

## Cell Outlines

Week beginning: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2005

### Theme: Foundations of Christian Living - Adoption as Sons

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**Introduction:** Please see the NMC update sheet, which sets this series in context and how it forms part of our continuing teaching on the discipleship theme (If anyone needs extra copies of the update sheet let me know or visit [www.revmark.tk](http://www.revmark.tk))

**Welcome:** Welcome back those who were in cells previously and welcome any new members! Re-introduce yourselves and tell the group 2 things about yourself!

**Worship Suggestion:** Perhaps you could focus your worship on how we are accepted into the family of God through Jesus? You might also like to spend time thanking God for the good things He has been doing amongst us using the update sheet to help focus your thoughts. [If you have musicians you can sing or listen/ sing along with a worship CD or do something even more creative!]

**Word/ Teaching Slot** *(Please note: When we talk about sons it is not being sexist! As the children of God (whether male or female) we have the full rights as 'sons' in relationship with our Heavenly Father. Our gender is not the real issue, but rather our spiritual standing before Him.)*

**Key Scriptures:** Romans 8:15-18; Romans 8:23-25; Galatians 4:5-7 (see also Jn.15:14-15); Ephesians 1:4-5

#### What is Adoption?

- Adoption is a family idea presented in terms of love, with God as Father.
- Our sin has separated us from our true Father in heaven, but God, in His mercy and grace, has welcomed us home into His family, a place we did not deserve and that was not ours according to our human nature (1 John 3:1).
- This is the heart of discipleship, because it reminds us that we do not follow out of compulsion, but out of love.
- This sense of belonging to God's family, and the great privilege we have in being united with Christ Jesus, is the motivating force in our life of holiness.
- It is not law, but love that drives us forward in our life for Christ.
- There is a law in Christian experience, but it is no longer the letter of the law that kills, but of the Spirit which brings life and power.

#### Questions and discussion Points

1. Why did God the Father choose you? Discuss.
2. What should be our reaction in response to God choosing us to be His sons?
3. If our adoption is not a chance thing, why do you think God has placed you where you are and what can you do for Him there?
4. Discuss the similarities and differences between natural adoption into a family and adoption into the family of God.
5. Does God know all that we are going to go through in our lives, where we are heading and what our purpose is in Christ? What should our response be and can we trust God in this?
6. How can we be sure we are God's sons and therefore belong to God's family?
7. What should be the main aim of our discipleship as a son of God?
8. What practical things can we do to put the truth of our adoption as a son of God into effect in our daily lives?

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#### Witness

Belonging is a vitally important ingredient in the church. Many within our nation have lost a sense of belonging and identity. They don't know who they are or to whom/ what they belong. How might we continue to seek to redress this imbalance within our church family? Do you have a sense of belonging to the family of God? How do you communicate that to those who don't? (Discuss and pray for opportunities to draw in those who are currently lost).