



LONGING

AN ADVENT JOURNEY

GOING DEEPER AT HOME

DEC 18: LOVE FOR THE UNLIKELY

Christmas is a time for family, to be with family, sometimes even with the ones who drive us nuts. If you've ever been away from family at Christmas you know how hard this can be. The story of Christmas, the story of the birth of Jesus is not just a story about God entering the world, its a story of love, a story of how God adopts us into His family. It's a story of love for the most unlikely of people, because that is who God is.

SCRIPTURE:

Galatians 4:4 - 6

GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever been away from family at Christmas? If so what was that like? If not, how do you think you'd react or feel?
2. What is something from the message that stood out to you, was new or challenged you?
3. Respond to the statement "while we long for love, God longs for us." Is this true or not?
4. Have you ever considered the adoption process? What stories have you heard about others who went through the process of adopting a child?
5. People from ancient Roman cultures would wait to see how a person turned out before they adopted someone. Would you consider adopting a child if you knew that child would eventually grow up to disown you? Why or why not?
6. What does it mean to you that God desires to adopt you as child of His?
7. Read Galatians 4:4 - 7. The term "Abba" is a very relational term. What other names do you address God in your prayers?
8. What difference does it make to the way you relate to God knowing the way God sees you?
9. What step(s) is the Holy Spirit inviting you to take in response to God longing to adopt you into His family?
10. What is something you can do this week to help bring love into someone's life?