

# Study Guide



## Orphan Sunday

November 13, 2016

### Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

### Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

### Word (45 Minutes)

This Sunday is Orphan Sunday. Below are some passages and questions to guide discussion based on the idea that we are all adopted children.

For more in depth study check out the following pages...

## Walk Prayer & Missions

December 18-28—South Sudan  
For further information visit  
[norrisferrychurch.org](http://norrisferrychurch.org)

## Calendar

November 13th— Member's Meeting,  
Orphan Sunday

## Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Jesus?

## Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Amazing Grace](#)" (My Chains are Gone)":

Amazing grace  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

*[2x]*

My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, Who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.  
Will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.

**Questions****Ephesians 1:3-6**

1. By what process or processes have we obtained a place in the family of God?
2. What did we do to induce God to choose us for adoption into his family?
3. What motivated God to choose us to be adopted into his family?
4. For what purpose did God take us into his family?
5. What are the parallels between the process of adopting children into our families and God taking us into his family?

**Questions****Romans 8:15-17**

1. Why do you think John says “do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits” instead of saying “According to these verses what benefits come to us as adopted children into God’s family?”
2. Why is suffering a part of being an adopted child into the family of God (vs.17)?

## Questions

## Galatians 4:4-7

1. Why was Jesus death necessary so that we could be adopted as sons? What does it mean to redeem those who were under the law?
2. What is the benefit of the Holy Spirit being sent into our hearts as members of God's family?
3. How do these truths about our spiritual adoption have parallels to adopting children in our society?

## Questions

## Isaiah 58:6-8

1. Is adoption an example of bringing the "homeless poor into your house"? How is the choice of adopting a child and taking him into your home like a fast to the Lord?
2. How would you interpret the promises in verse 8?

## Questions

## How Does it Apply?

1. Do you believe God may be calling you to adopt a child into your family or care for a foster child in your family? Please share that with your community group members and ask them to pray with you specifically about this possibility.

## Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in 1 John to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you lead your groups! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

## Model Answers

### Ephesians 1:3-6

1. We were chosen and predestined by God to be adopted as sons into his family through Jesus Christ (vs. 4-5).
2. We did nothing to induce God to choose us to be adopted into his family.
3. "In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ."
4. God adopted us into his family "according to the purpose of his will"—because he purposed to do that. It is a testimony to his glorious grace.
5. Some similarities between adopting children into our families and God adopting children into his family are:
  - a. A choice to adopt a certain child is made because of the love and purpose of the parents and not because of the attributes of the child.
  - b. The perspective parents plan for the child, search for the child, and bring the child to their home.
  - c. The adopted child is brought into the family and given the same position and legal rights as a son or daughter.

### **Romans 8:15-17**

1. We come to the place where we are so secure in our relationship with God in his family that we call him “Abba Father”. We become, not only sons, but heirs and joint heirs with Christ.
2. We are fellow heirs with Jesus, God’s Son. Because he suffered we will suffer. We are part of the family.

### **Galatians 4:4-7**

1. We were sinful under the law. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the debt that we owed to gain our freedom. Redeem means to pay the price of ransom to be freed from slavery.
2. The Holy Spirit is sent into our hearts to put within us the confidence that we belong as a son in this family.
3. There is a price that must be paid to obtain a child in adoption—a price to assure that the child is legally yours and belongs in your family. After the child becomes a member of your family, legally, he still must come to the point where he feels like a member of the family. God causes this to happen to us in his family by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts..

### **Isaiah 58:6-10**

1. Yes, adoption is one way to bring the homeless, poor into your house. In a fast we give something up (eating or entertainment) to draw close to the Lord. In this case we are giving up some of the ease and comfort of our families in order to share with someone in need of a family. Also we are putting ourselves in a situation where we desperately need strength and wisdom from the Lord.
2. These are glorious promises of God (vs. 8) to those who take part in this “fast” that the Lord chooses. It speaks of a new light dawning in your life. It speaks of healing of wounds and hurts in your life. It promises that righteousness shall surround you—before you and after you.