

Chapter 3: Questions for Group Discussion

Opening Question: As you consider books you've read or TV shows you've watched, who's an example to you of an ideal father figure? What characteristics stand out to you?

- 1) How have you seen your relationship with your earthly father affect your understanding of you heavenly Father?
- 2) In what ways does someone live differently when she knows she is fully accepted and loved, not because of her efforts, but because she is someone's child?
- 3) **READ Romans 8:14-17.**
 - a. How does a slave live differently than a son?
 - b. How does this passage describe our relationship with God? How does believing this truth affect the way we live?
 - c. What does it mean to be a fellow heir with Christ?
 - d. As you consider you relationship with God, is it one of fear (like a slave) or one of family love and loyalty (like a son)? What would it look live to live as a beloved child of God?
- 4) **Read 1 John 3:1-10**
 - a. How does being a child of God affect our relationship with the world?
 - b. What is the relationship between obedience and being a child of God? Does our obedience transform us into a child of God, or does being a child of God transform us for obedience? How does the difference between those two, affect how we live?
 - c. What does the passage tell us about those who make a practice of sinning? What is the difference between "continuing in a sin" and fighting against sin? Does this mean Christians never sin?
 - d. How can we recognize children of God?
- 5) Which lie from the Devil are you most tempted to believe: that you're a slave, an orphan, or an illegitimate child? How do each of these lies affect the way we live?
- 6) Consider Courtney's adoption story (or perhaps the adoption story of someone you know). How does adoption communicate and imitate the love of the Father for each of us?
- 7) When we believe we are truly of God, it transforms us in three ways: we delight to spend time with the Father, we want to imitate the Father, and we rest securely in the Father. Which of these do you struggle to do the most? Which one is most enjoyable for you? Why?
- 8) When someone knows she's loved, it affects every other part of her life. How does knowing the Father loves you allow you to love others in a Christ-like and sacrificial way?