

The Life

The Gospel of John

The Theme of Being Children of God

Theme Study in John's Gospel

- But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God. 1:12
- Take these things away; stop making my Father's house a house of merchandise. 2:16
- An hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem shall you worship the Father...But an hour is coming and now is when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 4:21, 23
- My Father is still working, and I also am working...The Son can do nothing of himself, unless it is something he sees the Father doing, for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows him all things that He Himself is doing...Just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life...The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son...Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father...Just as the Father has life in Himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 5:17, 19-26
- All that the Father gives me shall come to me. 6:37
- Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. 6:45
- As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me, he also shall live because of me. 6:57
- If you knew me, you would know my Father also. 8:19
- I speak these things as the Father has instructed me. 8:28
- If God were your Father you would love me...you are of your father the devil. 8:42, 44
- It is my Father who glorified me. 8:54
- I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. 10:15
- The Father and I are one. 10:30
- The Father is in me and I am in the Father. 10:38
- No one comes to the Father but through me. 14:6
- If you know me, you would know my Father as well. 14:7
- Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 14:9-10
- The Spirit...will be in you...on that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 14:17-20.
- He who loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 14:23
- I am the vine, and my Father is the vinedresser...you are the branches. Abide in me as I abide in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, so neither can you, unless you abide in me...apart from me you can do nothing. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 15:1-11
- Holy Father... 17:11
- I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that they may all be one. As you, Father are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 17:20-21
- Righteous Father... 17:25
- Jesus said to her [Mary Magdalene], "Stop clinging to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father, but go to my brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, and my God and your God.'" 20:17.
- When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."... And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." 20:19, 22

Questions

1. What does it mean to you to be a child of God? (open-ended question)
2. WHEN in the Gospel does Jesus make us children of God? It's kind of unstated. (It will become clear as we go. Don't spend a lot of time on this right now.)
3. Describe Jesus' relationship with his Father based on the references from chapters 1-8.
4. What does Jesus' early teaching about the Father tend to be about? Functional things. Leave this question open for more discussion on the details of those verses.
5. Describe Jesus' relationship with his Father based on the references from chapter 10.
6. What does Jesus' later teaching about the Father tend to be about? Relational insights: being 'in' one another.
7. When do we start to be included in that 'being in one another' idea?
8. How do we become 'in' Jesus and the Father?
9. Look at 14:17-20 carefully. In what 'day' will the Spirit be in us? In what 'day' will we 'know' that Jesus is in his Father, and we in him and him in us?
10. How does this corroborate with 6:57? Jesus is saying that we have to ingest or internalize him.
11. What happens when we believe in Jesus? The Spirit of Jesus comes into us; the Spirit brings us into Jesus.
12. Notice that, except for the conversation with Mary Magdalene, Jesus says 'the Father' or 'my Father.' He does not say 'your Father' until the very end. Why?
13. How does God relate to Jesus? If we are 'in' Jesus, how does God relate to us?
14. Is there any way to experience God as a Father except by being 'in' Jesus, the Son? Is it possible to experience God as a Father outside Jesus the Son?
15. How important is it to understand that we are 'in' Jesus?
16. What are some other ways people commonly think about relating with Jesus? Are those ways missing something?
17. What does it mean to abide in Jesus as he abides in us? What does that mean for our ministry?
18. Reflect on Jesus' statement in John 15, "apart from me you can do nothing." What does it mean for students as they do ministry on campus? What do they need to know and understand?