

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of May 27, 2018

Romans 8:12-17

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Common English Bible (CEB)

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn't an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. ¹³ If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. ¹⁵ You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. ¹⁷ But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God's heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him.

Connection Questions:

1. Have you ever been "adopted" in some way? By whom were you adopted? What changed for you because of that new belonging?

2. What has it meant for you to be adopted into God's family? Read Romans 8:12-15. What have you left behind as you are adopted into God's family? What have taken up as part of your family identity?

3. How does having belonging with God affect how you relate with others?

4. Sometimes families will fight over an inheritance. What is the inheritance in God's family? Does it make sense to fight over it? What does honoring God's inheritance teach us about our handling of earthly inheritances?

5. If God is a big business owner with a focus on local storefronts in every place, what is the family business? What is your job in it?