**Lead On**

**The Word**

Read together Romans 8:12-17

**The Big Idea**

The Spirit is the full personal presence of God dwelling with every believer, and he leads us to freedom and to an experience of our adoption as God’s children.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. As you consider the image of adoption in describing our relationship with God through the Spirit, what is most compelling about that to you? What questions does it raise for you if any?

2. Read v. 15-16 together. Imagine you have a friend who identifies as a Christian and says to you, “I’ve never had that spiritual experience of being freed from fear and really experiencing God as my Abba.” How would you respond to your friend? What would you encourage her/him to do, if anything?

3. On Sunday, we discussed how, just as God led Israel out of slavery in Egypt into the freedom of the promise land, the Spirit leads us out of slavery (to the things of this world) into the freedom of being God’s children. In what ways do you find yourself (like the Israelites) being tempted to go back to a life of slavery? How does that play out specifically in your own life?

**Sermon Outline**

I. The Spirit as Person

A. The Spirit is the full personal presence of God and as such he is just as personal as the Father and the Son.

B. He exhibits many personal qualities: We can “walk with him,” we can “keep in step with him,” he “lives with us,” we can “grieve” him.

II. The impact of the Spirit in our lives

A. The Spirit’s presence with us at all times protect us from sinful thoughts and attitudes. We are never alone, he is always with us, and this knowledge and constant awareness can keep us from harmful and sinful decisions.

B. The Spirit leads us out of slavery (to the things of this world) and into the freedom of the children of God (just as God led Israel out of slavery into the freedom of the promise land).

C. The Spirit confirms our adoption as God’s children

 1. God is our father who provides, protects, teaches, helps his children

2. Since we are children, we are also heirs of the new creation (new heavens and new earth) God will bring about.

3. At our adoption, all our former debts are canceled, and we receive full legal standing as God’s children with all the benefits and privileges that come from that.