



the **MOMENT** **GOD** changes EVERYTHING

Joseph Called To Adopt Jesus

MAIN THING

Adoption is the Clearest Picture of the Gospel We Will Ever See

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-22, Romans 8:14-17

ICEBREAKER

Has adoption affected your life in any way? If so, how? If not, why?

OPENING THOUGHT

Adoption is the clearest picture of the gospel we see. God takes us as spiritual orphans, helpless and on our own, and brings us into His house. He adopts us, gives us His name, gives us His inheritance, disciplines us and loves us as sons and daughters. That's the gospel illustrated right there. The fact that Jesus Himself was an orphan that was adopted by a man not His father is still amazing to me to this day. The Adoptee became the ultimate Adopter. We have the chance to live out this gospel every single day as we encourage adoption, foster care, mentoring, and sponsorship in the people in our church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. Read Matthew 1:18-22. Why is this important for us to know? What if Joseph had said no to the angel? What does this say about the integrity of Joseph? Knowing that Joseph wasn't His true father, how would this have impacted a young Jesus? Would being chosen by Joseph be a big deal to Him? How do most orphans feel upon adoption?
3. In Romans 8:14-17, we see this picture of adoption in relation to us. How does adoption relate directly to us when we follow after Christ? Why does Paul use this illustration to explain it? Knowing that adoption is such a huge deal for an orphan, should this cause us to rejoice even more when someone comes to Christ? Should we be that much more thankful that we did?

LIFE APPLICATION

There are multiple ways to be involved in orphan care: Adoption, Fostering, Mentoring, and Financial Support. How are you involved? We are called by God to take care of orphans. This isn't an option. Are you taking care of spiritual orphans? Are people coming to a saving relationship with Christ, because of your influence? If you're answering no to all of these, it's inventory time. How can you begin the journey of orphan care? How can you follow through with one of the most important things we can do as believers?

CHALLENGE

Is there a way for your group to leave an impact in this realm? Is there a foster or adopted family that you can help? Is there an agency that could use your assistance? How can you, as a group, really make a dent in orphan care? Take some time to talk through that and come up with a plan. Let's be the church in one of its most basic, yet most important, ways.