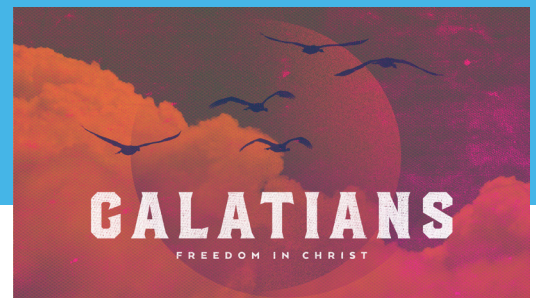


# Discussion Questions

May 24, 2026



## Galatians 4:1-7 - From Slaves to Son

This week, we looked at Galatians 4:1-7, exploring the profound shift from being a slave to becoming an adopted child of God. Paul paints a picture of an heir who legally owns the estate but lives like a slave, a gap many of us experience when we live like employees trying to earn God's favor rather than resting as His children. To bridge this gap, God did two things: He sent His Son to climb into the cage with us to secure our legal freedom, and He sent His Spirit into our hearts to make that adoption a felt reality. Through powerful pictures, from an adopted boy hoarding food in an open pantry, to a father lifting his walking son into an embrace, to Jesus crying "Abba" in Gethsemane, we were reminded of a beautiful truth: we cannot earn our way into God's family, nor can we sin our way out of it. We are invited to stop performing and simply listen to the Spirit already crying "Abba, Father" on our behalf.

1. James opened by sharing that for years he wanted to be "the ultimate soldier for Christ" rather than a son in his Father's presence, because performing felt easier than belonging. Is there a version of that story in your own life? Where do you tend to default in your relationship with God, soldier, servant, employee, orphan, or son/daughter?

Read Galatians 4:1-7 aloud as a group.

2. In verses 1-3, Paul describes an heir who legally owns the whole estate but is subjected to guardians, essentially living no differently than a slave. What stands out to you about this picture? How does this illustrate the "gap" between what is legally true on paper and what we actually experience in daily life?
3. Notice the beautiful parallel in verses 4 and 6: "God sent his Son" and "God sent the Spirit." Based on the sermon, what did the sending of the Son accomplish, and what does the sending of the Spirit accomplish? Why do we desperately need both?
4. We learned that "Abba" (verse 6) is not a baby word; the only other time it appears on someone's lips in the entire New Testament is Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Read Mark 14:36 together. How does it affect your view of prayer to know the Spirit in you is crying the exact same word Jesus cried in His darkest, most agonizing hour?
5. The sermon shared the story of an adopted boy who kept hiding food in his room even though his parents' pantry was fully open to him, because his body still remembered being unsafe. In what ways do we "hoard" with God? Such as hoarding control, security, or performance, just in case He doesn't come through?
6. Paul finishes verse 7 by declaring us heirs, which answers two massive fears we carry: Can I earn my way into God's favor? (You don't have to; you're already in) and Can I sin my way out of it? (No; your standing rests on God's character, not your performance). Which of these two questions does your heart wrestle with more, and what does it look like to actually rest in Paul's answer this week? (
7. Paul writes "OUR hearts," plural. The Spirit isn't crying in isolated chests scattered around a room; it's the cry of a family. How might it shift the way we relate to one another in this group, and in the wider church, if we really took seriously that adoption was never just "me and God"?

8. Closing Liturgy and Prayer

I am no longer a slave.

I am adopted.

I am a child of God.

I am an heir.

His Spirit is in me crying out "Abba, Father."

Close by praying for one another - especially for anyone in the group who is in the "hospital at 2 a.m." season the sermon named, where the wordless cry of the Spirit is the only prayer left.

**Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT)**

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

**Galatians 4:1-3 (NIV)**

"What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world."

**Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV)**

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

**That we might receive adoption to sonship****Adoption = Son-Placing**

1. He chose you when He did not have to
2. He gave you His name
3. He made it permanent

**Galatians 4:6 (NIV)**

"Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'"

- Verse 4... "God sent his Son"
- Verse 6... "God sent the Spirit"

**The Son was sent into the world to accomplish the adoption**

- The Spirit is sent into your heart to make that adoption real in you

**Abba, Father****Galatians 4:6 (NIV)**

God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'"

**Mark 14:36 (ESV)**

"Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

**Romans 8:26 (NIV)**

"The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

**Galatians 4:7 (CSB)**

"So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then God has made you an heir." -

- Can I earn my way into God's favor?
- Can I sin my way out of God's favor?

**Galatians 4:7 (CSB)**

and if a son, then God has made you an heir."

**Galatians 4:7**

*"So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then God has made you also an heir." -*

**I am NO LONGER a slave**

**I am ADOPTED**

**I am a CHILD of God**

**I am an HEIR**

**His Spirit is in me crying out "ABBA, Father"**