



The Adoptive Heart of God **Getting Started**

Adoption is an expensive and often times a very lengthy process. What projects or plans do you have right now that you would have to put on hold if you were involved in the adoption process?

How do you think new parents feel when they finally get to bring home a child after going through the long adoption process?

Why do you think God refers to our relationship with Him as an adoption?

In Depth

Was there anything in Jilane's message that grabbed your attention that you wanted to discuss?

Read the following passage: [Ephesians 1:3-11](#) (NLT)

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

1. How does it make you feel knowing God chose us?
2. What was Jesus' role in our adoption by God?
3. What do you think the "*inheritance*" is that God speaks of in verse 11?
4. How would you describe the family of God, which is the church, and believers around the world?
5. Often times adoption is hard. There are trust issues, attachment issues and identity questions. Do you think that is also the case with our Spiritual Adoption? Why or why not?

Read: [Isaiah 1:17](#) [Psalm 82:3](#) [James 1:27](#)

How can we as individuals defend the cause of the fatherless, give voice to the voiceless, to visit and to share what we have with orphans around the world? As families? As a Small Group?

Have you or would you ever consider adopting a child?

For additional information check out Global Families Podcast.

