



## LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

### “Adopted: Hope for the Orphaned Heart”

Ps. Jim Laffoon – November 1, 2015

*“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. John 14:18*

#### **WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)**

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. **No right or wrong answers.**

How do you use sticky-notes the most?

What issues would you need to look at before you would consider adoption?

What word comes to mind that would describe most people you know.

#### **WORD (10-15 minutes)**

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

*I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:18 NIV)*

#### **THE PROMISE**

*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...*

*(Romans 8:14-17a NIV)*

**THE PROBLEM:** Why do people have a hard time connecting?

1. Sin: Sin separates us from God and separates us from people.
2. Suffering - The suffering we experience on this broken planet, especially in our early childhood, affects our ability to bond with God and with one another
3. Selfishness - Twisted by sin and suffering, many humans are so selfish that bonding is impossible for them.

Apart from God it is impossible to live selfless. You are made to function better in the presence of God. We live in a world where it is difficult not only to bond with God but also to bond with people.

## **THE POWER:** How does God fix us?

1. The Person of God
  - The love of the Father who calls us as His children. 1 John 3:1
  - The Son, who is not ashamed to call you his sibling. Heb. 2:11
  - The Holy Spirit, who supernaturally touch us and heals. John 14:16-17
2. The people of God Mark 10:29:

God gives us his people to help us re-engage. When our natural family fails us, God provides us with a spiritual family. John 19:27 is a beautiful example of this truth. Mary had other sons that could have taken care of her, but they didn't get her. John took her in with Jesus' approval.

## **THE PROCESS:** How does your orphan heart get healed?

1. **Recognize** where you are. You may be suffering from detachment, avoidance, ambivalent attachment, or some other kind of disorder. Nothing is out of God's reach if we are willing to recognize our need for help.
2. **Repent** – Turn from resentment and bitterness, and begin the process of forgiving.
3. **Receive** - Through the Word of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the people of God, your mind can be renewed and your ability to bond can be recreated.  
*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2)*
4. **Re-engage** – No matter how badly we have been wounded by people, God usually uses people to heal us. This can happen only when we are willing to re-engage the family of God.

What do you do if pain haunts you? We cannot erase a memory. We can only build a new one next to it. If you see Jesus healing you with your spiritual eyes, it will create a new memory. The presence of God will bring balance to your brain and your heart. You will know the love of the Father and not feel orphaned any longer. God wants not only to heal us, but to make us whole.

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.**

- Can you identify a painful memory that has affected your ability to connect with people? What do you want Jesus to do with it?
- Where do you find yourself in the process of healing? Have you identified where you are? Have you repented from un-forgiveness and bitterness? Have you receive a new heart and a new mind? Are you willing to reconnect with the people of God?
- What has God spoken to you through this lesson? How are you going to apply it to your life?

## **PRAYER (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- That God will heal the pain in your heart.
- The Lord will help you identify the cause of any lack of attachment and that he heals it.
- That God will help you connect with his people.