



woodside
BIBLE CHURCH

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL

Discuss how a biblical understanding of adoption in Christ teaches us more about who God is.

ICE BREAKER

In what way(s), if any, has your life been impacted by foster care or adoption? Share some group stories.

TEXT

Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Ephesians 1:3-6

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us^[b] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

MESSAGE OUTLINE

This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: In Christ, we are adopted sons and daughters of God.

Key Question: What does adoption show the world about who God is? Adoption displays...

1. God's fatherly love. (vv. 3, 4a, 5)
2. God's restorative power. (v. 4)
3. God's glorious grace. (v. 6)

DISCUSSION

- Ephesians 1:3-6 uses language of adoption, belonging, family and purpose. This should lead to a glorious vision of God as Father; however, this vision can be difficult to realize in our lives. When was a time when you felt unwanted? How did it affect you emotionally?
- How is the generosity of God put on display through reading these verses?
- Adoption stories are often incredible stories of turnaround. Ephesians 1:4 describes every believer's story that way as well. How do you experience God as a loving father in your life. (**note for leaders; people may carry father wounds with them, so use this question to offer God's healing)
- People who are in Christ, have been chosen by God "*to the praise of His glorious grace.*" If you're in Christ, how does your life display praise to God for His grace? Have each member of the group list some ways that's already happening and maybe include some aspirational ways you hope it will happen.
- What is your reaction to the statistics about orphans? 15 million in the world with no parents; 369,000 in the U.S. foster care system; 10,000 in Michigan's foster care system?

LIFE APPLICATION

How might God be calling you to engage in orphan care? Adoption, foster care, supporting a family who is adopting or fostering, partnering with a ministry, advocating for just laws, learning more about the orphan crisis, etc. What is your next step to fulfill how God is leading you?

Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS
