



**HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 3 WEEK 2

2 August 2018

UP IN OUT – An extraordinary King

‘For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear,
but you have received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out,
“Abba, Father”.’
Romans 8:15 (NKJV)

Icebreaker

Can you remember the first time you fell madly in love? Share the event surrounding this and how it made you feel.

Introduction

God created us, through an act of love, to be part of His family. Mankind rejected Him and ventured out to live life on their own, but God so loved us that He took action. He clothed His love with flesh and sent the Lord Jesus to earth to take our rebellion upon Himself. Through this sacrifice we can now be a part of God’s Kingdom again, a kingdom where He is at the centre. God is love and everything He does is from the basis of love; His laws, His ways, and His structures are all founded in love. Life in God’s Kingdom is different from how we ever lived life before. By His Spirit we are empowered to change, to live in His family, to accept how much our Father loves us, and how we should respond to it.

Discussion:

- Read Romans 8:15-17. Discuss:
 - Why is the word ‘again’ included in verse 15?
 - What are our legal rights as adopted children of the Father?
- What is the difference between God’s love (*agape*) and the love the world sells? (*God is love and love is god*)
- Once we have been taken up in God’s family, we must learn how to live and behave. Read 1 John 4:7-19 and identify the way we are to live as His children.

- The well known parable of the prodigal son is recorded in Luke 15:11-32. Look at the similarities and differences between
 - The father figure in this story and God the Father;
 - The prodigal son and our lives; and
 - The older brother and our Older Brother.
- How can we use this jewel of truth and love to reach the hearts of people in our families, our neighbours, and colleagues etc.?

Prayer

- Give thanks to God the Father for who He is, for the love He has bestowed on us, and for sending His Son to remove all obstacles in our way to be part of His family. Recognise in worship that God, the King of the universe, who has only ever been generous and good to us, is the only one worthy of our heart's worship.
- Pray for the salvation of loved ones, family members, and colleagues so that they too will experience the blessing of belonging to God's family. Ask the Holy Spirit to give us boldness to speak when an opportunity opens.
- Pray for each other that we may be the 'salt' and 'bright shining lights' that can reach others with the truth of God's love.
- Pray for each other that we may show kindness to people we meet in the supermarket, at the gym, or in the traffic, and so live out the love of God in us.