

Small Group Discussion Questions

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church ♦ September 11-17, 2022

Ephesians 1:5+6

1. The pastor gave examples of how some are tempted to find some measure of belonging or popularity through social media. Even if you have never paid money for “likes”, “followers”, or a “Famous for a Day” experience, what other options can we be tempted to use to gain a sense of connectedness or belonging?

2. Almost all of us have abandonment issues: in our past a significant relationship let us down, or they were not there when we needed them, or we were rejected in some way. What kind of wounds can come from those experiences? How can those wounds impact our perspective on God as your loving “heavenly Father”?

3. The word “adopted” that Paul uses in Eph.1:5 implies a choice, benefits given, and a complete release from the past.

Choice: if God graciously adopted me out of love, and not based on any merit of my own, how does that change my relationship with Him?

Benefits: the adopted child immediately begins to enjoy the riches of the father. What riches of your heavenly Father are you most thankful for, and which ones are hard to believe are really yours?

Release: How can you tell if you spend more time focusing on your Adamic nature, or on your new nature in Christ? If 2 Cor.5:17 is true (and it is!) then in what areas of your life is Satan lying to you that you have not changed and will never change?

4. Have someone reread the story Jesus told in Luke 15:11-32. Like the youngest son, when we wander away, we are rejecting the Father-son relationship.

- Have you had a season of wandering which you feel free to describe to your group?
- Did a “pig pen” experience bring you to your senses?
- How deep was your wondering if your heavenly Father would accept you back?

5. Have someone reread the story Jesus lived in Luke 22:39-43.

- How is life being brutal on some level to you right now?
- Why is it hard for us to say, “Not my will, but Yours be done.”?
- When the pain doesn’t go away, why do we doubt God is being good? How can the reality of our adoption in Christ change our perspective? How does Romans 8:31-39 help?