

# THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION

SEGMENT 7

## SYNOPSIS

*"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"*

- Romans 8:14-16

The Holy Spirit reveals many things to us. One of the most beautiful is the Spirit revealing God as our loving Father, our "Abba - Daddy." Jesus related to his Father as Abba and never before had God been spoken of in such personal and intimate terms. God as Abba is a uniquely beautiful Christian revelation. The Spirit of Jesus desires to free us from fear and a master-slave relationship to a Father-Daughter or Father-Son relationship.

## DISCUSSION

1. What is your primary image of God and how do you relate to him? How is God personal to you? How do you approach God? Like a slave approaching the master or as a child approaching the Father?
2. There is an innate desire in each of us to be chosen. We have been chosen by God and God's Spirit wants to place this reality on our hearts. Discuss what it means that God, knowing everything about you, has chosen you as his adopted daughter or son.
3. It has been said that our relationship with God the Father begins with our earthly father. Discuss how God is both like and unlike your earthly Father.

## REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Allow God to be your Abba. Take some time to be still and ask the Holy Spirit to calm your mind and heart. Then ask the Holy Spirit to show God as your loving Father.

Let God speak to your mind and heart about you being his son or daughter and how he delights in you. Imagine your heavenly Father telling you how much he loves you, how he is proud of you.

**ABBA,  
FATHER**  
ROMANS 8:16



*"THE HOLY SPIRIT CREATES IN US THIS NEW CONDITION OF BEING **CHILDREN OF GOD** AND THIS IS THE GREATEST GIFT WE RECEIVE FROM JESUS' PASCHAL MYSTERY."*

- POPE FRANCIS -  
GENERAL AUDIENCE APRIL 10, 2013

## KEY TEXTS

**MATTHEW 18:12-14** *"What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."*

**MATTHEW 6:26** *"Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?"*