Adoption and Inheritance

**Getting Started:** According to (money.cnn.com/2013/12/13/retirement/american-inheritance/) American retirees expect to leave an average inheritance of almost $177,000 to their heirs. Discuss as a group the pros and cons of leaving your children an inheritance. Consider Proverbs 13:22, 20:21 in your discussion.

**Read Ephesians 1:13-14**

When does a person receive the Holy Spirit?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in receiving our inheritance?

**Read Romans 8:15-17**

The theme of these three verses is being adopted as a child of God. The word adoption is filled with grace, mercy and love. Adoption by definition refers to a legal action by which a person takes into his family a child not his own and usually not even related to him for the purpose of treating him and giving him all the privileges of his own child.

Discuss the different ways King David’s receiving Mephibosheth at the King’s table illustrates being adopted into God’s family (2 Samuel 9).

Discuss the different parts of our inheritance as the adoptive children of God and joint heirs with Christ according to the following verses. 1 Corinthians 10:26, Psalm 24:1, Psalm 2:8, Psalm 73:25-26, Romans 8:22-23.

Consider the use of the word “if” in Romans 8:17. What does this teach us about the role of suffering in the Christian’s life?

**Application:** As you begin to understand the inheritance you have as an adopted child of God what difference does it make in the way you live now?