



Adopted - I am Intentional
October 14/15
Ephesians 6:1-4, 18-24

This week we wrap up this series through the letter Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus. Throughout this letter, Paul has focused on our identity as followers of Jesus. He has reminded us of God’s amazing love for us and the fact that he has chosen us to be adopted into his family as sons and daughters. This reality influences every area of our lives. Perhaps the place where it makes the most difference is in our closest family relationships.

Sermon Notes:

Welcome

- Introduce anyone new to the group.
- Icebreaker: What’s one thing you are celebrating from this past week? And what is one thing that is causing concern or stress?

Opening Prayer (Don’t Skip This!)

Ask God to prepare your hearts for what he wants to teach you. Pray that each person would believe that God wants to speak to him or her over the coming hour. Pray that all will listen to God.

Vision

This weekend, we talked about the tremendous need for fostering families in our part of the state. Take some time to talk about what your group might do to help alleviate this need. Perhaps God is tapping a family on the shoulder to become a foster home. Perhaps your group can connect with Borrowed Hearts - borrowedheartsfoundation.org - a local ministry that provides basic clothing, hygiene, and other resources to foster families. Look at the “needs” page on their website. Perhaps your group could “adopt” one of the nearly 20 foster families at Crossroads, by providing encouragement and practical support.

Look Back

- How have you seen God at work around you over the past week?
- Did you obey anything from the passage discussed the last time your group met?
- Did you share last week’s Bible passage with anyone? How did it go?



Look Up

- As Paul brings his letter to an end, he focuses primarily on family relationships. At the end of chapter, five, he talks about how husbands and wives should relate to one another. They are to submit to one another as together, they submit to Christ. They are to show respect and love sacrificially. At the beginning of chapter six, he shines the light on the relationship between parents and their children. For our discussion, we've added in the closing words of the letter.
- Read through our passage, Ephesians 6:1-4 and 18-24 two times as a group.

Did anything in this passage capture your attention? What do you find challenging or difficult to understand?

- This weekend, Rick Kyle said that our families are mirrors of our relationship with God. How is that expressed in this passage?
- Scripture is simple, but life is complicated. What are some situations that can make it challenging for people to honor their father and mother? What makes it challenging to raise them up with the training and instruction of the Lord?
- How can parents help their children to show honor? And what does it look like to honor parents as a child moves into adulthood?

What does this passage say about God? What does it say about us?

- How does Paul bring God – Father, Son and Spirit – into the closing words of this letter?
- Paul seemed to recognize that he could do nothing without God's help – especially given his situation (a prisoner). Do you easily ask others to pray for you? What keeps us from offering the kind of prayer Paul describes...and what keeps us from asking for it?

Look Ahead

- Take a few minutes for silent prayer as you begin to Look Ahead.
- What is one way you can obey this passage?
- If your parents are living, what is one thing you can do to honor them this week?
- Who can you pray for to have the opportunity to share this passage over the coming week? What's one specific thing you can do to facilitate this conversation?