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PRAYER

Father, we thank you so much for your son, Jesus, who through the fathomless price he paid, brings us into a place of adoption by you as your sons and daughters. We were bought by the blood of Jesus Christ, as we bear your name as Christians. Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Fictional or real, if you could visit the home of any family, who would that family be, and why?

NOTES

WORD

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

[Ephesians 1:3-14](#)

¹⁵ 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](#)

In ancient Rome, adoption had a powerful meaning. When a child was born biologically, the parents had the option of disowning the child for a variety of reasons. The relationship, therefore, was not necessarily desired by the parent, nor permanent.

Not so, however, if a child was adopted. In Rome, adopting a child meant:

- 1) That child was freely chosen and desired by the parents.
- 2) That child would be a permanent part of the family; parents couldn't disown a child they adopted.

An adopted child received a new identity. Any prior commitments, responsibilities and debts were erased. New rights and responsibilities were taken on. Also, in ancient Rome, the concept of inheritance was part of life, not something that began at death. Being adopted made someone an heir to their father, joint-sharers in all his possessions and fully united to him (Ellen Mady, [aletheia.org](#)).

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale of 1-10, (1 = lowest, 10 = highest), rate your confidence in knowing that you are a child of God. Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. How does your view of adoption differ from the view from the Roman concept of adoption of which Paul writes in the previous passages?
3. How do you think your view of adoption dictates the way you view God's adoption of you? Has the view of your adoption into God's family through Jesus changed, after knowing a better background of the Roman concepts of adoption?
4. Do you see God as your Father? If you do, what does that relationship look like in your everyday life? If not, would you like to? Why?

PRAYER LIST