

# ANCHORS 1<sup>1</sup>

## *Sons & Daughters*

When we talk about living an anchored life, it's important that we begin with the foundation of the gospel, grace. As the famous hymn goes, "grace has brought us safe thus far and grace will lead us home." As we talk about living lives of real devotional life, in real community with real responsibility, it's crucial to know that it's all by grace. That is the gospel message. We have been saved from our sins, rescued from the dominion of darkness, transformed from old to new, not because of anything we have done but because of faith in Jesus Christ and His resurrection. Our identity as children of God is secure, because we are His children. We can rest in the saving power of the gospel of grace!

### *Romans 8:14-17, NIV*

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

### *Galatians 4:4-7, NIV*

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.<sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir."

### *Luke 15:11-24, NIV*

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'

### *Pre-Article Questions:*

1. If you were able to attend our large group worship service this week/past week, how did God speak to you through the worship or the message?
2. Does anyone know of or have a story about adoption that has really encouraged you? How so?
3. When you think about the word "grace" or "gospel" what comes to mind?

*Luke 15:11-24, NIV continued*

So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

*Study Questions:*

1. In what ways do the scriptures from Romans and Galatians speak to you about the role of the God's Spirit in the life of a Christian? Are there any other scriptures that come to mind when you think about the Holy Spirit's role in our lives as God's children?
2. According to these scriptures, what does it mean to be a child of God?
3. How is being a child of God different from being a servant/slave to God?
4. Read Ephesians 2:8, Acts 15:11, and 2 Timothy 1:9, how are we saved? In what ways have you come to understand and appreciate God's saving grace more over the years?
5. Read Luke 15:11-24, from this passage, which son can you relate with more and why?
6. In what ways do the words and actions of the father in this passage impact you?
7. How will growing more in your faith and understanding that you ARE a Child of God change your mindset about God/Christianity, schedule, and priorities this semester?

*Prayer Partner Assignment:*

Practice silence. Take some time this week to just be. Silent. Maybe only a minute or two, but just sit in silence as a child of God who doesn't have to earn anything, who doesn't have to have a to-do list, but can just sit in silence with his/her Father. Meet with your Partner from Life Group and talk about how it went and what God showed you. Spend some time re-reading Luke 15:11-24. Talk about what God encouraged you with or challenged you with from another read of this amazing passage.

*Closing*

Take some time as a Life Group to pray over one another and invite those who want to invite Christ into their lives, join the family of God, and be a son/daughter of God tonight to pray with you.