

# Study Guide



## Orphan Sunday November 12, 2017

### 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 we focus on Orphan Sunday. It is a Sunday we hold dear to us. It is a time to focus on God's call to care for the orphan and what we can do in response. It is a time to focus on how God has adopted us out of his love for us and because of him we are called children of God. Below are some passages and questions to guide discussion based on the idea that we are all adopted children. Please use this time to pray for the fatherless, adoptive families, and those thinking about adoption.

For further study on this weeks study please check out the following pages...

## Action Step

This week we want you to continue to focus on investing. During the week, ask someone if you can pray for them, listen to their response, and pray for them there in that moment if the conversation presents itself.

## Calendar

November 12th— Member's Meeting  
December 3rd— Family Christmas Program (One Service)  
December 24th— Christmas Service

## 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 Christ?

## 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 and Word (45 Minutes)

### Read: Ephesians 1:3-14; Deuteronomy 24:17-22

1. Have you ever thought about the idea that you are adopted by God? What does it mean to you?
2. By what process or processes have we obtained a place in the family of God? What motivated God to choose us to be adopted into his family? For what purpose did God take us into his family?
3. What are the parallels between the process of adopting children into our families and God taking us into his family?
4. Read: Psalm 82:3; Deuteronomy 26:12; Deuteronomy 27:19; James 1:27. What do these passages say about God's heart? What does it mean for us?
5. Why is it important to remember our redemption in Christ (Deut. 24:22)? How does that affect our actions towards the widowed, orphaned, and sojourner?
6. How can you as a group or individual care for the most vulnerable? (The widowed, orphaned, and sojourner/stranger)

7. What were some other takeaways from the sermon you would like to discuss?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Please spend some time praying for the widowed, the orphans, the stranger, for families who have adopted, and praying for those who are wanting to adopt.

## Action Step

**We must never forget that we have been sent by the Son of God to make disciples who make disciples.** Each week we are giving you action steps to take. Jesus has sent you out to make disciples and it begins by learning God's Word and engaging people. Begin making it a habit to ask God to help you *identify* people to invest in and invite. **This week we want you to continue to focus on investing. In Community Group take time to listen to any stories from the previous weeks action step. During this week, ask someone if you can pray for them, listen to their response, and pray for them there in that moment if the conversation presents itself.**

## 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 Matthew 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?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased  
Young life  
Heart of hope  
First priority  
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center  
Community renewal  
Grief counseling  
Celebrate recovery  
Samaritan counseling  
Last call ministries  
Golden age ministries  
Rescue mission  
Luke's lighthouse  
FCA

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! 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!

## Walk Prayer & Missions

For further information visit  
[norrisferrychurch.org](http://norrisferrychurch.org) or contact Jared  
Clary ([clary@norrisferrychurch.org](mailto:clary@norrisferrychurch.org))

## Calendar

November— South Sudan  
February 22nd- March 3rd — South Sudan  
March 29th- April 1st— NOLA  
June— Serve Shreveport  
July— Central America