

SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **January 26, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "Adopted." Please read the sermon passage (Galatians 4:1-11) together out loud.

Small Group Questions (Galatians 4:1-11)

Sermon Outline:

1. **Who we used to be: Bond servants** (vv 1-3)
 - a. It's hard to let go of our old identity.
 - b. But the "time set by the Father" for our maturity has come (because Jesus has come!!).
2. **The work God has accomplished** (vv 4-5)
 - a. God the *Father* took the initiative and made all the promises.
 - b. God the *Son* accomplished all the work to free ("redeem") sinners.
 - i. He lived under the obligations of the law (perfectly)
 - ii. He died under the curse of the law (perfectly)
3. **Who we are in Christ: fully adopted sons** (vv 6-7)
 - a. God the Father sent *the Spirit* of the Son to indwell those who receive the Son.
 - b. The Spirit cries out "Abba, Father."
 - c. The "full rights" which sons receive includes (but is not limited to):
 - i. A close relationship with the Father (He loves us!)
 - ii. A release from the demands of the Law (Jesus fulfilled them!)
 - iii. Inheriting his promises (including the Spirit!) immediately.
4. **Turning back to the old system is impossible!** (vv 8-11)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. In what way do you find it difficult to distance yourself from your old identity of "servant"? In what way do you find it difficult to accept that God is your Father who accepts you and loves you?
2. Talk about how these factors have influenced your readiness and ability to STOP relating to God as a servant or slave, and START relating to Him as Father:
 - My identity as servant/slave to the law is deeply ingrained in me. (What I believe.)
 - I am continually reminded of my "slaveship" by my failures to love God enough to "feel" like a son. (How I behave.)
 - It's easier to be a slave (and count bricks) than to learn to love a father.
3. Talk about how your love for God is impacted by the fact that Jesus lived under the obligations of the law (perfectly) for you; and that he suffered under the curse of the law for you.
4. Galatians 3:26 emphasizes that we are sons based on what we do with Jesus Christ. If we receive Him, we are sons. Have you received Christ Jesus by faith? Tell your story.
5. Are you a "Judaizer"? Do you add stuff to simple "faith in Christ Jesus" before you will receive someone as a Christian brother or sister? How can you begin to gain victory in this area?