

the Schedule

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

8:30 breakfast
9:30 worship



**who's your
daddy?**

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

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Romans 8:15

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

Bad News for Spiritual Orphans

TWO realities:

1. We are _____. God is _____ and must _____.

Romans 3:10-12

2. We are born _____, so we are _____ God.

Romans 3:13-19

TWO responses:

1. **Live** by being _____ (like _____)

Romans 3:10-19

2. **Live** by being _____ (like _____)

Romans 3:20

Good News for Spiritual Orphans

ONE reality:

God is _____ and he is _____.

Romans 3:21-24

ONE response:

_____ in the good character and promises of a loving Heavenly Father, _____ in Jesus as your savior and _____ 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 take 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?
2. Is your answer the truth? If you are a Christian, what does the Bible say God is thinking about you?
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 some place 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

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?
2. Which of the two orphans from the movie do you relate to? Why?
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?
3. Take a few moments to quietly think and pray individually.

An Orphan's Prayer

Dear God,
I know I don't deserve to be loved by You because I have sinned against you and I have fallen short of your perfection. Please forgive me. I thank you for sending Jesus to take the punishment that I deserve. Thank you for accepting me as righteous in your sight through my faith in Jesus. I'm tired of living in guilt and hopelessness and I want to be adopted into your family. Give me eternal life and hope and meaning and real personal relationship with you. I believe that you will do this because you are faithful and true. Thank you for loving me. Help me to love you too.

Amen.

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?

2. What is a Christian’s role in adoption?

3. What is the immediate result of adoption?

Bible Study

READ Deuteronomy 7:6-11

1. List the words this passage uses to describe God’s people.

2. Why did God choose to adopt Israel?

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

READ Romans 8:1, 12-17

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

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

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

1. What does the Father say about Jesus?

2. What does the Father say about his adopted children?

3. How can God say that about sinful people?

READ Ephesians 1:3-14

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