



Grace Group Guide



United Purpose: Together we will designate time and place to deepening our desire for God, caring for and urging each other to action!

United Actions: WL Groups...

- Scripture:** Be in the Word together
- Encouragement:** One another each other
- Prayer:** With and for each other and the lost
- Accountability:** Now What? Put it into action!



ICEBREAKER:

If you were asked to describe what Jesus has done for you, what would you say? What words come to your mind?

- Possible Answers:
 - Salvation (Rescue)
 - Redemption (Paid the debt we owe)
 - Reconciliation (Restored to Relationship)
 - Transformation (A changed life)

Transition: Here's an important one we often forget... **adoption.** *(If someone says this, good for them!)* We have been adopted into a new family. God's family. We're continuing our series on "The Glory of the Church," and this week, our focus is on the church as **the family of God.** Today, we're going to consider what it means that we are part of God's family.

-DISCUSSION-

Read Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 3:26-4:7, Ephesians 2:17-20

- Make a list of some common themes or ideas that you noticed were repeated in these three passages. *Try to answer these questions: What make us children of God? What is involved in being a child of God?*
 - Possible Answers:
 - Connection between being a child and receiving the Holy Spirit
 - Connection between being children and being heirs of an inheritance (more specifically, being co-heirs with Christ)
 - Connection between being a child and being united with Christ (symbolized in baptism)
 - Connection between adoption into the family and freedom from slavery
 - Adoption into the family means we are part of a larger "household"

As a group, try to summarize what these passages teach in just one or two sentences.

-REFLECTION-

- Are you living like you are part of the family of God? Why or why not?
 - Do you view God as your Father? Are you living in a way that honors Him?
 - Do you recognize that you are part of a larger family? Do you love others in the church like you would a family member?
 - For more insight into what this looks like, **read 1 Timothy 5:1-2 and Titus 2:1-8.**
- What would it look like if...
 - Everyone in the global church embraced this truth?

- Everyone at WL Grace embraced this truth?
 - If **you** embraced this truth?
- What do you think hinders the church (or you personally) from living this out?

-APPLICATION-

- Take time this week to thank God for welcoming you into His family, for making you a co-heir with Christ, and for giving you his Holy Spirit. Pray and ask Him, by His Spirit, to give you a greater love for the church and for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Think of something practical you could do this week to show love to a fellow brother or sister in Christ. If you didn't earlier, consider reading 1 Timothy 5:1-2 and Titus 2:1-8 for ideas of what this looks like in practice.

-PRAY-

- Thank God for welcoming you into His family.
- Ask God, by His Spirit, to give you a greater love for Him as your Father and a greater love for the church as your spiritual family.