



Grafted In

Grafting is an intriguing horticultural term that describes a branch of one plant (often a tree) being joined to the body of another for a specific purpose. Maybe the gardener wants to increase disease or pest resistance, induce fruitfulness, or increase sturdiness. There's an enormous list of reasons why grafting might be used.

It's profound when you think about it. Most of us who write these scriptures on the theme of "Grafted In" this month have been just that: grafted in - to God's family. We are Gentiles and we didn't naturally belong to the household of God. We couldn't say that Abraham was our father. We had no inheritance or promises from Yahweh. We had no hope.

But just as Rahab and Ruth and others heard about this good & loving Father who would protect and guide them, we also chose to leave our pasts behind and follow Him. We chose to be grafted into God's family via the blood of Christ.

This month we are getting into some theologically rich areas. I suspect we all will be coming away with a deeper sense of gratitude as it dawns on us just how good our God is! How steadfast and brilliant and providential and thoughtful.

Offering us adoption was no afterthought. He had always planned from the beginning for us to have a way to approach Him and join His family, to be grafted in. As we write and ponder that this month, we'll consider what grafting involves, what pitfalls to look for, and what it means for our futures as Abraham's offspring.

~Kristen Hicks

*And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's
offspring, heirs according to the promise.*

{Galatians 3:29 ESV}



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Within the context of the "Grafted In" Scripture Writing this month, answer these questions to help you understand the ways this theme is used in the scriptures.

1. What two women do we see grafted into Abraham's family who later show up in the geneology of Jesus? What is the significance of this to you?

2. In Matthew 12:17-21, we read that Jesus fulfilled a certain prophecy from Isaiah. What does this prophecy tell us about Jesus in regards to the Gentile population?

3. How did Peter find out that God will let Gentiles enter His family? How did he react?

4. How did Paul describe his commission from Jesus on the road to Damascus?

5. What's the importance of knowing that the prophets and Moses prophesied that Jesus would offer salvation to both the Jews and the Gentiles?

6. Name everything that Paul said belonged to the Israelites in Romans 9:4-5:

7. Explain the difference between "children of the flesh" and "children of the promise" {Romans 9:6-8}

8. How do we know that simply being an Israelite was not enough for eternal salvation?

9. How did the jealousy of the Israelites play into the salvation of more souls?

10. What sins did Paul specifically warn the Gentiles against in Romans 11:17-22? Why?

11. Can a branch who has been cut off be grafted in again? What does this tell us regarding the "once saved, always saved" doctrine?

12. Who are the sons of Abraham? Are you counted among them?

13. How did the blessing of Abraham come even to the Gentiles?

14. What does Paul note as necessary in order to put on Christ, so becoming Abraham's offspring, "heirs according to promise"? {Galatians 3:26-27} Have you been baptized? If not, why not?

15. Contrast what it is like to be separated from Christ with being a member of the household of God {Ephesians 2}:

16. What must change when we are grafted into God's family through Christ? {Ephesians 4:17-24}
