

The fact that God has adopted us, the fact that Christ sees us as his family and gave his life so that we could be called sons and daughters creates in us the ability to have an affectionate love for one another. It creates a passion for unity. It breaks down all sorts of dividing walls that we are so prone to build and put up. It creates in us a love one another that will willingly sacrifice our own money, our own time, our own brand of comfort to welcome others in. We hope that this will help you this week as you spend time in personal reflection, talking with family, or discussing with friends or your community.

Read Matthew 12:46-50

**Your most true, important, and lasting identity is as a child of God.**

Reflection: How do you struggle to accept God as your father? How would it change you if you believed that you are a beloved son or daughter of God, accepted and loved?

**You have been made a part of God's family and that now shapes your view of one another. "Everyone who loves the Father loves whomever has been born of him." I John 5:1**

Reflection: How would seeing each other as brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers change the way we feel toward one another? How would it impact the way we serve one another? How would it shape the way we use our time and our resources?

**We should feel affectionate toward other believers. God has called us to be devoted to one another in brotherly affection. Romans 12:10**

Reflection: Do you really believe God can produce an affection in you for other believers? What do you need to believe about God to begin to believe this? What steps can you take to welcome others into your life? Is there someone specifically that you should reach out to?

Thank God that he "sent forth his Son...that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" Thank him for making you a part of his family. Ask him to deepen your affection for those believers in your life. Ask God to increase your affection for the people at Redemption Hill.