**Stories of our faith** part 6

The Orphans Story

*Romans 8:14-16*

*God’s arrangement, access and assurance*

**1) Arrangement of Adoption**

*Romans 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

**The believer is not just a child of God, but an heir of God as well. Being a child means that I have a family now; being an heir means I am included in the family**

**2) Access through Adoption**

*Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

**The first adoption recorded in Scripture was that of Moses (see Ex. 2:1–10**)..

**Because Esther’s parents had died, she was adopted by an older cousin named Mordecai, who loved her as a father and took special care to look after her welfare (see Esther 2:5–11).**

**The most touching adoption mentioned in the Old Testament was that of Mephibosheth, the crippled son of Jonathan and the only remaining descendent of Saul.**

* Pharaoh’s daughter adopted Moses out of pity and sympathy.
* And although Mordecai dearly loved Esther, his adoption of her was also prompted by family duty.
* But David’s adoption of Mephibosheth was motivated purely by gracious love.

**3) Assurance of Adoption**

*Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

1 John 3:18-21 [18] Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. [19] By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; [20] for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. [21] Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;