

Children

I read an article years ago in which a mother described a conversation with her son. She had been staring at him and said, “You are looking more like your father every day.” “C’mon Mom,” he replied, “I’m adopted.” The mother paused for a moment before saying, “Yes, but I keep forgetting.”

That’s how God sees us. We are adopted into his family, to be treated as if we had the same righteousness as his Son Jesus. This week we will explore how that relationship began and where it is going.

Monday – The Start of Something Big

“Not called! did you say? ‘Not heard the call,’ I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear him bid you go...” William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army

1. Please read Genesis 12:1-7 and 15:1-21. How does the second passage complement/fulfill the first?
2. In light of what we know about Abram (later called Abraham) from Genesis 12:4, why do you think he asked the question recorded in 15:2-3? What do you think was going through Abraham’s mind?
3. In 15:1, God calls Abram by name. Why is this significant?

Making it Personal: How would you respond if God called you by name and gave you the same assurances he gave Abram in Genesis 15:1? (The good news is that God does know us by name and as we allow him to, he will relate to us at a very personal level.)

Tuesday – Our Heritage

her-it-age [*her-i-tij*] –*noun*; something that is passed down from preceding generations. [American Heritage Dictionary](#)

1. Please read Galatians 3:6-7. How does it relate to Genesis 15:6? What did Abraham believe? How did he act upon his belief?

Text Insight: Abraham is credited with righteousness due to his faith in God, not by any works he performed.

2. According to Galatians 3:6-7, how can we share in God’s promises to Abraham? What would this mean in the life of a believer?
3. Now look at Galatians 3:26-29. Why are we able to inherit the promise God made to Abraham?

Making it Personal: Do you understand that faith in God is all that is required for you to be right with him for eternity? Pray, asking God to place this truth solidly in your mind and heart, so that you may rest in him forever.

Wednesday – Place, People, Presence

“Wherever we see the Word of God purely preached and heard, there a church of God exists, even if it swarms with many faults.” John Calvin, 16th c. French theologian

1. Please read Acts 13:44-49 and compare verse 47 with the promise God gave to Abraham in Gen. 12:1-3.
2. Now look at Acts 3:11-16, 24-26. Who were the first to receive the blessing of God’s promise to Abraham? The people hearing this were very familiar with the covenant that God made to Abraham. How do you think they responded to the news that they were integral to the fulfillment of that promise?
3. In Genesis 15:1, God called Abraham by name. What does he promise all his people in Revelation 21:1-4?

Prayer Focus: Pray that God’s people, the Church, will act and speak in such a way as to show others the ultimate blessing that comes from belonging to him.

Thursday – Problem/Solution

“In many ways Rome was great, but it had no real answers to the basic problems that all humanity faces.” Francis Schaeffer, 20th c. American theologian

1. Please read Genesis 3:1-24. How do God’s pronouncements square with your experience in this world?

Text Insight: Genesis 3 records the first time any man or woman ever disobeyed God, the first sin.

2. Now look at Revelation 22:1-6. How does this passage (particularly verse 3) address Genesis 3?
3. According to Genesis 3:22, why were Adam and Eve sent away from the garden containing the tree of life? What role do you find for that tree in Revelation 22:2? What do you think is the nature of the healing mentioned in Rev. 22?

Making it Personal: Do you feel that your life is more like Genesis 3 or Revelation 22? Pray, asking God to lead you into the peace he offers you as you walk with him in this life.

Friday – Our Faithful God and Patient Father

“It is always a mark of short-sightedness and weakness to be impatient of results.”

Samuel Smiles, 19th c. Scottish journalist and reformer

1. Please read Jeremiah 29:10-14, in which God spoke to his people who had been taken away from Jerusalem by a foreign army. How long were they told to wait God before God delivered them from captivity? What do you think that meant for anyone over the age of 20? How would that make you feel?
2. Now take a look at 2 Peter 3:1-9. How does this help you understand God’s timeline in bringing about his promises? How should this affect your day-to-day living?

Digging Deeper: Read Jeremiah 29:1-32. What does God say to those who belong to him? What about those who refuse to follow him? How does this passage show you both God’s justice and his mercy?

For the Weekend: Re-read Galatians 3:6-7, 26-29. Consider how you can be a part of delivering God’s promise to those around you so that they too may be part of God’s heritage.