



Until Christ is Formed in You

Week 6

Alpha Prayer Points

- Praise God for people who come to the movie/taco groups who are taking the next steps to try out Post-Alpha and/or Worship community on Sunday. Continued prayers for more folks to take the next steps towards experiencing the love of Jesus.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those who came to Spring 2023 Alpha and who are meeting now in twice-monthly post-Alpha groups. Pray that as they learn and experience Spiritual Practices, they would feel drawn to the love of Jesus.
- Fall 2023 Alpha starts October 26th at 8am. Pray that Presbyterian School parents come, and for momentum for others to join. Pray also for God to raise up leaders and for smooth logistics.

How Did it Go?

10 Minutes

Provide support, encouragement, and accountability to one another for putting the word of God into practice. Together, find ways to live out the Scripture.

- What stuck with you from last week's study, and how were you able to put that into practice in your life? For example, how did you use RightNow Media to explore Galatians in more depth?
- What steps are you taking to get to know your neighbors better? What will you do this week?
- Did anything get in the way between you and living out the word of God that you studied last week? If so, what? How can you intentionally plan to counteract that this week?

Read Aloud

Passage for this week: **GALATIANS 4:1-20**.

Head

15-20 Minutes

Observe the text and the author's main points.

1. Paul states that believers have received adoption as God's children. Under Roman law an adopted child or adult had full inheritance rights. How does this help us understand why God used the concept of adoption in v. 5?
2. What event in Paul's life caused him or enabled him to preach the gospel to the Galatians (v. 13-15)?
3. In what ways did Paul want the Galatians to become like him? Is there a place in our faith to imitate Christians we know? Who or what is being formed in us right now?
4. What kind of mood was Paul in when he wrote this passage (v.20). Why?

Heart

15-20 Minutes

Envision how the text - when applied - might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

1. Abba is the Arabic affectionate word for Father. What difference does it make to you that you can approach God as a beloved son or daughter approaches a loving Father?
2. Why might God allow difficulties and challenges in your life? How can you thank God the next time difficulties/challenges come to you? Even for the difficulties themselves?
3. What are some of the blessings to you of Christ being "formed in you?" What are some of the blessings to you of being an heir of God?

Hands

10 Minutes

Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for ways to live the text out in our lives. These are specific, concrete examples but they are not the only way - they are idea-starters for how to put the word of God into practice.

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- How might God feel or what might He think when we try to approach Him on the basis of rules we have kept as slaves, rather than with the loving confidence of daughters and sons? Talk with God about this.

- Thank God for the people He has brought and will continue to bring into your life that show you authentically the way of Jesus. Ask Him to make you a person that others wish to imitate.

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- You are your “brother’s keeper.” Who can you help grow spiritually by mentoring, encouraging, or investing? Ask God to guide you to people to love as Christ loved you.
- When have you felt ambivalent about being inclusive of others who are different from you? How did you respond to those feelings?
- Sunday, October 22 is Presbyterian School Sunday. Pray that it will be a positive experience for Presbyterian School parents, children, and staff who visit that day, and that those who are seeking a church home would return to FPC. On Presbyterian School Sunday, be intentional about looking for visitors (parents, children, staff from the school) and making them feel welcome while at FPC.

Reaching Beyond

- Learn about local mission partner Agape Development and meet other FPC covenant partners and friends by joining the Field Trip on Thursday, October 26 from 12-1 pm. Agape works to transform their neighborhood by growing Christ-following, independent community leaders. For more information or to RSVP, email mweir@fpchouston.org.
- Christ's yoke is light. Have you been thinking about a service opportunity, but not yet decided? What step can you take this week to help you to decide—and commit? For upcoming outreach opportunities to serve at FPC, go to <https://fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities>.