



Galatians #6

From slaves to sons & daughters w/c 1 March 2026

"The people who know God well—mystics, hermits, prayerful people, those who risk everything to find God—always meet a lover, not a dictator." (Richard Rohr)

This week is all about our knowing God, though really of course – as Paul has to remind the Galatians – it's really about his knowing us: "...now you know God, or better still, God knows you." (Galatians 4:9 (CEV))

Read Galatians 4:1-7

It's a cliché of the romantic novel: as disaster looms an unknown uncle dies leaving the hero(ine) their fortune and all turns out well. More generally, it's the dream that something unexpected will turn up and solve all our problems at a stroke. And that is at the heart of what Paul is writing of here: a group of people who are due to inherit but just don't know about it yet. His audience for this section is the Jewish believers (the "we" of verse three) who, under the law, had been effectively children, their inheritance inaccessible.

Later in the chapter he will move on to consider the position of gentile believers – those caught up with the idea that if Jesus is the culmination of the Jewish story then perhaps they need to become Jews to properly experience it all. Paul will make it very clear that the right answer to that conundrum is a firm 'no'. He will go on to draw a parallel in the pilgrimage of faith of both Jewish and gentile believers: different tracks but the same destination – our adoption by God as his children. For the Jewish believers this means discovering their position as inheritors of what they'd known before as just promises. Gentiles, on the other hand, can look to the change of status that adoption brings; once they were outside the family of God, now firmly inside.

Do we feel that we really are children of God? How do we avoid the thought that we are merely followers tolerated so long as we behave properly?

How can we express this certainty of relationship within our daily lives?

How might we help others see that Christianity is all about relationship and not about doing or saying the right things?

This week's theme for Draw Near is *Sharing the scriptures*. In our groups we are asked to reflect on three questions:

What is your approach to reading the Bible? Do you follow a plan, or read spontaneously?

Are there parts of the Bible you usually avoid? How might they actually be 'for our instruction'?

What are some of the limitations and frustrations you encounter in everyday life? How does the Bible offer hope in those situations?

**DRAW
NEAR**
LIFE-GIVING
HABITS FOR LENT

"The Scriptures are more than words to know. They are an invitation into a story to live in, a banquet to feast on, a guide to live life by, and a treasure to rejoice in. Come hear the voice of Scripture today." (Draw Near group studies Week 2)