

**How to Know That You're a Child of God – September 14 & 15, 2019**  
**Follow-up Bible Studies**

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**Day One: Genesis 3**

- Describe the serpent (1). What did he say to Eve (1)? Satan wants us to second-guess God. When you doubt, ask the Holy Spirit to testify to your heart that you are God's child. May this give way to both freedom and strength. How would this impact your life?
- Summarize the rest of Satan's conversation with Eve (2-5). What did Eve ultimately do in response to the Enemy's scheme (6)? What were some immediate consequences (7-8)?
- Describe Adam and Eve's encounter with the Lord (9-13). This begins the unfortunate human pattern of running from God. When you've sinned or are in crisis, do you run to God in pursuit of restoration? Or do you run away? Speak to the Lord about this.
- What long-term consequences (curses) did the serpent, woman and man suffer (14-19). Describe Adam and Eve's exile from Eden (21-24). In what ways do humans remain cursed and in exile? In what ways are we liberated? How?

**Day Two: Zephaniah 3:14-17**

- Who is told to sing, shout and rejoice (14)? How ought they feel (14)? Why (15)? Do you count yourself among this group? If not, once again ask the Holy Spirit to testify to your heart that you are God's beloved child. Wait in silence for a few minutes, letting verse 15's image of fatherly love and rescue wash over you.
- What will God do "on that day" (16-17)? What do you think "on that day" means? Picture God as a mighty warrior. What would it be like to be like for a mighty warrior to be your father? As a father, what else is God like?
- Meditate on the last line of this passage: he "will rejoice over you with singing." Ask the Holy Spirit to help you hear this music composed for all of his children. What love song is God singing to you? How does it make you feel? Respond to him.

**Day Three: Matthew 5:43-48**

- What does Jesus say people believe about love (43)? How does Jesus raise the bar (44)? Why should we abide by his teaching (45)? How do people know that you are your parents' child? How does loving your enemies indicate that you're a child of God?
- How does Jesus describe God's common grace over all of humanity (45)? What are some other ways he shows love to all people? How do you emulate God in this regard?
- Why is required love *not* exceptional (46-47)? Respond to these arguments. Ask the Holy Spirit for one idea to mirror God's radical love. What can you do for an enemy? What can you pray? What is the first step you will take to walk this out?
- Finally, meditate on verse 48. This command seems impossible, but because the Holy Spirit adopted us into sonship, a door of miraculous possibility *is* open. Open it wider. May your behaviors and viewpoints be just like that of your Father in Heaven.

**Day Four: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

- How does Paul describe his "message of wisdom" (6-7, 13)? What makes heavenly wisdom a "mystery"? How do the "mature" and "rulers of this age" forsake it? Contrast the "rulers'" failure to grasp this wisdom with believers' ability to receive it (8-10, 14). How do you distinguish between your own thoughts and revelation from the Holy Spirit? Pray your ability to discern the two would grow.

- What is the Holy Spirit able to search (10-11)? What does he give to us (12)? How well do you understand what “God has freely given” you? What will help you to better understand it?
- What are we to do with this revelation from the Holy Spirit (15)? In verse 16, how does Paul answer his own question? “The mind of Christ” is a tremendous gift given to us by the Holy Spirit. We can know God’s thoughts and views, and adopt them as our own. What has this produced in your own life? Pray for even more fruit.

**Day Five: Galatians 3:23—4:7**

- Pre-Jesus, what was it like to follow God (3:23-24)? And now (25)? No matter our efforts, without Jesus we are not children of God, but wards of the law. What is this “locked up” life like?
- Describe the method and meaning of becoming a child of God (26-29). What did this message mean to Jewish believers? And what about the less privileged? What does it mean to *you* that “all of you who were baptized into Christ” are God’s heirs?
- Summarize Paul’s further explanation of the way we as sons of God receive our inheritance (4:1-7). What are some examples of “elemental spiritual forces of the world”? Compared to forces in Paul’s day, how might they be different in our culture?
- Meditate on 4:6-7. Note the similarities to Romans 8:14-16. If you struggle to view God as a good father, begin asking the Holy Spirit to pray words you cannot. He can implant truth in your heart; miraculously, you *can* know that you are God’s child.