

RESPECT

L I F E W E E K

2023

TOGETHER AS ONE

Lesson: Adoption and Foster Care 7th – 8th grade

Goal:

Students will learn about the number of infants and children available for adoption or in the foster care system. They will explore adoption as a loving option for unexpected pregnancies. Activities and personal testimonies will reinforce the need of each person to have stability, love, and family.

Lesson: Introduce the topic of adoption.

- Why are there children who need to be adopted?
- What is foster care?
- Why do families adopt or taken in foster children?
- Why are these stories of redemption?
- Do you know anyone who has been adopted, has adopted a child, or who has placed a child for adoption?

Watch: "[A Birthmother Story: Grace](#)" A birthmother shares her moving story of choosing adoption for her baby. Adoption is chosen because birthmothers love their children more, not less. (4 minutes)

[Jessica's Story](#) of being a birth mom and placing her child for adoption with a loving home. Jessica is an important part of her daughter Macy's life and her new adoptive family. (6 minutes)

iChoose Adoption stories of birth moms who chose to place their children for adoption.

- [Miranda's](#) story, (1 minute)
- [Cristen's](#) story, (1 minute)
- [Angela's](#) story, (6 minutes)
- College student [Callie Mitchell's](#) story of placing her son Leo in an open adoption. NBC Rock Center story. (7.5 minutes)

Discussion:

- Why did these women choose adoption for their children?
- Did it seem to be the right choice, or one they ever regretted?
- Was it difficult?

- How did other people view their choice to place for adoption?
- Did they care what others thought?
- Overall, did they seem happy with their decision?

Watch: [I Like Adoption](#) and [Veronica's](#) story of adopting 3 boys in foster care.

Discussion:

- Why did these families choose to adopt children?
- Did they start by wanting to adopt many children? Or just one?
- Is there anything similar about these stories? What?
- Overall, did the children seem happy to be adopted? Did the parents seem happy?

Watch: [The Dropbox](#) is an amazing idea one man created in South Korea to care for that nation's unwanted babies. (3 minutes)

Discussion: These videos chronicle an amazing story in South Korea of a man finding a solution to a problem in their culture.

- What did you find most interesting about this story?
- Why do you think people are drawn to this orphanage?
- What did the camera crew learn while they were filming?

Activity: Ask students to choose one of the following perspectives and activities.

[Adopted and loved](#) -Great website with resources and information for birth moms and people looking to adopt.

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

- **A birth mom looking to place a child for adoption.**
 - Write a letter to your child giving your reasoning for choosing adoption and sharing with him or her your hopes for the future. Feel free to name your child and create descriptions of your life. This is your big chance to share your wisdom and love with your child!
- **A couple wanting to adopt.**
 - Put together a portfolio of photos and stories explaining your life and why you think you would make great parents for an adopted child. Explain experiences from your own childhoods and whether you have other children or not. You want a birth mom to choose you!
- **A child who has been adopted (either at birth or through foster care).**
 - Write a letter to your birth mom telling her about your life now. How has your life changed since you have been adopted? Where do you live? Do you have siblings? Have you had to change a lot of things? What are your feelings toward your birth mom? Make sure to thank her for giving you the gift of life!

PRAYER

Prayer for Life

O Lord, I come before you in prayer for women and teens
who are struggling with the decisions
they must make about their unborn children.
Minister to their hearts and set deep within them
Your words that a child is a gift from God
and no man shall end the life of another.
Help them realize they do have choices.
Provide them with the courage to choose life.
Inspire in the hearts of your faithful
the desire to adopt babies and children
who are in need of love and stability.
Give all children loving homes
and kind families.
Amen.