

### WARM-UP

- What are you saving up for? Why?
- Tell us about a gift you're looking forward to receiving this Christmas season.
- If you could choose to be someone's son or daughter for a day, who would you choose as your parent/s and why?

**WORD** *<sup>1</sup>Here is what I have been saying. As long as your own children are young, they are no different from slaves in your house. They are no different, even though they will own all the property . . . <sup>2</sup>So you aren't a slave any longer. You are God's child. Because you are his child, God gives you the rights of those who are his children. **GALATIANS 4:1,7***

What really makes the Christmas season special is the coming of Jesus Christ into the world to bring hope and joy. He redeemed us and caused us to become sons and daughters of God. We will discover that the coming of Christ brought us so much more than being adopted into God's family. Today, let us look closer at how our status in God has changed from being slaves to becoming sons and daughters, and, ultimately, His heirs.

## 1 | We were all once slaves.

*So you aren't a slave any longer. You are God's child. . . .*

**GALATIANS 4:7**

We were all enslaved to the world's standards, believing that our righteousness or acceptability is based on keeping certain dos and don'ts. God gave His Law, not so we could free ourselves, but to reveal to us how sinful we were and how much we need a Savior. When Jesus came, He saved us from sin and gave us true freedom. We are no longer slaves. How have you lived out your freedom in Christ?

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## 2 | We have been adopted as sons and daughters.

*So you aren't a slave any longer. You are God's child. Because you are his child, God gives you the rights of those who are his children. **GALATIANS 4:7***

Because of Jesus, we are chosen by God to belong to His family and have received all the rights and privileges of His children. We can come before God, talk to Him anytime, and ask of Him freely. And because He is King, we share in His kingdom. How have you enjoyed your rights as a child of God?

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### 3 | We are now heirs according to the promise.

*And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.* **GALATIANS 3:29**

Part of our adoption into God's family is that we have become *heirs according to promise*. An inheritance is not something one works for—it is freely given. Parents, usually the father, determine and prepare it, and the responsibility of taking care of the inheritance only becomes the child's when it is given to him or her. In Christ, God prepared an inheritance for us before we even received Jesus as our Lord and Savior. According to Ephesians 1:3, what is the inheritance that God is blessing us with?

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#### APPLICATION

- Are there times when you act like a slave or servant more than a son or daughter of God? What are you going to do differently this week in light of knowing that you are a child of God?
- What promises are you holding on to as an inheritance from the Lord? What verses in the Bible are you standing on this season?
- Who among your friends and family needs to embrace his or her identity as a child of God and the inheritance we have in Him? Commit to find opportunities to preach the gospel to him or her.

## PRAYER

- Thank God for redeeming us, adopting us into His family as sons and daughters, and making us heirs with a sure inheritance.
- Ask God for the grace to live free from the bondage of sin and to be confident in your identity as a child and heir in His family.
- Pray that you will have the confidence to persevere, as you wait for the promises that God gave you. Ask Him to increase your faith.

## NOTES