“ABBA, FATHER”

Galatians 4:1–7

Key Verse: 4:6

1. How had Paul described people under the law? (3:23–25) Note how he develops this idea further (4:1,2). What was the legal status of children named as heirs of an estate? What were the roles of guardians and trustees?
2. How does Paul apply this to us? (3) What does it mean to be “in slavery” to these things? (8,9; cf. Col2:8,20) How might people without the Bible be living this way today?
3. What did God do for us? (4,5) How is Jesus described here? What does it mean that he was “born of a woman”? (Ge3:15; Isa7:14; Jn1:14) “Born under the law”? (cf. Lk2:27) What was his purpose in coming? (5; cf. Ro3:24) How can we be “adopted” by God? (3:26; cf. Jn1:12) What does this mean to you?

1. Read verse 6. After being adopted, what happens to us? (6a; cf. Ro5:5) How does the Spirit of his Son give us an intimate relationship with God? (6b; cf. Mk14:36; Ro8:15,16, 26,27; Eph2:18) What does it really mean to call God “Abba, Father,” and why is this such a blessing?
2. What is Paul’s conclusion? (7) What does it mean for a slave to become an “heir,” and how does this reveal God’s grace in our lives? (cf. Ro8:17)