

Title: Rise and Reign: The Family Tree // **Scripture:** 2 Samuel 9:1–11

ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME *15-20 minutes*

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

SERMON REVIEW *5-10 minutes*

Whether or not adoption runs in your biological family, one thing is for certain—adoption runs in God’s family. More than just a Christian mission, adoption is part of what it means to be Christian. Jesus was an adopted child. Paul saw adoption as a metaphor for the gospel. And adoption is a part of David’s story too.

In II Samuel 9, David makes room at his table for Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan. David risks his kingdom to show him love and acceptance even though he had himself faced rejection. David steps into his identity and kindly grants Mephibosheth close and continual access to his table and to his family. David’s faith moves Mephibosheth from a sense of shame to a place of honor, giving him a present inheritance and a future hope.

As we consider the kindness of David, we see the heart of God. God dares to know your name and not your nothingness. He dares to see you as a person and not as a problem. And he is inviting you to take your place in his family tree and let the power of the Good News of Jesus transform your life and give you a future.

THE MAIN THOUGHT *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

For the truth to be transformational it must first become personal.

SEE IT – Questions *10-15 minutes*

Picture (What is the story saying?): How is adoption a part of God’s story as expressed in scripture? How did David’s kindness to Mephibosheth demonstrate God’s heart for us all? What impact did David’s faith have on the future of Mephibosheth?

Mirror (Where am I in the story?): How is God showing you acceptance from past rejection? In what ways do you personally identify with David? In what ways do you identify with Mephibosheth? How has Jesus sought you out and invited you to his table?

Window (How does the story change how I see those around me?): How can seeing and extending our identity as adopted children of God inform the way we live in community together and the way we reach out to the world? Who is God inviting you to bring close in order to show them kindness? How can you move from naming them as a problem to knowing them as a person?

BE IT – Practice

Change UP // Exercise *15 minutes*

Spend one minute in silence asking God to give you specific words about his transformational truth. Now speak those words of God’s truth out loud. Close with a prayer of thanksgiving that God’s faithfulness gives us a future.

Change IN // Group Activity *5 minutes*

Write down the three biggest areas of shame, need, or problems in your own story. Next to each area, write out one truth from scripture that shows how God wants to make you a son or daughter, give you a name, or transform you.

Change OUT // Life Application Assignment *5 minutes*

Decide individually or as a group one way that you can specifically respond to the needs of those who have no voice in our own community. Participate in the Student Ministry Giving Tree, become a foster volunteer at Grace (gfc.tv/snellville/2017/11/foster-care-info-sessions), donate food or supplies to the Southeast Gwinnett Co-op (segwinnetcoop.org), volunteer at the NC3 Christmas tree lot (Grace parking lot - jeremy@ng3.org), or purchase a book at the Joy Market (thejoymarket.org).

CLOSING PRAYER *5 minutes*

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.