

LIFE IS SHORT.

**Life is Short Part 4
You Matter Most
Pastor Jude Fouquier
April 29, 2018**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Romans 8:12–17

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Luke 18:18-23 (ESV)

And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

-Professor Francis Lyall says in his book ["Slaves, Citizens, Sons: Legal Metaphors in the Epistles"](#)

"In adoption, the adoptee got a new identity. His old obligations and debts were wiped out, and new obligations were assumed. From the stand point of the family religion, the adoptee became the same person as the adopter."

In regard to being an heir or receiving an inheritance, this was not something that occurred at the death of a parent, but it was received at the birth of a child.

"All children of any age—natural or adopted—were already heirs while their father lived, and had joint control of their property."

Two things happen to us when we're adopted into God's family:

- 1. We get a new identity**
- 2. We become heirs and receive an inheritance**

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What's a vacation you've taken that you'll never forget?
2. Read Luke 18:18-23 together. What question did the rich, young ruler have for Jesus? Be sure to identify the man's ultimate desire. Discuss Jesus' response and why He responded the way He did.
3. Is the rich, young ruler so different from many of us? Are there times we try to earn God's acceptance, love, or attention by performance? What are some common ways this shows up in our lives?
4. How do we belong to God? Discuss the idea of adoption that Pastor Jude presented. What are the benefits and when do they take effect?
5. In what ways has God changed your identity? What are some old names/titles that have been dropped and what new ones have been given to you in their place? How do we battle effectively when the old titles want to reattach?
6. As heirs of God's kingdom, we've been given "eternal life." Discuss the definition: Life to the fullest, a vigorous, exciting life that has no boundaries for beginning or ending. It doesn't start after death, but it's going right now. Are you living in the full inheritance God has for you? If not, what hinders you?

7. What practical next steps do you need to make this week in light of the truths given in these scriptures and this message?