

MESSAGE GUIDE

COMMUNION SUNDAY



September 9, 2018

CONNECT

- What experience have you had with adoption? Do you know someone who was adopted? Were you adopted? Did you adopt someone? Have you ever adopted a pet?

STUDY

This week for our time of communion, we focused on the concept of spiritual adoption. When a person places their faith in Christ, they are fully adopted into God's family. And being adopted by God comes with family privileges. Look at the following Bible verses and learn more about what it means to be spiritually adopted.

- According to Ephesians 1:4-5, when was our adoption by God planned out and put into motion?
- According to 1 John 3:1, what was the motivation behind God's decision to adopt us?
- How does Romans 5:1-5 describe some of the benefits we gain when we are adopted into God's family?
- Romans 8:14-17 is full of all sorts of thoughts relating to our spiritual adoption. What can you find in these verses?

- How does Hebrews 12:5-6 (in a sometimes uncomfortable way) remind us that we are truly adopted by God?

APPLY

- If a person truly grasps the truth regarding spiritual adoption, how might that impact how they think? Or, how they live?
- Take time each day to remind yourself of your true identity: you are a beloved child of God because he has chosen to love you. You may want to write it in your journal or put it on a note card where you can see it.
- Talk to God as a little child might talk to a parent who is loved and trusted. There's no need to filter what you say or figure out the best approach. Just be yourself and tell him everything, even if it seems insignificant. He delights in hearing from you.
- As you see yourself as a child of God, begin to see others in your church family as children of God, too. Treat them as fellow family members, and extend God's love.