**Sunday: Getting Started**

1. What stands out to you from the above and why?
2. Share one thing that particularly stood out to you from Paige's teaching and why?

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” - A.W. Tozer

\*3. In other words, our most formative and determinative force is what, deep in our hearts, we conceive God to be like. What do you honestly believe to be most determinative about you? Your family of origin? Your spouse? Your education? Your career? Your appearance? Your social standing? Your kids’ schools? Your enneagram number? Your \_\_\_\_\_? Actually what God thinks about us is THE most important thing about us. What DOES He think? Read Zephaniah 3:17.

**Monday: Adoption Precedes Justification**

Last week we learned why justification (saved from the penalty of sin) precedes sanctification (being saved from the power of sin). There was a good discussion among you on how to implement that. Just as we are justified by faith, we are sanctified by faith. It takes faith to say no to sin, no to our idols, and trust God to meet us. But with every death comes a resurrection.

4. Now Paige says that adoption precedes justification. What did she mean?

5. Some teach the universal fatherhood of God. How does this go against Scripture? (See Romans 8:9 and John 1:12)

6. Adoption is a legal act. How did God make our adoption legal in court?

7. Adopton is not just a legal reality but a living reality. How will you spend your "bank account" today?

\*8. Read Galatians 4:4-6.

A. How is this passage like our passage this week? How is it different?

B. Who is doing the crying in each passage?

C. How closely does the Spirit testify with our spirit? And what is His testimony?

D. Can you think of something else you would rather Him testify to you? Something stronger or bigger or better?

**Tuesday: Living as Adopted**

Two years ago, when playing pickleball, I was paired with a very competitive male who was deeply disappointed in how many balls I was missing or hitting too high, and was communicating his anger rudely and repeatedly to me.

I started crying out to God silently: ***Please Father, help me do better, help me not miss, help me hit the ball lower, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!!!!!!!!!***

Then, in my spirit, I heard a voice that was not mine -- so gentle, so loving. ***Honey.***That's all. Suddenly it didn't matter how my partner acted toward me! I was loved, cherished, **despite my sin,** by the God who made the universe. I stood still for a moment, stunned, thinking, *God called me "Honey!"* My approval idol was punctured by the love of my Abba.

9. Can you identify in any way with the above story?

10. Paige says we often live as if we were justified, but not as if we are adopted. How might you live differently if you lived, not as an orphan, but as a beloved child of God?

11. Do you remember Paige's story of living on an oil well? What was her point?

12. Paige also told a story of parents who adopted not 3 but 4 boys because one wouldn't leave the orphanage without his friend. What did God do that showed the depth of His love for you according to Revelation 5:9? What might you say to the enemy the next time he whispers *God couldn't love you?*

**Wednesday: Three Aspects of Persuasion:**

**Led by Spirit, Freedom from Fear, and Fullness of Fatherhood**

13. Read Romans 8:12-17 and share what stands out to you and why.

14. What proof in our lives, according to verse 14, shows we are sons of God?

15. Paige said being l**ed by the Spirit** is not so much talking about decision making, but following in the footsteps of Jesus in obedience so we begin to have a family resemblance, which is one aspect that should persuade us we are His children. Share one example of this from your life of how, because you have obeyed the Spirit you look more like Jesus.

16. She gave an illustration from the true story of the movie Blindside. Do you remember it? What was her point?

17. According to verse 15, what is another aspect or trait of one who realizes he is a child of God? Do you obey out of fear or out of love?

\*18. If you are a parent, how do you motivate your children to obey? Do you use fear? How does God motivate His children to obey? Re-read 8:9-17. What is the relationship of adoption to sanctification? What is the role of fear?

19. Why, according to Revelation 7:3, should we not fear, even when hard things happen?

20. What nickname does 2 Corin. 1:3 give for our Father? Do you have a story of how the Lord comforted you?

**Thursday: Privileges of Adoption**

**Inheritance, Access, Discipline, Acceptance, and Enjoyment**

21. Read Romans 8:12-17 again and share anything new that pops out for you today!

22. This passage keeps addressing sons. Why should women want to be called sons and not want the translation changed?

23. Read Romans 8:15

A. How does verse 15 show our access?

B. Ponder this privilege of adoption. Why is it that everyone does not have this? See Isaiah 59:2. (Though it is true God can do whatever He pleases.)

C. What are your most frequent topics of prayer? Could you be wiser? If so, how?

D. What does Hebrews 12:5-6 tell us? Do you think of this as a privilege? Why is it?

E. God pours out judgments on the earth in Revelation. Unbelievers are hardened and believers are refined. How do you respond to suffering in your life? What does it reveal about your view of God?

F. The Lord accepts us and enjoys us simply because we are His. Did you experience this from a parent? Do you believe this is how God sees you?

**Friday: Love List and Take-A-Way**

\*24. Often we will make a love-list for someone precious in our lives to celebrate a milestone or occasion. Make your own “Things I Love About You” list for the Father. And then make another one: “Things I Love About the Way You Love Me.”

25. What is your take-a-way this week and why?