

Adopted Heirs

Wednesday

Read: Galatians 4:6 *Light of life*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What is your understanding of God as father?*
2. *Reflect on how the Spirit guides us as children. Do you feel that guidance?*

Prayer Focus God, you started this. Your love and your intention to bring us into your family was clear from the beginning. Keep shaping us into the people you so lovingly created, with new eyes and hearts, like children, playing in the light of life.

Pastor's message: Galatians 4:4-7

Message Notes:

Thursday

Read: Galatians 4:7a *Light of freedom*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What does Paul mean by slavery? How is a slave different from a child?*
2. *How does it feel to approach God as a parent, as opposed to a lawgiver or a judge?*

Prayer Focus Our sights are sometimes so fixed on ourselves and our own wants, fears, and griefs, that it's as if we're in chains. Eternal Light, remind us that following you in love and not in fear is the way to to live fully in trust and hope, in the light of freedom.

Friday

Read: Galatians 4:7b *Light of the world*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What does it mean to be an heir of the Creator?*
2. *What will you do with your inheritance?*

Prayer Focus Christmas has come, the new year is here. Let this message from Paul become a New Year's resolution, a new beginning, fresh in the knowledge of our life in your family, with you, and with your people. We will treasure our life in you, light of the world.



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What is one new thing you'd like to do or learn in the coming year?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Galatians 4:4-7**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

ADOPTED HEIRS **December 31, 2023**

Monday

Read: Galatians 4:4 *Light of hope*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What does the fullness of time tell you about God?*
2. *Why does Paul say Jesus was born under the law?*

Prayer Focus Jesus Christ, you were born into our history, when we were looking for a light to fulfill our hopes. You came according to the law, and to the prophets, and in answer to the darkness of our need. We look for your light of life today. Be with us, our light of hope.

Tuesday

Read: Galatians 4:5 *Light of truth*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What does it mean to us today to be "under the law?"*
2. *Do you feel you are a child of God? Why?*

Prayer Focus Your law was meant as a gift, Holy One, a way to live in relationship with you and with others. But we have a way of turning even good things into bonds that keep us apart from you and in strife with others. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, who taught us where our hearts should be centered, on the light of truth.