

# I Am a Child of God

Lesson 01 of the series "Identity"

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." Romans 8:16 (NIV)

## A. I am a child of God because...

### 1. God chose me!

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.... when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago."

Ephesians 1:4-5, 13 (NLT)

### 2. Jesus redeemed me!

"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 4:4-7 (NLT)

### 3. I believed and received God's gracious gift.

"To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 (NIV)

## B. Because I am a child of God...

### 1. I can confidently come to God about anything!

"So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father'. For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children." Romans 8:15-16 (NLT)

### 2. I can expect God to discipline me.

"My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.' As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way." Hebrews 12:5-11 (NLT) **(see also Proverbs**

### 3. I have a glorious inheritance awaiting me in heaven.

"And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering." Romans 8:17 (NLT)

"...Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see." 1 Peter 1:3-5 (NLT)

- In heaven I will be free from death and decay (Roman 8:23)
- In heaven I will be free from sin and suffering (Revelation 21:4)
- In heaven I will have a new, amazing body (1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 2 Corinthian 5:1-5)
- In heaven I will have a room in God's house (John 14:2-3)

Note: Our inheritance is too good to imagine!

“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’” 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)

*Note:* The Holy Spirit is given to us as a guarantee.

“The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.”

Ephesians 1:14 (NLT)

**C. Warning... There is an identity thief!**

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy....” John 10:10 (NLT)

*False Identity:* I work for God. I have to earn my relationship with God, and he is disappointed with my performance.

“...He (Satan) is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44 (NLT)

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

*True Identity* – I am a child of God. I am loved by God, and nothing can separate me from his love.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Romans 8:35-37 (NIV)

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## Connect Group Discussion Questions

1. What are some key elements of a healthy parent/child relationship?
2. Using your answer to question #1, would you say you have a healthy relationship with God? Why? Why not?
3. Read Ephesians 1:4-13. How does it make you feel to know that God purposely chose you and adopted you into his family? Why do we sometimes feel like God could care less about us?
4. Read Romans 8:14-16. How does it make you feel to know that we can now call God "Abba Father" or "Dad" because of our relationship with Christ? Why do we sometimes feel like we are God's employees and that he thinks we are doing a terrible job and may fire us any day?
5. Have you ever inherited anything? If so, how did your inheritance impact your life?
6. How often do you think about heaven? What can we learn from the following verses about heaven? (Romans 8:23, Revelation 21:4, 2 Corinthians 5:1-5, 1 Peter 1:3-5, John 14:2-3)
7. Is there a difference between discipline and punishment?
8. Read Hebrews 12:5-11 and Proverbs 13:24. Why does God discipline us? Describe a time in your life when God disciplined you? What did you learn from the experience?

### Quotes to Ponder:

"I did nothing to deserve God's love; in fact, I was living as an orphan, without hope. Yet God chose to pursue a relationship with me, and through the death of his son Jesus, I was adopted into God's family."  
Steven Curtis Chapman

"LORD, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing. You guard all that is mine." David in Psalm 16:5

"I've heard a thousand stories of what they think you're like. But I've heard the tender whispers of love in the dead of night. And you tell me that you're pleased and that I am never alone. You're a good, good, father! It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are. And I'm loved by you! It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am." Chris Tomlin