

¹ Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had. ² They have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set. ³ And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world.

⁴ But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. ⁶ And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

— *Galatians 4:1-7*

Discussion/Journal Questions

As you begin your time together, share a found memory you have of someone you consider a father or mother figure in your life.

Have two or three people read Galatians 4:1-7 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

In this passage, Paul uses the illustration of child to explain our relationship with God. What does he mean in verse 3 that before Christ came, we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world?

Meditate on verse 5 for a moment. How are freedom and adoption connected here?

What does it mean for a child to call out for his or her father? When do children call out for their parents? How do good parents respond?

Can you share a story of a time you have called out to God and He responded?

In general, what does it mean to be an heir to someone? What does it mean to be an heir of God?

Who do you know that needs to hear this message of freedom? What will you do to share it with them this week?

How can your group pray for you for the week ahead?