

We Thank God for Our Families
Everyone Deserves a Home — A Lesson on Adoption
Grades 4-6

Goal: Students will learn about the loving choice of adoption and explore stories of people who have been adopted. They will hear from children awaiting adoption. Activities will reinforce a thankfulness for family and home and a desire to pray for and support those children who do not have either.

Lesson: Today's lesson looks at the subject of adoption and foster care. Students will develop a deeper understanding of what adoption and foster care are and why, as Christians, we take very seriously the responsibility for every child born into the world, not just our own children.

Discussion: Begin by asking students to share what they know about the topic:

What is adoption? Why are there children who need to be adopted?

Do you know anyone who has been adopted or who has adopted a child?

Even a celebrity?

What is foster care? Why do families adopt or take in foster children?

Why are these stories of redemption?

Watch:

[A Lott More to the Story](#) Adoption story of the Lott family who adopted five children. 2.5 minute video

[I Like Adoption](#) Video about a family who adopted nine children from around the world, several of whom have special needs. Very positive. 6.5 minutes

Quick, positive video showing how many [leaders, revolutionaries, and visionaries have been adopted](#). 1 minute.

["Hidden Angels"](#) ABC news shares how a family adopted a girl with Down Syndrome from Ukraine, and the amazing changes that resulted in her family and theirs. 4 minutes.

[Down Syndrome is Not Scary](#) Sofia Sanchez demonstrates the power of adoption for children with Down Syndrome. 2 minutes.

Discussion: These videos shared the stories of many different children, all with different backgrounds. But they all had one thing in common. They were in need of a forever family. What are some factors that encourage a mom and/or a dad to consider placing a child for adoption?

Are the factors different for newborn babies than for older children?

Is the choice for adoption, made by the birthparents—either at the time of birth or later in life—a loving choice? Why or why not?

Have you learned anything new about adoption today that you did not know before?

What other questions remain?

Activity: As a class, look at the photos and descriptions of [These Kids Are Waiting for Adoption](#) photolist of some of the children in foster care in LA, awaiting adoption. Have students take some time to read about each of these kids, about what they like to do and how they like to spend their time.

Ask students to discuss what it would be like to “adopt” one of these kids for your class.

Next, ask students to think about what it would be like to be in need of a forever family as these children are. How would that make you feel if you had to try to find and convince someone to adopt you and bring you into their family?

Using the webpage descriptions as a guide, ask each student to compose a short paragraph about themselves that they think would be the best representation of their personalities to share with potential adoptive families.

Is a short paragraph a true representation of who we really are?

Is it difficult to write something, asking someone to be your mother and father?

What do we learn from this experience that can help us empathize with children who do not have families of their own?

Prayer:

Prayer for Families

Heavenly Father, You created families as the center of life and love.

Families raise children and build communities

based on human dignity and unconditional love.

Create in our hearts a deep love for our families

and a desire to encourage the attributes in us that lead to happy, peaceful families.

We pray for families that are broken and children who do not grow up with their parents.

We pray for children waiting for parents to adopt them.

Send your peace and your love to these children,

that they may experience hope even in their greatest doubt.

Amen.

Additional resources:

Material:

[When Love Takes you In](#) Steven Curtis Chapman music video. 5 minutes.

[Brave Love](#) - gorgeous website highlighting the stories of brave love shown by birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees.

Scripture and Church Teaching

[Exodus 2:1-10](#) The adoption of Moses by Pharaoh's daughter.

Prayer Opportunities

["Intercessory Prayers: Adoption"](#) Pre-written intercessory prayers from the USCCB for use at Mass in English and Spanish.