

# ADOPTED

## WEEK 1

Everyone everywhere is a part of a family. Some are born into one. Others are adopted into one. But, regardless of how you got there, you are a part of a family. Did you know that family is God's design? He created people to be in relationship with one another and family is where all of the relationship skills are learned and worked on as you grow up. For instance, do you immediately always get along with your Mom or Dad? How about your siblings? Of course not, but you learn how to get along by being together, loving each other, and working on your relationships. Did you know there is another family you can be a part of outside of your immediate family? God gave you a family that is bigger than any family you've ever seen! It's His family. Through the saving power of Jesus, everyone who believes in God and receives Jesus as their Savior and Lord, is saved and adopted into the family of God!

Do you know anyone who has ever been adopted? Have you been adopted into your family? It is the most incredible thing! Adoption is where someone is welcomed into a family as a fully belonging member of that family. You fully belong FOREVER when you are adopted; and that eternal belonging is what each of us can have when we choose to follow Jesus.

Have you been adopted into God's family? If not, you can pray and ask Him today to make you a part of His family forever. If so, is there anyone you know who needs to learn about belonging to God's family? God has given you everything you need to grow His family right here and right now. So, tell the world and remember, everyone is welcome in the family of God.

## MEMORIZE

John 1:12 - "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"

## FAMILY

Consider your family. Is there someone who needs to belong to God's family? Talk to your parents about how you can share the love of Jesus with them this week.

## SHARE

"Adopt" a friend this week. Invite them to church. Read the Bible with them. Ask them if they know about Jesus and tell them what He means to you.

## CHALLENGE

Draw a picture of what you think it looks like to be adopted into the family of God. Include John 1:12 in the drawing. Share with your friends and family.

# ROOTED

## WEEK 2

Along the Pacific Coast in the western United States, you can find giant trees called redwoods. Redwoods are incredible trees that grow taller than any other tree in the world. They are also really large in diameter, anywhere from 8 to 20 feet around! The fascinating thing about Redwoods is that their root system is actually not very deep...only 6 to 12 feet deep. A tree that size really should have a root system a lot bigger to keep them from uprooting and falling over. So why don't they fall over? Redwoods have a secret weapon...each other! Redwoods grow in groups and their roots intertwine, forming a strong foundation that can withstand just about anything.

God gave us a community of faith just like the community of redwoods. Together, the church can uplift and care for each other. Strengthen with love, prayer, and by serving one other. In fact, one of the coolest things about the Redwoods is that when one of them is sick, the other healthy trees send healing nutrients to the sick tree to help it get well. The family of God exists for the same purpose. When one of you is hurting or sad or in need, the rest of us come alongside you to be your friend, help care for you, and remind you that God is in control. The family of God can be your root system, helping you withstand whatever comes your way.

Matthew 18:20 says, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." When Jesus said those words, He was teaching His followers that as long as they remain together in faith, He would always be with them. That truth is the same yesterday, today, and forever. When you are rooted in a community of faith, you have more power, strength, and protection than even the most gigantic, mighty redwoods in the forest. You have the King of kings and the Lord of lords, Jesus Christ; giving you the firmest foundation you'll ever need.

## MEMORIZE

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

## FAMILY

Make a plan with your family to gather together and pray. When you come together in the name of Jesus, incredible things happen. Commit to growing in faith, together as a family.

## SHARE

Divide into groups of two or three. Pray and thank God that He is with you right now and ask Him to use you to be a strong support for your community of faith this week.

## CHALLENGE

Research the Redwoods in CA. Teach your family about how being rooted in a family of faith is similar to these mighty trees.

# MORE THAN A BUILDING

## WEEK 3

Have you ever heard the poem, "here's the church, here's the steeple, open the door, and there's the people?" The hand motions that go along with it allow you to form your hands into each part of the church until finally you reveal all the people hiding inside the church. It's a fun game, but it doesn't depict the church completely clearly. Yes, it's true we all have a church building where we gather. Some of them have steeples and doors. But the church is not a building or a specific place to gather. The church is so much more than a building. The church is the people of God!

If someone came up to you and asked, "what is the church," what would you say? Would your first answer be, "followers of Jesus"? The church is made up of millions of Jesus followers who love God and His Word. They serve one another and build each other up with love and encouragement. They meet together regularly to worship, pray, and learn about what God is doing in their lives and the world. Hebrews 10:24-25 outlines what the body of Christ (the church) should do and be for one another as they grow in their faith saying, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

So, when you think about church, remember it is more than a building. Church is more than a place to hang out or something to check off your list each week. The church is the living, breathing body of Christ...followers of Jesus wanting to know Him more.

## MEMORIZE

Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

## FAMILY

Share stories about how church fellowship has played an important role in each of your lives.

## SHARE

Invite someone to spend time with you and intentionally love them like Hebrews 10 teaches. Building the church begins with loving your neighbor.

## CHALLENGE

Craft! Glue a standard envelope on a piece of construction paper with the flap and pocket open. Draw doors and decorate as a church. Then give out popsicle sticks, one for each member of your family, and decorate to look like them. Place them in the "church" pocket and write "Church is more than a building" on your artwork!

# THE HEAD

## WEEK 4

How many people do you know that have heads? That's a ridiculous question because the answer is...all of them! You can't live without your head. Sure, you can hide it under the neck of your sweater and walk around pretending you don't have a head, but you're bound to bump into a wall at some point. Heads are super important. They house your eyes, ears, nose, and mouth...all things you need and use. You can get by without your vision or hearing, but everyone needs to breathe and eat! Heads hold it all...not to mention your brain. Did you know that brains can generate energy to power a lightbulb? 23 watts! Did you also know that information in your brain travels 268 miles per hour? That is as fast as the fastest racecars in the world. Heads are incredibly important and there is no small reason why the apostle Paul uses the analogy of the human body to explain why we need Jesus.

In many of his letters to the early church, Paul explains that Jesus Christ is the head of the church body. Just like the human body has lots of parts (arms, legs, heart, tongue, pancreas), the body of Christ is also made up of many parts. Just like in our human bodies, every part of the body of Christ plays an important role. But they are still one body, and Christ is the head.

Jesus should be at the center of our thoughts, our vision, our hearing, our words, and our choices. He is the head for so many important reasons, and so we trust in Him to help us become the people of God He wants us to be. Today, think about any part of your life where Jesus may not be the Head. Surrender that part of your life to Him today and trust Him to lead you and use you to be an important member of the body of Christ.

## MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 12:12 - "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

## FAMILY

Discuss important roles each of you play in the family. How do those things help the family grow?

## SHARE

How can you serve the body of Christ? There is an important job God wants to use you for. Pray and ask Him to show you what it is and be bold enough to say, "yes!"

## CHALLENGE

Play Simon Says. Call out various body parts (left arm, big toe, heart, elbow) and have the kids identify where they are on their bodies. But be careful to listen for "Simon says."