



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families For the week of April 16, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- What are you waiting for?
- Why is it so hard to wait?

Romans 8:14-25

Living as Sons of God

In ancient Rome, adoption usually occurred when a wealthy adult had no heir for his estate. Several things were immediately true of the adopted son:

- 1) his old debts and legal obligations were canceled
- 2) he got a new name and was instantly heir of all the father had
- 3) his new father became instantly liable for all his actions– including his debts and crimes
- 4) the new son also had new obligations to honor his father.

All this lies behind this week's passage. Three times, Christians are called "sons" of and three times called "children" of God. It is true that Roman "sonship" was a status of privilege and power given only to males. But Paul applies sonship to "us"– all believers. This shows that all Christians, male and female, are now his heirs, without distinction.

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ 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!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

- Is everyone a son of God? Why or why not? What does it mean to be "led by the Spirit"? (14-15)
- What privileges belong to an adopted son of God? (15-17)
- Paul contrasts a "spirit of slavery" with the "Spirit of adoption" (15):
 - When do you find yourself tempted to think and act like a slave?
 - When are you strengthened to know you are a child of God?
- How might the Holy Spirit bear witness with your spirit that you belong to God? (16)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

- **What all are we told about the creation? (19-22)**
- **What does Paul say is in store for us as children of God? Does this offer any specific encouragement to you in this season of life? (18-23)**
- **How does the Spirit pray? How does the Spirit help and lead us in prayer? (23-27)**
- **Pray together in light of this week's passage.**

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