



Sermon Discussion Guide

July 12, 2026 - Pastor Scott Allen

Children of the Promise - Galatians 4:21–5:1

Discussion Starter

- In what way(s) did this week's sermon challenge, surprise, or encourage you?
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Reflection Questions

- Paul illustrates his point about the sonship of believers by drawing a series of contrasts from the life of Abraham. Spend time as a group identifying these contrasts, then summarize Paul's main idea.
 - Leader Suggestion: Split your group in half—one half looks at the “slave” imagery and the other looks at the “free” imagery. Have each group create a one sentence summary of Paul's main idea for their assigned portion and discuss.
 - What does relying on your own efforts in your relationship with God look like in your life? What thoughts/feelings toward yourself and God does living this way produce?
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Application Questions

- (Personal implications) What is the difference between the attitude of a servant in a household and that of a child? Which of these two attitudes best describes your heart recently, and what is one practical way you can foster a deeper sense of your sonship this week?
- (Personal implications) Pastor Scott noted that one way we live as children of the promise is by patiently trusting God rather than trying to force His hand. Where do you struggle to do this, and how could you shift from trusting your efforts to trusting God?
- Vision Question: *We are a family of disciples on mission.* Read Psalm 87 together. Reflect on this beautiful image of the Lord's global mission. God shockingly names “outsider” nations—Israel's enemies—as natural citizens of His kingdom. How can our church prioritize sharing the gospel and welcoming the outsider into God's family?

- (Communal implications) Pastor Scott stated that persistent prayer and passionate praise are two more ways we live as children of the promise. We shouldn't just do this alone! Spend time as a group praying for one another, sharing needs and praises.

This week's guide written by: Katie Williamson

Tips for Group Leaders

- DO ask open-ended questions. DON'T ask questions where a short "right" answer ends the discussion.
- DO encourage mutual participation by every group member. DON'T feel the need to respond or weigh in after every contribution. Avoid monologuing. As the leader, your goal is to facilitate mutual discussion between all group members (Eph 4:15–16).
- DO ask follow-up questions: "What do you mean by that?" "Tell me more!" "Has anyone else experienced something similar (or different)?"
- DO feel free to pick and choose questions that are a good fit for your group. DON'T feel the need to get through every question, and don't worry if you spend most of your time on a few questions that generate a lot of good discussion.
- DO keep the main thing the main thing. Steer your conversation toward the main theme of the sermon and the biblical text. DON'T get sidetracked on less important matters, theological debates, etc. A rabbit trail might sometimes be worth pursuing—if group members are wrestling deeply with the implications of biblical truth for their lives. Otherwise, steer conversation back to the main topic.
- DO get into the text. It could be helpful to read over the passage together or ask questions directly related to the text. Help group members engage the text for themselves and respond to what they see there.
- DO revisit important moments from the sermon—a memorable story, an impactful quote, a convicting point of application. "Remember when pastor X talked about Y? What impression did that make on you?"
- DO allow space for reflection, silence, and thoughtful answers. DON'T feel that you need to jump in or ask a new question just because the group has been quiet for a few seconds. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the silence gets awkward, then count silently to ten before jumping in.
- DO bring discussions home to practical, concrete everyday life. DON'T let discussion and application stay in the abstract realm. Steer discussion toward *what does responding to this sermon look like for me?* If comments are vague or general, ask "what would that look like, practically?"