

Bible Study: You are God's child

You will get more out of this study if you read the verses and ponder the questions several times a day. You'll also get more out of the study if you discuss it with others. Jesus says where two or three are gathered together in his name, he is there with them.

Monday Matthew 5:9 (NRSV)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Jesus said peacemakers would be called children of God.

You can help establish peace between nations, between groups, or between individuals (including, perhaps, between family members).

What are some conflicts that you have influenced for peace in the past?

What conflicts will you influence for peace this week?

Tuesday John 1:9-13 (NRSV)

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

John's prologue says the world came into being through Jesus, but the world did not recognize him. "But to all who received him. . . he gave power to become children of God."

If you have received Jesus, you have the power to become a child of God. If you're a child of God you might not always feel different, think different, act different or believe different. Jesus didn't always look like the Messiah. He was born in a manger, was nearly killed before he was two years old, and he died on a cross. But in spite of appearances, he still was the Messiah. In a similar way, you are a child of God, even though some days it may not be apparent to yourself or others.

What does it mean to you that you have the power to become a child of God?

Wednesday Romans 8:14-17 (NRSV)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

What do you think it means that we need to suffer with Christ so we may be glorified with him?

What do you think, as an heir of God, that you have inherited?

Thursday Galatians 3:24-26 (NRSV)

The law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

What does this promise mean to you?

Friday Ephesians 4:31-5:2 (NRSV)

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Since you are a child of God, it would be natural to take on a family resemblance as you grow. It would be natural for you to look more like God as you mature. Paul says one way you can do this is to imitate God by living in love.

What loving acts will you do today?

Saturday 1 John 3:1-3 (NRSV)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

What does this promise mean to you?

What have you done this week because of Jesus?

What do you want to do next week because of Jesus?

What do you need help with?

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