

## ADOPTION IS THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 8:12-17

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November 5, 2017

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

### CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Men's Retreat Review - If you have guys that went to the retreat, ask them to give some highlights.
- On Sunday morning, Dr. White talked about adopting a daughter:
  - If you're adopted, talk about what that means to you.
  - What were some of your immediate reactions to Dr. White's adoption story on Sunday?

### APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

#### Intro:

- **Read** Romans 8:12-17 together. In the message on Sunday, Dr. Thomas White shared two ways that the Holy Spirit works in our adoption into God's family.
- Look back at the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard (a new idea, an application, an illustration, a challenge, a question, or a new way of thinking)?

#### #1 - The Spirit Leads Us to Life (Romans 8:5-6; 12-13)

- *In Romans 7 and 8, Paul contrasts the life that is focused on personal effort to the life that relies on the power of the Holy Spirit.*
- A. If you are a Christ-follower, you are no longer a "debtor to the flesh". Why do you think we sometimes still feel like we still need to obey our sin nature?
- B. Think about your daily routine as a spouse, a parent, a employee, a neighbor, etc. Talk about one or two situations in which you need the power of the Holy Spirit to get you through.
- C. In general, what is your mind set on - the flesh or the Spirit? Would the people that know you best agree with your answer? Explain that.
- D. Be authentic with the rest of your group: What are some of the areas in your life that you know God wants you to put to death but that you are keeping on life support? What will you do this week to obey God in those areas? How can your Cell Group help you?

#### #2 - The Spirit Affirms Our Sonship (Romans 8:14-17)

- *In ancient times, to be adopted meant to legally and culturally have all the rights and privileges of a biological child. If you're a Christian, you're adopted into God's family with all the rights of a child.*
- A. Do you know for sure that you are a son or daughter of God? What are some passages from the Bible that you might use to support your answer?
- B. According to the Bible, what was your life like before God adopted you?
- C. What did you have to do in order to be adopted by God? What did God have to do to adopt you?

#### Closing Application

- *It's easy for us to come up with our own labels for ourselves, or to accept the labels that culture puts on us. If you're a Christian, God has adopted you into His family and given you a new name.*
- A. On the other side of this paper:
  - A. Fill in the first label with a name, a habit, or a sin that you used to be characterized by in the past - before you knew Jesus.
  - B. Fill in the second label with a name or characteristic that God uses to refer to you in the present.

### PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- If you're a Christian, praise God that He placed you into His family, with other siblings.
- If you don't know if you're a Christian, ask the rest of your group how you can know for sure today.

**MY PAST**

**HELLO**  
my name is

----- **“BUT GOD”** -----

**MY PRESENT**

**HELLO**  
my name is