

# Session 6: Hope.

## What has God promised?

Welcome to Session 6 of our teaching series on Romans. In this session you will find worship song suggestions, a sermon outline and a written prayer.

### KEY VERSE:

**'... we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship,  
the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope  
we were saved.'**

ROMANS 8.23–24 (NIV)

### BIBLE READINGS:

Romans 8.14–19; 31–32;  
38–39

### MAIN QUESTIONS:

How does the gospel  
change our identity now?  
And what does God have  
in store for the future?

### MAIN THEMES:

Gospel, spirit, sonship,  
adoption, inheritance,  
glory, new creation,  
suffering, hope

### Context:

Chapter 8 is the high point of Romans, where Paul celebrates the enormous ramifications of the gospel – for us and for all of creation.

### Summary:

Having considered the power of the gospel and the freedom it brings us, Paul now arrives at a high point of praise. He celebrates what the gospel means for our relationship with God – we are adopted as his children and given a new identity. Then he widens his view, celebrating what God will do for all creation – making it new, and raising us to eternal life.

### WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS:

- Goodness Of God
- Never Once (Did I Walk Alone)
- The Blessing
- No Longer Slaves
- Children Of God
- Here I Am To Worship
- Good Good Father
- How Deep The Father's Love For Us



## Suggested sermon outline

### INTRODUCTION

**Chapter 8 is the absolute high point of Romans. It's a chapter filled with celebration and wonder at the hope of the gospel.**

What is the best news you have ever received? Do you have a story of a time where something so amazing happened that it took your breath away? Maybe use this as a way of setting people up for the glorious truths they're about to encounter in Romans 8.

In this talk, we're going to look at the idea of adoption into God's family and then unpack three of the benefits it brings.

### KEY POINTS: THREE HARD TRUTHS

### NOTES

#### 1 A new identity (Romans 8.14–16)

- **Paul uses the metaphor of adoption to describe the radical life change that has been brought about through the gospel.**  
Take some time to unpack the idea of adoption, showing how it was understood in ancient Rome, and what a privilege it was considered to be. You should also explain the significance of Paul's use of the word 'son', and how it challenged some of the cultural ideas around male and female rights.
- **The Spirit has radically changed our identity. We are not slaves, but sons – brought into the family of God.**  
Consider the contrast in verse 15 between being a slave and being a son. How does that affect the way you view your relationship with God? You may find it helpful to imagine what it would be like to conceive of your relationship with God in slave/master terms. How would that affect your prayer life, worship, sense of identity? Now imagine how different it is to see yourself as a child of God!
- **Paul uses an intimate term to cry out to God: Abba!**  
Explain what this word means, perhaps with reference to Jesus' own prayer life, and the prayer he taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6.9–13; Luke 11.1–4). Do you have a story of how you experienced the love of God in a way that changed your life? Why not share it as part of the sermon?

#### 2 A new inheritance (Romans 8.16–17, 31–32)

- **Now that we are sons, we also receive an inheritance from our Father.**  
Take some time to unpack the idea of an inheritance, and help people appreciate what a privilege it is to inherit



**CONCLUSION**    **How do we live in the light of this?**

Below are some suggested points of application. Feel free to select a couple of points which are most appropriate to your setting.

- If it's true that we are God's children and he is our Abba, that changes our relationship with him, dramatically! Think about some areas where people in your congregation may be tempted to see themselves as 'slaves' rather than 'sons' and give some specific action points for how they can change that mindset. Perhaps offer prayer for people, to help people live in the good of their identity in Christ.
- You may want to give some specific application about worship and prayer, and invite people to receive prayer to experience the love of God afresh.
- When we face hardships, we need to hold onto our future hope. We shouldn't be surprised or interpret suffering as a sign that God doesn't love us or has abandoned us. Nothing can separate us from his love! As we learn to experience his love and to be captivated by his promises for our future, this changes our perspective and helps us to endure our sufferings. Be mindful of those who are facing suffering right now, being sensitive towards them, and offering them hope, support and prayer.

**READING SUGGESTIONS:**

- *Romans: A Letter That Makes Sense of Life* by Andrew Ollerton
- *The Message of Romans* by John Stott
- *Romans 8–16 For You* by Timothy Keller

**WRITTEN PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, thank you for the message we've heard today. We are forgiven, we are loved, we are children of the living God. Lord God, where we are facing hardship, suffering and challenges, please assure us of your love and presence with us. Help us not to feel abandoned or on our own. Thank you that you care for us and that nothing can separate us from you. We are your children; help us to trust and love you as our wonderful heavenly Father.