



WELCOME
HOME
Being the family of God

SMALL GROUP
QUESTIONS



LAKE GROVE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9

Welcome Home

Romans 8:12-17

1. Linger for a moment on the phrase, “You are a child of God.” Capture a memory of yourself when you were a child: small, dependent, curious, uninhibited. How is this true for you (or not) in your relationship to our Heavenly Father?
2. List the privileges of being chosen, welcomed and adopted into God’s family.
3. Paul writes in Romans 8:14 that whoever is led by the Spirit are, “Sons and daughters of God.” What’s one area in your life you sense God wants to transform you?
4. What thoughts keep you from following and staying close to the Heavenly Father? How could drawing closer to your church family encourage you to live by the Spirit?
5. Truly being a part of a community of Believers can be a vulnerable journey. Can you identify any fears you have related to spiritual community?
6. This week, pay attention to how you identify as an heir and co-heir with Christ in God’s family. See how the Spirit brings life to your soul as you sit with this truth.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16

Welcome Home

Acts 13:16-26

Thinking Further about the Text

1. Paul was in the Jewish synagogue when he spoke these words. So who were the people he addressed separately from the men of Israel as “you who fear God” (NASB) or “you Gentiles who worship God” (NIV)? Does their presence raise any questions for you or observations about the audience for God’s message?
2. The summary Paul gives of part of the Israelites’ history reveals something about their behaviors, but it could also be seen as showing something about the nature of God. What characteristics of God’s interaction with us do you see in this summary of God’s interaction with Israel?

Applying the Text and Message to Life Here and Now

3. The history of a people shapes the present. Lake Grove Presbyterian Church has a long history of people faithful to God and to community in this place. All of us here now “inherit” something from the lived experience and contributions of those who have been part of the church’s past. What stories have you heard, or can you share, about the past at Lake Grove? What carries on to us now from that past?
4. We at Lake Grove right now are the “history” of those who will be here in the future! What “inheritance” do you see we are building for them? Are there other things you think are important for us to be about both for the current life of the church and as a foundation for the future?
5. Our own stories from our past shape and impact our personal lives here and now just as the past of our church affects our life together here and now. What about your personal history? Is there some aspect of your past that seems to be especially impacting your life right now, either positively or negatively? How does your current relationship with God interface with what has happened in the past?

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23

Welcome Home

Romans 9:1-8

1. When have you felt left out/excluded? What did that feel like? When have you felt misunderstood?
2. What is the root of Paul's "great sorrow and unceasing anguish?"
3. According to this passage, who is included in the family of God? What does this reflect about God's kingdom?
4. Who, in your life, might you identify as strangers to the grace of God? How might you relate to and invite in those to whom others categorize as "outsiders?" What role does the "outsider" play in becoming enfolded into a group or place?
5. What would the ideal church look like to you? Discuss with your group how Lake Grove could move toward that image in the days ahead.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30

Welcome Home

Ephesians 1:3-14

1. Sharing: Name a favorite Christian hymn or song of praise. What is the “message” of this hymn/song? Why is this hymn/song a favorite for you?
2. Read: Ephesians 1:3-14. It’s quite likely that our passage for this week was a hymn of praise that the Apostle Paul and early church members sang to the glory of God. What qualities or characteristics of God are praised in this early hymn? What do you learn about the heart of God in these verses? If you had to assign this hymn a title, what would it be?
3. What are the spiritual blessings God has bestowed/lavished on us that are mentioned in this passage?
4. Read verse 5-6 and reflect on our adoption in Christ. “Adoption is not a change in nature, but a change in status. If we fail to see this truth, we will reject the power of our adoption... Adoption is a declaration God makes about us. It is irreversible, dependent entirely upon His gracious choice, in which He says: ‘You are my son/daughter, today I have brought you into my family.’” (Sinclair Ferguson, *Children of the Living God*). What is your reaction to God choosing you for adoption as his son/daughter before you ever had a thought of God or could do anything to convince yourself that you “earned” God’s favor? What difference can remembering that you are chosen and valued by God make in your daily life?
5. What is God’s big plan for the future (verse 9-10)? We aren’t chosen for our own sake, but for the sake of what God wants to accomplish through us. How do you sense God might want to use you to help accomplish his big plan?

WEEK OF OCTOBER 7

Welcome Home
Ephesians 2:11-22

1. What is an example of a division between you and someone in your life that has led to recent conflict? (This could be something resolved or an ongoing conflict.)
2. Why might Paul emphasize Christ's work to break down the dividing wall of hostility between Jews and Gentiles? How would these two groups of people experience division?
3. What will it require of the Ephesians to live in the "one new humanity" reality that Paul describes Christ making possible?
4. Do you know of or have you experienced divisions in church (ours or others you have been a part of)? What's your visceral reaction to division in the church - ignore, minimize, run away, engage? What do you think drives your reaction?
5. What might be some of our congregation's "dividing walls" that might keep certain social and/or ethnic groups out? What will it take to dismantle them?

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