

John 3:1-17 and Romans 8:12-17. *Crying 'Abba, Father' by the Spirit of Christ.*

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| Welcome | As a child, what ways did your parents (or other adults in your life) have of making you feel special? Alternatively - what do you do to make children in your family feel special? |
| Worship ideas | <i>Suggested songs: (Songs of Fellowship) 1 Abba Father; 90 Father, I can call you Father; 92 Father God, I wonder; 567 Se are here to praise you; 1346 In Christ alone (NB files with c.30 more recent songs are available to borrow from the office)</i> |
| Word (refs.) | <i>some suggestions for discussion here – you might prefer to focus on just 2 or 3 questions</i> |
| <u>Read</u> John 3:1-17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentrating on Jesus' explanation of the 'new birth' here (vv.1-8), why does Nicodemus not understand what Jesus is saying? What is meant by 'born of water'? – natural birth, baptism or something else? • What do you understand by the phrase 'born of the Spirit' (v.8) • In v.8, is Jesus saying that it isn't always possible to tell when someone has been 'born of the Spirit'? Why?/ why not? • How <u>can</u> we know when we have been 'born again'? – an experience? a physical sign? an action (e.g. being baptised)? trusting God's word? • |
| <u>Read</u> Romans 8:12-17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In v.12-13, Paul tells us not to 'live according to the flesh' but to 'put to death the misdeeds of the body'? What help do we have in this? (v.13a). How do we do this in practice? • In vv.13-17, Paul talks about four aspects of being children of God as we are led by the Holy Spirit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>privilege</u> of being an 'adopted son' (v.14) – referencing the practice of a Roman citizen adopting an adult (male) slave as his heir when there were no natural-born children • The <u>intimacy</u> of being able to call God 'Abba, Father' (v.15) • The <u>experience</u> of the Spirit testifying that we are God's children (the assurance of God's love), v.16 • The <u>security</u> of our inheritance (v.17) How does this help us be more confident in our relationship with God? • What difference should it make to you to know that you are a beloved son/ daughter of the King of Kings? <u>Does</u> it make a difference? |
| Witness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Pray</u> for some of the following • for your mission link person(s) or project • for greater confidence in our position as children of God • for opportunities to reach out to family/ friends/ neighbours in the coming weeks (eg St Barnabas Day, Father's Day barbecue on Sun 21 Jun) • <u>Plan</u> • a group during June or July to which you can invite wider friends and family, etc. (eg summer barbecue, trip out, garden party, etc.) |

