



Adopted

Taking Your Place in the Family of God

Small Group Discussion Guide

Ten sessions for small groups, connect groups and leadership teams

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How to use this guide

This guide turns Adopted into a ten week journey for your small group, connect group or leadership team: an opening orientation, eight sessions covering the first eight chapters, and a final session bringing Chapters 9 and 10 together. Sixty to seventy five minutes is plenty. Read the week's chapter before you gather, chase honesty over coverage, and let the quietest voice speak first.

Two threads run the whole term. First, Sessions 1 to 9 each end by building one personal faith confession from that week's Scripture; use the pattern at the back of this guide, first person, present tense, reference attached, and by week ten each member will own a set of their own. In Session 10 the group shares the full set instead of building a new one. Second, close every session with the closing prayer printed at the end of that session, prayed aloud together. These are the prayers that close each chapter of the book.

EVERY SESSION RUNS THE SAME WAY

- Open: a light question that gets everyone talking in the first five minutes.
- Read together: the week's Scripture, read aloud, NKJV.
- Discuss: five questions. You will not get through all five in every group. Pick the two that matter most to your people and let them run.
- Build your confession: ten minutes at the end, in silence, then shared.
- Live it: one thing to do before you meet again.
- Close: the chapter's closing prayer, together, out loud.

FOR LEADERS

- You do not need to be the expert. You need to have read the chapter and to be honest first.
- Ask the question, then wait. Count to ten in your head before you fill the silence.
- When someone names a person in their world who is outside the family (Sessions 2 and 10), write the name down and pray for them as a group every week after.
- Finances (Session 8) is the week people go quiet. Go first with something true about your own money story.
- Keep a running list of the confessions your group builds. Print it for them in week ten.

SERIES ALIGNMENT

The sessions line up one to one with the ten week Adopted sermon series and the Room for One More kids curriculum, so a whole church can walk through the book together in one term. Session 1 pairs with the launch Sunday; Session 10 pairs with the commissioning Sunday.

SESSION 1

Welcome to the Family

| *You did not sneak into the family of God. You were adopted into it.*

BEFORE YOU GATHER

Nothing to read this week; this session comes before the book. When you gather, read the back cover and Why I Wrote This aloud together.

OPEN

Introduce yourself and share one thing, funny or formative, about the family you grew up in.

READ TOGETHER

Ephesians 1:4 to 6.

DISCUSS

1. When you hear the word adopted, what comes to mind first? Why do you think Paul chose that word for what God has done for us?
2. What do the words chose, predestined and accepted in Ephesians 1 tell you about how you arrived in God's family?
3. Plenty of believers can tell you what they were saved from. Far fewer can tell you what they were saved into. Which are you more fluent in?
4. Where in your walk with God do you still behave like a servant in the house rather than a son or daughter at the table?
5. What do you want God to change in you across these ten weeks? Say it aloud so the group can pray you into it.

BUILD YOUR CONFESSION

Turn to the Faith Confessions pattern at the back of this guide and read it aloud together. Then each person frames one confession of their own from Ephesians 1:5, first person, present tense, reference attached. Write it down; you will build one every week.

LIVE IT

Read Chapter 1 before next session. Say your confession aloud every morning. It will feel strange by Wednesday and true by Sunday.

CLOSE BY PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9 to 13, NKJV)

SESSION 2

Born Into a Family

| *Salvation is not a transaction. It is a welcome home.*

BEFORE YOU GATHER

Read Chapter 1.

OPEN

Share a memory of a time you were welcomed home. What made it home?

READ TOGETHER

John 1:12 and 13; Romans 8:14 to 17.

DISCUSS

1. What is the difference between believing in Jesus and receiving Him, and what does John say we are given the right to become?
2. Romans 8:15 says we cry out Abba, Father. How comfortable are you with that level of intimacy with God? What makes it hard?
3. What are the habits of orphan thinking, the ways people who belong still live as if they do not? Which one do you recognise in yourself?
4. How would this week look different if you woke certain you were a loved child rather than a worker on probation?
5. Who in your world is still outside the family? Say their name to the group.

BUILD YOUR CONFESSION

Build this week's confession from Romans 8:15.

LIVE IT

This week, tell one person the story of how the Father welcomed you home, in under three minutes and completely honestly.

CLOSING PRAYER (FROM CHAPTER 1)

Father, thank You that I did not join a religion. I was born into a family. I receive Your Son and I believe in His name. I take You at Your word that I am Your child. Teach me to live from acceptance rather than for it. I am not a visitor in Your house. I am home. Amen.

SESSION 3

The Kingdom Your Father Runs

| *Every family runs on the father's values. So does the Kingdom.*

BEFORE YOU GATHER

Read Chapter 2.

OPEN

What was one unwritten rule in your childhood home that everybody just knew?

READ TOGETHER

Matthew 6:9 to 13; Matthew 6:33.

DISCUSS

1. Pray the Lord's Prayer aloud together, slowly. Which line caught you, and why?
2. What does "hallowed be Your name" look like in your workplace, your street, your home?
3. Where specifically are you praying "Your kingdom come, Your will be done" right now? Be concrete.
4. What would seeking first the Kingdom actually change in your diary and your bank statement this month?
5. Where do you pray like a stranger negotiating with an official rather than a child talking to the Father who runs the house?

BUILD YOUR CONFESSION

Build from Matthew 6:33.

LIVE IT

Pray the Lord's Prayer slowly once a day this week, one line at a time, before your phone sets the agenda.

CLOSING PRAYER (FROM CHAPTER 2)

Father, Your Kingdom come and Your will be done in me as it is in heaven. I step through the doorway today. Bring the range of Your effective will further into my schedule, my bank account and my relationships, and make me part of the answer to the prayer You taught me to pray. Amen.

SESSION 4

Your Position in the Family

| *Your position comes by grace, not performance.*

BEFORE YOU GATHER

Read Chapter 3.

OPEN

Have you ever been somewhere you felt you did not belong? What gave it away?

READ TOGETHER

Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 4:6 and 7.

DISCUSS

1. We are no longer strangers and foreigners, but members of the household of God. Where in God's house do you still feel like a visitor?
2. What is the difference between how a slave and an heir wake up in the morning?
3. Where are you still performing for a position you already possess?
4. What does the word "heir" do to you: excite you, embarrass you, scare you? Why?
5. How does knowing your position change the way you approach God after you have failed?

BUILD YOUR CONFESSION

Build from Galatians 4:7.

LIVE IT

Once this week, when you catch yourself performing for approval, stop and thank the Father aloud that your position is already settled.

CLOSING PRAYER (FROM CHAPTER 3)

Father, I take my place. I am no longer a slave or an orphan. I am Your child, and all that You have is mine in Christ. When fear tries to move me back into the old spirit, remind me by Your Spirit that I am Yours. Amen.

SESSION 5

Your Rights as a Family Member

| *A right unclaimed is a gift unopened.*

BEFORE YOU GATHER

Read Chapter 4.

OPEN

What is something you owned for ages before discovering everything it could do?

READ TOGETHER

2 Peter 1:3 and 4; Romans 8:16 and 17.

DISCUSS

1. Does the language of rights before God sit comfortably with you? Why or why not?
2. His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. Which of those things are you living without?
3. What is the difference between entitlement and inheritance?
4. What promise of God have you never personally stood on? Why that one?
5. If your prayers this month were an inventory of what you believe you may ask for, what would they reveal?

BUILD YOUR CONFESSION

Build from 2 Peter 1:3.

LIVE IT

Choose one promise of God connected to a real situation you face. Write it down and pray it aloud every day this week.

CLOSING PRAYER (FROM CHAPTER 4)

Father, I come boldly, because You opened the door. I ask for my daily bread. I confess my sin and receive Your forgiveness. I ask You to deliver me from the evil one, to fill me with Your Holy Spirit, and to teach me to carry the authority of the household well. You put the food there for Your children, and I am one of them. Amen.

SESSION 6

Your Obligations as a Family Member

| *You are not saved by serving. But the saved serve.*

BEFORE YOU GATHER

Read Chapter 5.

OPEN

What chore did everyone in your childhood home have to do, no exceptions?

READ TOGETHER

1 Peter 1:14 to 16; Galatians 6:10.

DISCUSS

1. Be honest: does the word "obligations" feel like burden or belonging to you? What shaped that?
2. What does family holiness look like at your kitchen table, in your inbox, on your commute?
3. Do good to all, especially to the household of faith. Who in this group or this church needs your practical love in the next fortnight?
4. Where has comfort quietly excused you from something the Father has asked of you?
5. What is one obligation you have treated as optional that an heir would treat as an honour?

BUILD YOUR CONFESSION

Build from 1 Peter 1:15 and 16.

LIVE IT

Do one act of practical service this week that nobody but the Father will see.

CLOSING PRAYER (FROM CHAPTER 5)

Father, hallowed be Your name in my life. May the people who watch me through the week learn something true about You. Let Your will be done in me, whatever it costs, and let me trust You with the cost. I forgive the ones I have been holding unforgiveness against, right now, by name, as You have forgiven me. Make me a contributor in Your house, not a consumer. This week, show me the tea towel with my name on it, and give me the grace to pick it up without being asked. I am not a lodger here. I am a son, and sons serve. Amen.

SESSION 7

We Are All Kings and Priests

| *A king and a priest, on Sunday and on Monday. God made you both.*

BEFORE YOU GATHER

Read Chapter 6.

OPEN

What is your Monday? Tell the group in one sentence what fills most of your week.

READ TOGETHER

Revelation 1:5 and 6; 1 Peter 2:9.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus has made us kings and priests. Which of the two comes more naturally to you, and which have you left undeveloped?
2. What does it mean that both offices are combined in you, not divided between you and someone else?
3. How could your average Monday to Friday become Kingdom territory rather than time served between Sundays?
4. Where have you seen marketplace leaders and pastors genuinely partner to build the Kingdom? What made it work?
5. What would change in our church if every member believed their work was ministry?

BUILD YOUR CONFESSION

Build from Revelation 1:6.

LIVE IT

Name your Monday assignment and deliberately bless one person there this week as a king and a priest.

CLOSING PRAYER (FROM CHAPTER 6)

Father, thank You that when You made me Your child, You also made me a king and a priest in Your house. I will not despise the call You have given me, and I will not spectate in a family that has work to do. Show me my mix, put me at the table You have set for me, and let everything I build and everything I shepherd bring Your will to earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

SESSION 8

Your Finances as a Family Member

| *Your money follows your identity. Orphans hoard. Heirs sow.*

BEFORE YOU GATHER

Read Chapter 7.

OPEN

What is one money belief, good or bad, that you inherited from your childhood home?

READ TOGETHER

Proverbs 3:9 and 10; Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:6 to 8.

DISCUSS

1. How much of the family money story you grew up with still runs your decisions?
2. Orphans hoard, heirs sow. Which pattern shows up in your bank statement, and what is it revealing?
3. What does honouring the Lord with your firstfruits look like practically, first, not last, for your household?
4. Where is God inviting you to trust Him rather than your arithmetic right now?
5. What would need to change for your giving to become genuinely cheerful rather than merely dutiful?

BUILD YOUR CONFESSION

Build from Philippians 4:19.

LIVE IT

Take one deliberate act of generosity this week that requires actual faith. If you share finances with someone, make it a conversation, not a surprise.

CLOSING PRAYER (FROM CHAPTER 7)

Father, I move my finances into Your Kingdom today. You are my source, not my sweat and not the bank. I will honour You with the first of everything, sow cheerfully, and hold the barns loosely. Give us this day our daily bread, and make my hands a distribution point for Yours. Amen.

SESSION 9

God With You

| *The Father's greatest gift is not what He gives. It is that He stays.*

BEFORE YOU GATHER

Read Chapter 8.

OPEN

Who has simply been there for you across the years? What did their presence do?

READ TOGETHER

Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5 and 6.

DISCUSS

1. When have you most strongly sensed that God was with you? Tell the story.
2. When have you least sensed it, and looking back, what do you now believe about where He was?
3. I will never leave you nor forsake you. What fear in your life loses its authority if that is true?
4. What is the difference between believing God exists and practising God with you through an ordinary Tuesday?
5. How could this group help each other notice His presence, not just study His promises?

BUILD YOUR CONFESSION

Build from Hebrews 13:5 and 6.

LIVE IT

Twice a day this week, pause for two minutes, no phone, and acknowledge Him: Father, You are here.

CLOSING PRAYER (FROM CHAPTER 8)

Father, I will not run the house in the dark when the power is connected. Thank You for the Spirit who dwells in me. I ask You now, baptise me in the Holy Spirit, and fill me again today, with power to witness, comfort for the hard days, wisdom for the decisions and the unmistakable knowledge that You are with me. Amen.

SESSION 10

Yours Is the Kingdom

| *The Kingdom is not your reward at the end. It is your inheritance now.*

BEFORE YOU GATHER

Read Chapters 9 and 10, followed by A Prayer for Taking Your Place.

OPEN

Look back across the ten weeks. What has genuinely shifted in you during this time?

READ TOGETHER

Luke 12:32; Matthew 6:13.

DISCUSS

1. It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. What fear loses its grip if the Father delights to give?
2. Of the confessions you have built this term, which has become most alive in your mouth? Read it to the group.
3. Position, rights, obligations, finances: which has changed most for you, and what is the evidence?
4. Who will you take through this book next? Name them.
5. What does this group do now? Talk honestly about what continuing together could look like.

BUILD YOUR CONFESSION

Tonight, instead of building a new confession, each person reads their full set aloud while the group listens and then prays over them. Keep saying them long after the term ends.

LIVE IT

Keep the daily confessions going for another thirty days, and put this book in one other person's hands within the fortnight.

CLOSE WITH A PRAYER FOR TAKING YOUR PLACE, AS YOUR COMMISSIONING

Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus my King. I have received Him and I believe in His name, and You say that gives me the right to be Your child. So I take my place. I am no longer a slave. I am not an orphan. I am Your son, I am Your daughter, and all that You have is mine in Christ.

I take up my rights. I come boldly to Your throne. I ask for my daily bread. I confess my sins and I receive Your forgiveness. I ask You to deliver me from the evil one. I ask You to fill me with Your Holy Spirit, today and every day.

I take up my obligations. Let Your name be hallowed in my life. Let Your will be done in me, whatever it costs. I forgive those who have wronged me, as You have forgiven me. I will honour Your household and join Your family business.

I move my finances into Your Kingdom. I honour You with the first of everything. I trust You for provision and I will use what You give for every good work.

Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. I will not give up. Amen.

Faith confessions: the pattern

From the Faith Confessions appendix in Adopted. These are the things Ken says over himself, out loud, most mornings. A confession is a son saying what the Father has already said. First person, present tense, reference attached. Read the first movement aloud together in Session 1, then build your own from each week's Scripture.

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT EVERY BELIEVER

- I am born again. (1 Peter 1:23)
- I am a child of God. (John 1:12 and 13; Galatians 3:26)
- I am a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- I am alive. (Romans 6:11)
- I am loved. (John 3:16)
- I am chosen. (Ephesians 1:4)
- I am known, even before I was born. (Jeremiah 1:5)
- I am a masterpiece. (Ephesians 2:10)
- I am secure. (John 10:28 and 29)
- I am unashamed. (Romans 8:1)
- I am free. (John 8:32)
- I am the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14)
- I am the church and I exist for the world. (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- I am Christ's ambassador. (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- I am not alone. God is with me. (Hebrews 13:5)
- I am strengthened by God, who upholds me, protects me and defends me. (Isaiah 41:10)
- I am mighty in His power. (Ephesians 6:10)
- I am more than a conqueror. (Romans 8:37)

My confessions

One line per week. First person. Present tense. Reference attached. Say them every morning.

WEEK 1: WELCOME TO THE FAMILY (EPHESIANS 1:4 TO 6)

WEEK 2: BORN INTO A FAMILY (JOHN 1:12 AND 13; ROMANS 8:14 TO 17)

WEEK 3: THE KINGDOM YOUR FATHER RUNS (MATTHEW 6:9 TO 13; MATTHEW 6:33)

WEEK 4: YOUR POSITION IN THE FAMILY (EPHESIANS 2:19; GALATIANS 4:6 AND 7)

WEEK 5: YOUR RIGHTS AS A FAMILY MEMBER (2 PETER 1:3 AND 4; ROMANS 8:16 AND 17)

WEEK 6: YOUR OBLIGATIONS AS A FAMILY MEMBER (1 PETER 1:14 TO 16; GALATIANS 6:10)

WEEK 7: WE ARE ALL KINGS AND PRIESTS (REVELATION 1:5 AND 6; 1 PETER 2:9)

WEEK 8: YOUR FINANCES AS A FAMILY MEMBER (PROVERBS 3:9 AND 10; MALACHI 3:10; 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 TO 8)

WEEK 9: GOD WITH YOU (MATTHEW 28:20; HEBREWS 13:5 AND 6)

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