***John 1:10-13 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.***

Lately, we’ve been learning that Jesus has some loving names for us. He cherishes His relationship with us. Two weeks ago, we learned that Jesus calls us His disciples when we repent and abide in Him in belief. Last week, we learned that Jesus calls us friends. Both of these come from John 15. Jesus gave us a commandment, which we realized is an authoritative prescription, to love one another as He has loved us. In 1 Peter 1:22-23, we read*Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.* When we place our trust in the Truth of God’s Son, His incorruptible seed, we are born again… not as children of the world, but children of God.

 Who do we say Jesus is? The Christ, the Son of the Living God, the Resurrection, the Way, the Truth, the Life. Who does Jesus say we are, when we are born again in Him? His disciples, His friends. This morning, we learn He has declared another name over us. Children of God. Can you feel us moving in closer to the Kingdom? Two weeks ago, we were disciples, students. A week ago, we were named friend, dear ones. This week, we are named children. How God blesses us as He draws us!

John 1:10 says *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.*Jesus, the Word, became flesh and dwelt in the world. Isaiah 7:14 calls Him Emmanuel, meaning God with us. John 1:14 says – *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us*. The world was made through Him – John 1:3 says - *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.* This world was made through Him and did not know Him. He is our Father, John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*, and they did not know Him. Jesus is still coming to people today and people still do not know Him. His Peace and His Presence are far from them.

Verse 11 *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.* His own… the Jewish people… His peculiar covenant people and they did not receive Him. The Greek word here for Receive means take for oneself or accept. He came to His people, and they did not accept Him for themselves. The question for each of us today is – Have we accepted Him personally – have we taken Him to ourselves?

Verse 12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.* The Greek word for Receive here is different than in verse 11. Previously, it had the idea of accept. This has the idea of get hold of! The Jews were His own and all they needed to do was accept. The Gentiles are now given the opportunity to get or catch hold of. When people choose to take hold of Jesus, He gives them the right – in the KJV it says power – the root of this word is privilege. Jesus grants is the privilege to become not just His disciples, not just His friends, but children of God! How? By believing in His name and receiving Him – getting hold of Him. Have you made a personal choice to get hold of Him? Not just know of Him but accept Him, receive Him as personal Savior?

Verse 13 *who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.* When we choose Jesus, it is not an earthly birth, of blood or by some choice of our flesh. We are not born by our own will, but are reborn by the will of God – as 1 Peter 1:23 said earlier *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible,* ***through the word of God*** *which lives and abides forever.* We are reborn, made incorruptible, by belief in the Name above all names, Jesus Christ. This fallen evil world corrupts us. We cannot be reborn by that which corrupts us. We must be renewed by that which is incorruptible – the incorruptible Son of God – Jesus – Emmanuel – God with us.

This week, let’s remember - when we abide in Him, we are disciples. When we accept His authoritative prescription to love one another, we are His friends. When we receive Him, by belief in His name, we receive the privilege to become children of God. No longer are we prisoners, waiting in the jail cell, sentenced to die, but we are set free, God’s children destined to live eternally. Let’s praise Jesus for many names He calls us.