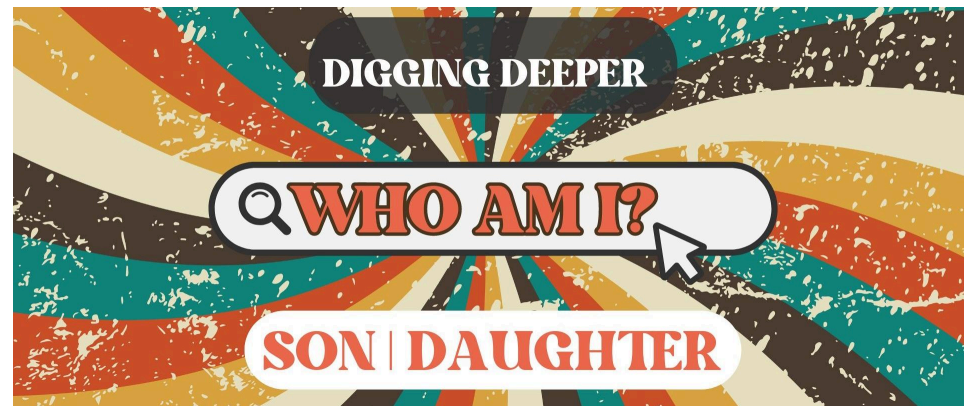


*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! - 1 John 3:1 (NIV)*  
*In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will - to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. - Ephesians 1:4b-6 (NIV)*

1. As you consider books you've read, TV shows/movies you've watched, or others you have observed in your life, who is an example to you of an ideal father figure? What characteristics stand out to you?
2. How have you seen your relationship with your earthly father affect your understanding of your heavenly Father?
3. In what ways does someone live differently when they are an orphan compared to someone who has been adopted fully into a family? How does someone live differently when they know they are fully accepted and loved, not because of effort or earning it, but because they are someone's child?
4. Read Romans 8:14-17. How does a slave live differently than a son? How does this passage describe your relationship with God? How does believing this truth affect the way you live? Do you live and obey out of fear like a slave, or do you live out of a place of being loved by the Father in the family of God as one who is freed to obey Him?
5. How would you answer the following questions based on Romans 8:14-17, Ephesians 1:4-6, Ephesians 5:1-2; 8-10, and 1 John 3:1-10. Why is it imperative to answer these questions in sequential order?
  1. Who is God? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What has God done? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Who are you? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. What do you do? \_\_\_\_\_
6. When someone knows they are loved and accepted, it affects every part of their life. How does knowing the Father loves you allow you to love others in a Christ-like and sacrificial way?
7. As you think back over the sermon and/or discussion in your group, what particular truth resonated with you? How will you live differently in light of this new understanding?

**Prayer** - Father, thank you for loving and choosing to adopt me as your child. I reject the lies of Satan that You don't want me or care for me as your beloved child. I choose to believe and live from a place that I am no longer a stranger to you and a slave to sin. I am your child, a fellow citizen with God's people, and a member of your family. I worship and give thanks to you for the fact that you have adopted me into Your family by saving me by your mercy and grace. Amen.



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