

La Familia de Dios

2 - Becoming part of the family--Part 2

Open by asking: *"How is everyone doing?"*

Introduction: *"We're taking a look at what life is like in la Familia de Dios. Families are all about relationships, so each week we're taking a look at different passages from the Bible that talk about how we relate to God and to each other. Our own families shape how we relate to God--good, bad, or ugly--and it's easy to assume that a relationship with God is just like our relationships with others in our lives. God calls us family. The purpose of our discussion is to find out what God himself says about His family and how it can be similar and different from what we experience in our earthly families."*

Recap: *Last week we said that one way a person joins a family is by birth. Once a person is born he/she is fully a part of that family and can't be unborn. They are forever a part of the familia by blood. In the same way, a person becomes a part of the family of God by being born spiritually. A person is born spiritually when he/she makes the decision to receive Christ. At that moment they are born again; not physically but spiritually. Eternal life begins at that moment and never ends. That person is in La Familia de Dios forever!*

Transition: *Another way that a person joins their forever family is through adoption, and that is our focus for this week.*

- *There are approximately 150,000 orphans in the world today.*
What might be the condition of an orphan physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually?

- *God sees those who are outside La Familia De Dios as spiritual orphans. Why do you think that is? (Note: Compare someone who is spiritually orphaned to a person who is physically orphaned.)*

Transition to the Scriptures:

Read Romans 8:1-17. *After you read it, share these notes with the group: This is a part of a letter that St. Paul wrote to early Christians. He wanted them to know that when they gave their lives to Jesus, they became part of a family. They were adopted by God the Father into the family of God.*

Questions for discussion:

- *What are some blessings that come with being adopted by an earthly family? How might being adopted effect a person's heart, behavior, identity?*
- *Can you think of some similarities between being adopted into an earthly family and being adopted into The Family of God? (Take a look again at Romans 8, paying particular attention to verses 15-17)*

When you are adopted, you get a new name and a new identity! You are in a forever family having the same rights, privileges and inheritance as if you were physically born in to that family. When you become a member of God's family, no matter who you are or what you've done, legally it is a done deal!

Read Ephesians 1:3-10.

Questions for discussion:

- *What are some truths about our adoption that you found in this passage?*

- When a child is physically born in to a family it is a very special occasion. When a child is adopted in to a family it is an equally special occasion because that child was **chosen** to be a part of that family. The Bible tells us that God **chose us** before the foundation of the world to be part of the family of God!
- What comes to mind when you think about the idea of being chosen by God to become part of His family?

Apply it to Life:

- How are you currently experiencing the privileges of being adopted in to God's family?
- In what ways might you be struggling to experience the privileges of being adopted by God the Father right now?
- When we tell others about how to have a relationship with God through Jesus, it is the adoption process in action. Who do you know that might be spiritually orphaned and need to hear about how to become a part of the family of God?

Pray Together: “Let’s wrap up our time by praying for each other and asking God to help us experience these truths more this week. Let's also pray for friends and family to become a part of the family of God”