

**DAY 5**

**ADOPTION**

# LET'S TALK ABOUT ADOPTION

## SCRIPTURE FOCUS: JOHN 1:12; 1 JOHN 3:1

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are ..." — 1 John 3:1

In God's rich grace and mercy, he has opened the door for us to enter into his eternal family through the reconciling work of his son, Jesus.

For many, adoption does indeed offer a glimpse of the gospel. In a blog about the vision for Show Hope's Adoption Aid work, Co-founder Mary Beth Chapman spoke of the first moment she held Shaohannah Hope (Shaoey), her first daughter who was welcomed into their family through adoption. Mary Beth wrote, "God was gracious to give me an incredibly beautiful gift as I began to understand anew the great depths of God's love for His children. God, our Father, as the relentless pursuer of love sought after me, adopted me, and made me His—forever, for better, for worse."

As God works through the adoption journey, children are welcomed into the care and permanency of a loving family. The adoption journey provides an opportunity for families and their communities to experience and learn more about what it means to love and to be loved, unconditionally, as children of God.

# THE FINANCIAL BARRIER TO ADOPTION

Adoption is just one way to help care for children who have been orphaned. It is not a cure-all nor is it the right answer in every context. But adoption is a journey that can help bring hope, healing, love, and permanency to a child who is waiting.

Every year, countless individuals consider growing their family through adoption, but only a small percentage of those actually move forward. A major reason for this is the financial barrier, as the average cost of adoption can range between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

The work of Show Hope is dedicated to restoring hope to the millions of children who have been orphaned. We do this by engaging the Church and reducing the barriers to adoption. Through providing Adoption Aid grants to families in the adoption process, Show Hope has helped more than 6,800 children from more than 60 countries, including the U.S, come home.

The barriers that accompany adoption, particularly the financial barrier, can be daunting. But as families navigate the challenges, there are opportunities for others to come alongside them and do something to help waiting children on their journey home. Here are a few ways you can help:

- ✦ Pray for children and families impacted by adoption and foster care as well as those still waiting.
- ✦ Participate in/plan adoption fundraisers for families in your community.
- ✦ Lend skills to help raise funds (artistic skills, event organization, graphic design, etc.).
- ✦ Offer complimentary wraparound services to adoptive families (babysitting, meals, errands, etc.).

## PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

Reflect on this promise from Jesus: “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you” (John 14:18).

Spend time thinking about what it means to know the love and permanency of a family. As you do this, think about the reassurance of the unconditional love we have in Christ. He *will not* leave us.

- ✦ What does this promise mean to you? How does this promise affect or change how you live your life?

There’s an inherent tension in adoption—it is a beautiful reflection of love, but it only exists because a profound loss has occurred in a child’s life. In many ways, this is a picture of God the Father’s adoption of us as his children, only possible through his son’s sacrifice.

- ✦ How can we embrace this tension? How can we rejoice in its beauty while also honoring the presence of incredible loss?

## ACTIVE REFLECTION

Do you know a family in your church or community that is growing through adoption or providing foster care? What would it look like for you to offer meaningful support and help to that family?

Pick a date in the next two months to do something tangible to encourage that family. It can be as simple as writing a note or sharing their adoption fundraising page with others. Perhaps it is contributing an anonymous donation or taking them a meal.

If you do not know a family in your community that is pursuing adoption or seeking to provide foster care, ask your pastor, youth leader, or parents to point you in the right direction.

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