family is something He does. Because God has always existed simply as He is, He has always existed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We become sons and daughters because God is the Father.
- God could redeem us and we could just be redeemed people. This is not what He does. He draws us into His family and makes us His children. We become co-heirs with Jesus, the Son of God. This is what God does for us. Just as children who are adopted into earthly families do not do anything to be adopted, we do not do anything. God chooses us and makes us His children forever.

We know we’re God’s child because of the Holy Spirit.

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

- God secures our place in His family through His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a sign that we are God’s children. God only gives His Spirit to His children.
- The Holy Spirit is God’s seal upon us. He is God’s mark upon our lives that reveals to the world that we are God’s children. The Holy Spirit works in us to make us more like Christ and this work shows the world that we belong to God’s family.

GOD PROVIDES ADOPTION

BIG IDEA #1: ADOPTION IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SON.¹**[THIS]**

God, who has no beginning and end, has always existed as the Father. We know what it means to be a child because God is before us and His existence as Father informs us of what it means to be a child and to have earthly parents. The sin of mankind separates us from our heavenly Father until we have saving faith in the Son, Jesus. We get a glimpse of what it means to be a child of God through our relationship with our earthly parents. Just as earthly parents provide for their children, God the Father provided for His children by sending His Son to pay our sin debt. Prior to saving faith in Jesus, we are all spiritual orphans because the sin that condemns us separates us from our heavenly Father. Jesus' death on the cross satisfied the sin debt we owed God and made a way for us to be reconciled to God. We no longer have to be spiritual orphans because of Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

Read Romans 8:12-17. Why is it important that we can call God “Abba! Father!”?

Paul writes of our status change in these verses. When we have saving faith, we are no longer separated from God. We can call God our heavenly father because Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Without Jesus' life and death, we have no hope. Because He lived the perfect life in our place, we can know God as our Father.

[THIS]

God provides adoption into His family through Jesus and Jesus is the only way for a person to join God's family. God's plan for redemption is Jesus and there is no other way for mankind to be saved. God removes our sin and welcomes us as His children when we repent of our sin and believe that Jesus is the Savior of the world. When we do this, we are saying with our hearts, minds, and lives that we believe God and we are submitting to His way. We are forsaking our own way and plan and instead, choosing to follow God. Adoption is possible through Jesus because Jesus is perfect, and He lived the perfect life while on earth. He went to the cross to die the death we all deserve. When God looked at Jesus on the cross, He saw the sin of mankind and our sin debt was satisfied. Jesus endured the full wrath of God that we might call God “Father” and enjoy the benefits of being in God's family forever.

[THEREFORE]

What is significant about being a son or daughter of God?

Galatians 3:26 and 4:7 helps us understand that we all become children of God when we have saving faith. It's significant to be God's child because it means that we are under God's care and provision. When we think about the role of earthly parents and then transfer that to a God who is perfect, all-powerful, and holy, we understand how important it is to note that the God of the universe makes sinners His children. We get a picture of His grace and mercy.

How does God's provision of adoption reveal His love for His people?

Romans 5:10 reminds us that while in our sin, we are God's enemies. We understand God's love because He sacrifices greatly in order to adopt us into His family. He doesn't just save us from our sin, but He brings us into His family and we get to inherit eternal life with Him. We get to call Him Father and enjoy the benefits of being His child.

1. John 14:6: Jesus is the only way to be reconciled to God.

BIG IDEA #2: THE SPIRIT IS PROOF OF ADOPTION.²**[THIS]**

God does a miraculous work in our hearts when He redeems us. He makes us new, giving us new hearts that are free from the hold our sin natures have on us. More than that, God supernaturally plants Himself inside of us in the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who is the third person of the Trinity is fully and equally God. The Holy Spirit lives inside of every believer. This means that the God of the Universe, who spoke all things into being, lives inside of every person who has saving faith. The Holy Spirit is God's mark on every believer. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit. It is God's way of making us His own.

[THEREFORE]**Why is it important that God Himself would come to dwell in us?**

The gift of the Holy Spirit is a miraculous work because we are enemies of God, yet when He redeems us, He comes to live inside of us. God changes our hearts from sinful to righteous and then resides inside of us. It's proof we are God's because prior to knowing God, our sin separates us from God. Ephesians 1:13 and 1 John 4:13 show us that when we have the Spirit, we are God's children.

[THIS]

The Holy Spirit seals God's people and sets them apart from those who haven't believed. Just as God, in the beginning, set man apart from the rest of creation by placing His image upon Him, the Spirit sets believers apart. Because a believer has the Spirit, he or she lives differently than the world. The Spirit testifies that they belong to God because of the way He transforms their hearts and lives. He is proof of our adoption because of the way He provides for us and changes us from the inside out. We know we're God's because of the work of the Spirit inside of us and others around us can see this transformation and know that we belong to God. Our transformation happens as we become more and more like Christ. The Holy Spirit works in us and sanctifies us. We obey God and do not follow after the things of the world. We seek to live holy lives instead of fulfilling our sinful desires. This is how we are known as God's sons and daughters.

[THEREFORE]**How have you seen evidence in your own life that the Holy Spirit dwells inside of you?**

Ezekiel 36:26 declares that God gives His people a new heart. This new heart desires the things of God and not the things of the world. We can see evidence of this new heart in our lives when we desire to know God and we find joy in the things that bring Him glory. 2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us that we are new creations when we know Christ. We will feel the work of the Spirit in us directing us and correcting us.

Does the Spirit testify that you are a child of God to those around you?

Ephesians 4:22-24 reminds us that when we are new creations, we put off the old self. The old self is full of things of the world and sinful desires that please our flesh and dishonor God. The Spirit testifies that we are God's when we walk away from our sinful desires and choose instead to pursue Christ and holiness. When we are not living according to the world's standards, we will look, talk, and act differently.

2. 2 Corinthians 1:22: *The Holy Spirit seals us as God's people.*

BIG IDEA #3: CHILDREN OF GOD LIVE FOR THE FATHER.³**[THIS]**

Romans 8:17 reminds us of our status with God as believers. Because we are His children, we are fellow heirs with Jesus, the Son of God. We enjoy right fellowship with God because Jesus paid our sin debt. We enjoy the privilege of calling God “Father”. This change in our position with God places us in God’s family. Our purpose changes and our pursuit becomes God and His kingdom. Our daily life becomes about putting on a Christ-likeness. This means that, as Paul writes in Romans 8, we join in Christ’s suffering. This means that we willingly endure the abuse of the world because we identify as God’s son or daughter. Just like earthly families endure hardships together, we join the suffering of our spiritual family with God as our Father. Jesus suffered on the earth for the sake of the Father’s glory. It is our privilege to join in suffering for our heavenly Father’s glory because we are no longer His enemies.

[THEREFORE]**Have you thought of suffering for Jesus as a good thing or bad thing? Why?**

Being a part of God’s family means experiencing suffering. This is because the gospel is foolishness to those who don’t believe it. Just as Jesus was ridiculed and persecuted while on earth, we can expect to be too. James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5 teach us that we can see this suffering as a good thing because it points to our position as God’s son or daughter. Being a part of God’s family may bring trials during our earthly life, but we will experience an eternity of God’s glory and blessing.

[THIS]

Jesus lives for the glory of God. When He came to earth and lived as a human, all that He did was for the Father. He obeyed the Father’s commands and fulfilled the Father’s purpose for Him. Those who have trusted in Jesus for salvation are His children and their purpose is to live for Him. God’s children no longer live for themselves or the things of this world. Instead, they live for God. This means they willingly enter into the same type of suffering that Jesus experienced because it brings the Father glory for them to do so. We seek to obey God the Father daily because we are His children. Living in the truth that we are God’s children produces in believers a desire to please the Father. Just as we desire to please our earthly parents, we also desire to please our earthly Father.

[THEREFORE]**What does it mean to live for the Father?**

Living for the Father means being renewed in our minds by the word of God as Romans 12:2 shows us. It also means putting off earthly attitudes and behaviors as Galatians 1:10 tells us. It also means living for the Father’s kingdom as Jesus teaches in Matthew 6:33. Living for the Father means dying to self and seeking His glory above all else.

What attitudes/behaviors do you need to adjust to live more fully for the Father?

In order to live for the Father, we must abide in the Son. 1 John 2:6 teaches us that if we say we know God, then we will walk in obedience to Him. Often our perspectives must change and we must look toward our eternal home. Paul speaks to living for our eternity in Philippians 1:21, Romans 14:8, and Colossians 3:3 as he teaches that we are set apart and our purpose is to live for the Father’s kingdom.

3. Romans 8:17: *The Spirit helps us live well for the Lord.*