



Week 1: The Family of Grace

Big idea: We've been adopted into God's family, our primary relationship is with him as his children; we are brothers and sisters of one another.

Aim: to see ourselves as children of God and one another as brothers and sisters

Pray for Mission Partners and your time in the word



1. What kind of categories do people tend to think of as the things that "define" someone as a person? (*you may want to write them out on butcher's paper to help the next part*)
2. Ask a few people to answer
 - a. what the answer to some of those categories are for them (ie. husband, mechanic... etc), and,
 - b. Which ones have the most impact on your life day-to-day?
 - c. Which of these happened *to* you, which of these did you *achieve*?



3. Break into pairs and have each pair complete a row of the table. Then feed back to the group reading the passage and sharing your answer.

	What status do people have who aren't followers of Jesus?	How does this status change?	What are the privileges of being part of the family?
John 8:31-44	Slaves, children of the devil	Listen to Jesus' words (why does that happen for some and not others?)	Freedom, true freedom
Rom 8:1-2, 14-17	Fearful, slaves	Being given the spirit	Heirs Calling God father
Gal 3:23-28, 4:4-7	Slaves, locked up	Justified by faith Being in Christ Baptised into Christ Belonging to Christ Adopted	Heirs of the promises of Abraham



4. What does the idea of 'adoption' communicate in human relationships? Why do you think the Bible author's use this language of our relationship with God in Christ? What does it communicate? (For help with this you could go to John 1:12-13, 3:5-8)



5. If you have been adopted into God's family by his grace, what difference should that make to how you see your relationship with God...
a. When you fail?
b. When you don't 'feel' close to God?



Read Ephesians 4:32-5:2

6. As God's family of grace, how are we called to treat one another? Is there anything you feel convicted you need to change or take action on here?

7. How does seeing church as a family make a difference to...
a. What you hope for or expect on a Sunday morning?
b. How you respond to disappointments or frustrations in church life?
c. How you invest in church's vision and plans?



Discussion Question



Context Question



Structure Question



Observation Question



Meaning Question



Application Question