

GROUP DISCUSSION

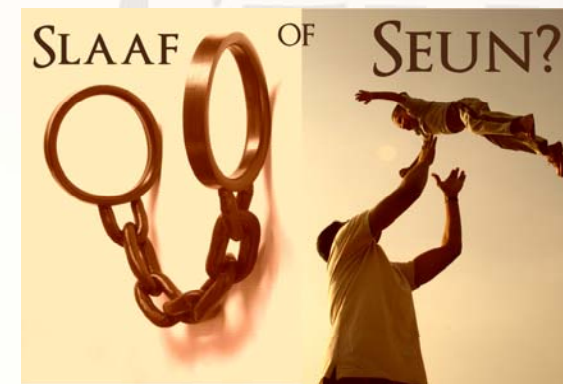
- Tell the group about a situation where you chose “other” news above Gods news and how you adapted your life accordingly.
- Read Galatians 4:7 and John 8:35 in various translations and memorise the scripture passages in your favourite translation.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What does your baptism mean to you? Have you identified with the the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ through baptism? (not as a baby)? Are there areas in your life where you keep on returning to your ‘old’ life, for example, so called generational curses or family habits?

PRAYER

As a group, ask God to reveal to each of you what it means to live as a son of God and not as a slave.



WEEK 3

CONNECTION

Share with the group the nicest as well as the ugliest thing (should you want to) someone has said to you. How have these things influenced you?

WORD

Ephesians 1:5 (Ampl)

For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for us) to be adopted (revealed) as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will [because it pleased Him and was his kind intent].

There once was a boy who was adopted by his parents. One day the boy told his parents how much he would have loved to have been their own child. On this, his parents answered: ‘to us you are extra special because we CHOSE you.’

God CHOSE us to be His children and He adopted us as His own.

Galatians 4:7

Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Ephesians 4:5 (Ampl)

To purchase the freedom of (to ransom, to redeem, to [a]ton[e] for) those who were subject to the Law, that we might be adopted and have sonship conferred upon us [and be recognized as God's sons].

One would usually feel anxious and nervous when you are pulled off

the road by a traffic officer or when one receives a telephone call from the Receiver of Revenue. The reason for this is because you know this person represents a certain law and that you will be judged by that law. Religion also measures us against the law and brings condemnation over us. Christ redeemed us, who were once subject to the law, from the law and there is now no more condemnation for us.

Romans 8:1,5,6

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Sons of God allow the Spirit to control their lives. A little boy once asked his dad where the grownups were during the Israelite's trek through the wilderness, 'because' he said, 'the Bible talks only about the children of Israel'.

This is actually exactly who they were - children. It is true that they were God's nation but they moaned and complained constantly and there was no adult behaviour to be seen anywhere. Joshua and Caleb were different. They were sons. They were able to see God's greatness even in the midst of giants and other problems they encountered when they were sent as spies into the promised land.

They went through the Jordan (which represents the baptism) and took responsibility as sons to take in the land and make it their own.

Sons listens to God's news

The newspapers today, compete with the Word of God. When one reads that the petrol prices are going up or that crime is increasing, we ask ourselves what government is going to do about all of this. What are we going to do? Just like the Israelites we look with our physical eyes at our circumstances and the giants just seem too big!

The whole earth is waiting in anticipation for the revelation of the sons of God - sons who allow the Holy Spirit to direct their lives. Sons who listen to God's news. Everything we hear on the

news on a daily basis is fact, but God's Word is reality. God's Word says we are more than overcomers. God's Word promises prosperity, health and a long life. Who's report will you believe?

When we live through the Spirit we do not have to worry about bearing fruit, because bearing the fruit of God's Spirit is as natural as a peach tree bearing peaches and a vine bringing forth grapes. Now the fruit of the Spirit is a work of God in our lives and not something we have to try in our own strength and ability.

A son rises with Christ

The power of the cross does not lie in the death of Jesus Christ but in His resurrection. When we go through the water baptism we identify ourselves with the death on the cross and the resurrection with Jesus Christ. Now we can, as Joshua and Caleb, leave our old lives and everything we associate with it - like sin, sickness, family illnesses, and generational curses - behind forever, and take in the promised land as sons of God. The old man is dead.

A son takes action

Every fourth year is leap year. Then the month of February has 29 days. This event is due to Joshua asking God to make the sun stand still so that they could continue fighting.

Romans 8:19

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

Joshua understood what it meant to be a son of God. In the same way we need to stand up, take ownership and responsibility to take in our promised land.