

CG Study Guide - 27 Sep, 2020

Series: Sonship

Text: Gal 4:7



This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the [text notes](#) on the passage.

Overview

Summary of Series

Through the gospel we have been adopted as God's dearly loved children who don't just have access to Him, but whom He loves and welcomes into His presence. Our hope for this series is to explore our faith through the lens of adoption, and for the members of RHC to move beyond a cognitive understanding of the gospel and our faith to a deep relational closeness with God that is expressed in enjoyment of fellowship with God, increasing prayer, and joy in our hearts before him.

Galatians 4:7

7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Our Fallen Condition

Our tendency to place our faith in what is seen and experienced in the present moment, and to lose sight of our freedom and inheritance we have as sons and heirs through God.

Big Idea of the Text

Because our sonship entails freedom and inheritance that is obtained through God, we must therefore hold on to the gospel by faith.

Takeaway for our CGs

To delight and find confidence in our identities as sons and heirs of God, and for our response to present circumstances be shaped by the promise of our future inheritance.

Study Guide Suggested Answers

Q1. Who are we heirs of? (Ref Gal 3:7-14)

Q2. How do we become heirs? (Ref 3:19, 3:22)

Q3. Our inheritance comes in different stages.

- a. What have we already inherited? (Ref Gal 3:14)
- b. What have we not yet inherited? (Ref Rom 4:13)
- c. Which part of our inheritance is working itself out in our lives today?
 - i. Ref 1 John 3:2-3
 - ii. Ref 2 Cor 4:16 - 5:5

Q4. How does the assurance of our inheritance encourage us to persevere when we are faced with:

- Suffering
- Unfulfilled desires
- Struggle with Sin

Silent Retreat: Guided Reflection

Take some time to quieten your heart and find a space where you can be focused and have some quiet time for reflection. If you are joining via Zoom, you might like to turn off your video.

Pick either option A or B and take 20 minutes to prayerfully meditate and reflect on the questions in either option.

Once the time is up, your CGL will cue you to return to the main group.

Option A

Reflecting on what it means to relate to God not as a slave, but a son

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart (Psalm 139:23-24)
2. What are one or two ways that you might be living as or relating to God as a slave, and not a son or daughter?
 - a. *A slave's life is unpleasant and characterised by hard work: Do you see life as His child something burdensome, dreary, or unpleasant?*
 - b. *A slave's primary task is to do, a child's primary task is to simply be a child: Do you relate to him on the basis of your performance or your work (i.e. what you can do for Him), or feel a sense of entitlement or reward based on what you've done?*

- c. *A slave lives in fear of punishment from the master: Do you doubt His unchanging love and affection, and are constantly working to earn His love? Do you live in fear of punishment or criticism?*
 - d. *A slave longs for freedom: Do you desire or look forward to being free from His rule so that you can gain "true freedom?"*
- 3. Go to God, your "abba, Father" in prayer, with the assurance that you are His beloved child. Surrender the ways that you have been slavishly serving or relating to Him.
- 4. Pray that:
 - a. God would assure and convict you of your sonship
 - b. That the Holy Spirit would help you to experience, delight and hunger for your Heavenly Father's love, affection, honour, and/or authority as His child more deeply
 - c. That the Holy Spirit would give you wisdom and conviction about what it means to live as His child, in contrast to the ways you have identified earlier

Option B

Reflecting on a specific struggle with sin, suffering, or an unfulfilled desire

- 1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to remind and assure you of your unchanging status as God's child
- 2. Go to God as your "abba, father" and cry out to him regarding your specific sin, suffering or unfulfilled desire:
 - a. Allow yourself to draw near to your Heavenly Father and for Him to speak and comfort you
 - b. If you've not done so before, tell him all about it: speak to Him freely about the details of the situation
 - c. Present your fears, anxieties, disappointments, frustrations, desires about the situation honestly to Him, trusting that as your Father, He care for you and longs for you to speak to Him
- 3. Meditate upon the truth of your status as God's child: how might the following change the way you see the current situation, comfort you or encourage you to persevere?
 - a. *Your permanently changed status from slave to God's child*
 - b. *The fact that you are hidden in Christ, who fully man and fully God, perfectly atoned for your sin*
 - c. *The presence of the Holy Spirit in you*
 - d. *The assurance of your inheritance*
- 4. Ask God to help you to rest in your status as His Child, and for Him to remind you of His affection, fellowship, authority and/or honour that he has lavished upon you.

Come back and share in smaller groups and pray for each other.