

# the Schedule

for acceptance

Friday

- 6:00 dinner (building)
- 7:00 movie
- 8:30 dessert!
- 9:00 discussion
- 10:30 small group #1 (homes)
- 12:00 head to bed

Saturday

- 9:00 breakfast
- 9:30 small group #2
- 10:30 debriefing (building)
- 12:00 cookout (miracle hill)
- 1:00 group games & service project
- 3:00 leave miracle hill
- 3:30 small group #3 (building)
- 4:30 free time
- 5:30 orphan prayer walk
- 6:00 dinner
- 6:30 large group meeting
- 8:00 small group #4 (building)
- 9:00 sneaker hockey! (the pavilion)
- 11:00 back to homes
- 12:00 head to bed

Sunday

- 8:30 breakfast
- 9:30 worship (building)



**who's your  
daddy?**

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"  
Romans 8:15

**Winter Retreat | Adoption**  
Small Group Study Guide

**For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"**

**Romans 8:15**

## **SMALL GROUP #4**

*Hope for Orphans*

### **What Now?**

- 1. Some would say that God doesn't exist because there is so much suffering in the world. How would you respond to this criticism?**

Think about how God responds to human suffering.  
God became man and suffered to bring life to mankind.  
Discuss this for a little bit and then read Psalm 68:5.

### **2. As God's adopted children, what are we called to do?**

Discuss this for a little bit and then read Isaiah 1:17.  
Christians are the light of the world and the salt of the earth!

### **3. What can you do to "bring justice to the fatherless?"**

Brainstorm ideas and list them here. Get creative.

## **MOVIE DISCUSSION**

*"Meet the Robinsons"*

### **Clip #1 - Orphan Response A**

- 1. What was Lewis hoping would get him adopted? Did it work?**

*"Go show them how special you are."*

*"All it takes is some imagination and a little science and we can make the world a better place." he's hoping in his ability*

### **2. How did rejection make him feel?**

*"I'm so sorry!" - shame, weighed down with guilt*

*"124 adoption interviews" - disappointment, hopeless*

*"I have no future. No one wants me."*

### **3. What gave Lewis a glimmer of hope?**

*"My real mom is the only one who's ever wanted me." he is hoping in unconditional love, yet it is wishful thinking (not reasonable)*

### **Clip #2 - Orphan Response B**

- 1. How was Goob's response similar to Lewis'?**

*"Today, people called me names." shame*

*"I missed the winning catch." guilt, disappointment, hopeless*

### **2. Where did Goob place his hope?**

*"Let it fester and boil inside of you. Let hate be your ally." blame & grudge - momentary comfort of a steak*

### **Clip #3 - From Orphan to Child**

- 1. Lewis changed. What made the difference?**

*"I'm really happy you're safe." grace was given to Lewis*

*"You are a special kid, one of a kind." he didn't have to have it all together to be accepted by this family... they just loved him, forgiving his faults - this was good news*

*"The truth is, we love having you... You really have to say... What do ya say, do you wanna be a Robinson?" he is offered adoption*

### **2. Describe Lewis' response (attitude & actions) in this clip?**

*"You sacrificed so much for me..." gratitude, happiness  
[his face...and head nod] a mixture of belief and disbelief*

### **Close in Prayer**

What does this movie teach us about our relationship with God?

### Bad News for Spiritual Orphans

#### Two realities:

1. We are sinners. God is holy and must punish sin.

Romans 3:10-12

2. We are born spiritual orphans... alienated from God.

Romans 3:13-19

#### Two responses:

1. **Live** by being bad (like Goob)

Romans 3:10-19 - trying to avoid God altogether, atheists, pleasure

2. **Live** by being good (like Lewis)

Romans 3:20 - trying to earn righteousness

### Good News for Spiritual Orphans

#### One reality:

God is justifying sinners and adopting orphans.

Romans 3:21-24

Justification is the legal part. Adoption is the relational part.

All people can be forgiven, given righteousness through faith in Christ Jesus. And it is a free gift of grace!

#### One response:

**Hope** in the good character and promises of a loving Heavenly Father, **Trust** in Jesus as your savior and **Live** as adopted children!

Romans 8:12-17

ORPHANS	CHILDREN
I don't have a daily relationship (intimacy) with God.	I am learning to live in a daily partnership with God.
I'm anxious about friends, money, school, grades, etc.	I don't worry because of God's love for me.
I feel as if no one cares about me.	I am content in my relationships because I am accepted by God.
I have to be successful in everything I do or I'm mad at myself.	I daily trust in God's sovereign plan for my life.
For me, prayer is a last resort.	For me, prayer is a first resort.
I feel guilty and condemned.	I feel forgiven and loved by God because of Jesus.
I'd rather fix my own problems than ask for help.	I recognize my limitations and I'm not ashamed to ask for help.
I'm not very teachable.	I am teachable.
I get defensive when accused of error or weakness.	I am open to criticism b/c I rest on Christ's perfection.
I need to be right. I am strong-willed with ideas, agendas, and opinions.	I don't always have to be right. I'm flexible and open to other people.
I may look it, but on the inside I really lack confidence.	I am willing to takes risks.
I feel discouraged and defeated.	I am encouraged by the Spirit working in me.
I need to look good.	I don't worry about making a name for myself.
If I fail at something I just buckle down and try harder.	I am trusting less in myself and more in the Holy Spirit.
I have a critical spirit. I am often complaining and being bitter.	Prayer is a vital, ongoing part of every single day.
I tear others down and try to impress people.	Jesus is more and more the subject of my conversations.
I am always comparing myself with others.	I am able to freely confess my faults to others.
I feel powerless to defeat the flesh and my sinful nature.	I am experiencing more and more victory over the flesh and sin.
I need to be in control of situations and other people.	I am aware of my inability to fix life, people, and problems.
I look for satisfaction in what I am (athlete, student, friend, etc).	My abilities don't define me.
I look for satisfaction in stuff I own.	I am content with what Christ has provided me. "Nothing I lack."
I am motivated to do good by obligation and duty, not love.	I am motivated to do good out of thankfulness for what God has done.

## **SMALL GROUP #3**

*Living as Adopted Children of God*

### Warm-up

- 1. Imagine that God the Father is thinking about you right now.  
What do you honestly feel he's thinking about you?**  
Disappointed, sad, embarrassed, angry, doesn't really care
- 2. Is your answer the truth? If you are a Christian, what does the Bible say God is thinking about you?**  
Refer to small group #2.
- 3. How does your answer to the first question affect the way you live your daily life in relationship to God?**
- 4. How could believing the answer to the second question radically change your life?**

### Exercise

Christians **are** children of God, forgiven and dearly loved. Nothing can change that truth. But too often they live as though they were orphans, trying to find affirmation and their very worth from their good works, or finding satisfaction from someplace other than their Father. The list on the next page will help you see to what extent that might be happening to you.

#### **1. Place a number next to each statement (Do ORPHAN side first).**

- 1 = This rarely describes me.
- 2 = This describes me occasionally.
- 3 = This is often true of me.

#### **2. Underline words or phrases that most apply to you.**

#### **3. Don't spend a lot of time thinking about each one. Go with your gut feeling and move on to the next one.**

**Discuss** - Do this after everyone has finished numbering their chart.

**Share your top 3 from each column. How can you move from living as a spiritual orphan to living more as a son or daughter?**

## **SMALL GROUP #1**

*So, are you an Orphan or a Child?*

### **1. Share a little bit about yourself and your family. Who are you? Where are you from? What do you love? What do you live for?**

Have everyone share something. Spend some time getting to know each other better.

### **2. Which of the two orphans from the movie do you relate to? Why?**

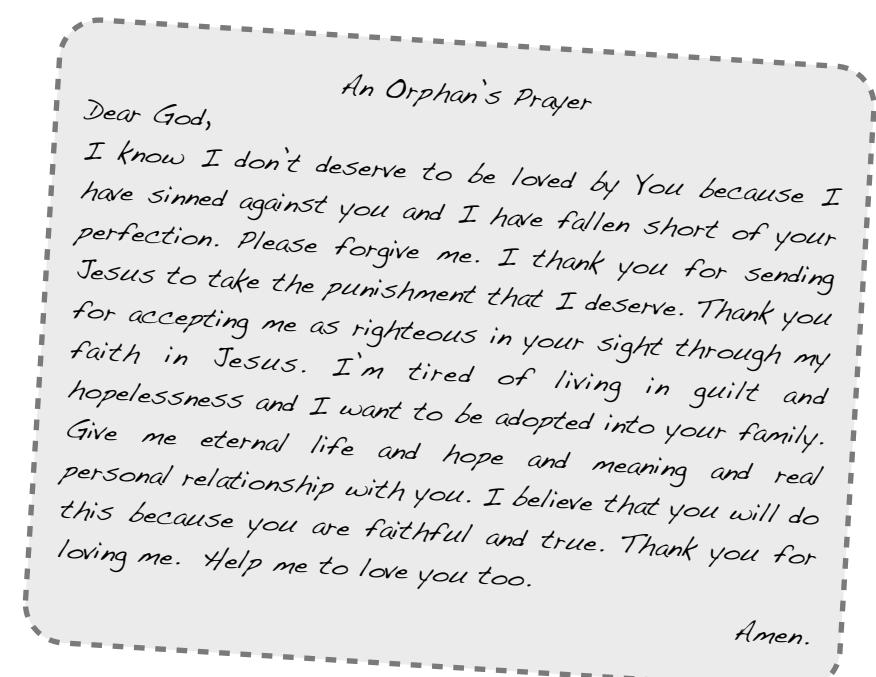
Goob tried to overcome being an orphan by being bad.  
*Some of us try to avoid and ignore God.*

Lewis tried to overcome being an orphan by being good.  
*Some of us try to impress and manipulate God*

### **3. How have you personally responded to the good news that God has made a way for sinners to be forgiven and brought into his family through adoption?**

Refer to the notes from the lesson tonight. Read John 1:12.

### **3. Take a few moments to quietly think and pray individually.**



## **SMALL GROUP #2**

### *What is Spiritual Adoption?*

#### Theology Study

**“What is Adoption?** Adoption is an act of God’s free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God” (Shorter Catechism #34).

Use the catechism above to answer these theology questions.

**1. Is spiritual adoption a process?** No. It is a one-time act. You can’t be any more or less adopted than you already are through faith in Jesus. Christians are legally adopted through justification and after the resurrection of the dead, they will be physically present with God the Father in the new heavens and new earth forever & ever.

**2. What is a Christian’s role in adoption?** Recipient of God’s grace

**3. What is the immediate result of adoption?** Christians are brought into the number of those who are God’s children. They have instant access to God as children and receive all the rights and privileges of the sons of God.

#### Bible Study

##### **READ Deuteronomy 7:6-11**

**1. List the words this passage uses to describe God’s people.**  
holy to the Lord, chosen, treasured possession, loved  
promised, fewest of all people, redeemed, etc.

**2. Why did God choose to adopt Israel?**

because the Lord loved them  
because the Lord is keeping the oath that he swore

##### **3. List the words this passage uses to describe God.**

loving, faithful, steadfast, not slack to repay evil, chooser  
promise-keeper, redeemer, etc.

##### **READ Romans 8:1, 12-17**

###### **1. How does verse 1 connect to verses 12-17?**

Christians have been forgiven of their sins and there is no condemnation for them. So, they owe God their life!

###### **2. List the attitudes and actions that should characterize sons.**

live according to the Spirit  
put to death the deeds of the body  
they do not fear or live enslaved to sin - desires are changed  
they call God their “Abba and Father” - there is intimacy  
hope in the eternal promise of being heirs, willing to suffer

##### **READ Mark 1:9-11 and Galatians 4:4-7**

**1. What does the Father say about Jesus?**  
you are my Son in whom “I am well pleased”

**2. What does the Father say about his adopted children?**  
“you are no longer a slave, but a son”  
“you are redeemed and adopted as my son or daughter”  
“with you I am well pleased!”

###### **3. How can God say that about sinful people?**

God the Father says this of Christians because they have been given the Spirit of his Son into their hearts.

##### **READ Ephesians 1:3-14**

###### **1. List the spiritual blessings Christians receive in Christ as adopted children.**

he didn’t give them *some* spiritual blessings, but “every”  
chosen, holy and blameless before him, predestined  
adopted as sons, redemption, forgiveness  
riches of his grace were lavished on them  
an inheritance, hope in Christ, Holy Spirit  
word of truth, the gospel of salvation, etc.