

STANDALONE SERMON GUIDE

08/24/2025 | Pastor Tim Johnson

WARM UP QUESTION: Can you picture a child running to their father to be swept up and held?

READ: Genesis 2:7

FOCUS: Acceptance says, "I belong to the Father who loves me unconditionally."

OBSERVE:

- We were created by a loving Father, who accepts us and loves us unconditionally.
- In Matthew 3:17, God shows His acceptance of Jesus: that He was beloved, that he held the rights and privileges of sonship and that His heavenly Father was pleased with Him.
- John 4 describes a Samaritan woman who was not experiencing acceptance. Jesus explained to her how the living water He offered would change her life.
- When we don't feel accepted, we are sometimes afraid of how people will react to us or what will happen to us, but the perfect love God has for us casts out fear.
- Jesus offers us the same rivers of living water to us that He offered to the Samaritan woman. Not only that, He said that when we believe in Him, these same rivers of living water would flow from us.

DISCUSS:

- What stood out to you, or what did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention?
- Growing up, did you feel the acceptance of your father? What about another father-figure or your mother?
- Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about the acceptance of your Heavenly Father, and how is it the same or different from what you felt growing up?

TAKE ACTION:

- Pray for each person in your group that they might know that God accepts them.
- Pray that you might all be able to share our Heavenly Father's acceptance with others who need to know Him.

PRAY: Heavenly father, thank you for creating, loving, and accepting us. Help each of us grow into the full meaning of that acceptance. Let Your living water flow from us to those who need to know You. In Jesus' Name, Amen!