

a resource for
orphan
sunday

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An Initiative of
The Christian Alliance for Orphans
& The Cry of the Orphan

Where Do We Go From Here?



W A R M • U P

4 5 M I N U T E S

As we discussed in Session Four, making a decision about adoption can be a complicated and difficult journey. It is possible and even probable that the last four sessions have left you with more questions than you had at the beginning. The hope is that now, however, you are equipped with the right questions to make an informed and God-honoring adoption decision.

1. How has God spoken to you over the last several weeks concerning His will in the area of adoption?

2. Has there been anything during these weeks together that has transformed your thinking about God, the orphan, or adoption?

3. What are two or three main obstacles or questions that you are going to have to address as you continue your adoption journey?

After each couple discusses their answers to these questions, have someone pray for this couple.



To Adoption and Beyond

Whether you sense God is calling you to adopt or not, you may be wondering about other ways to be obedient in caring for the “least of these” and specifically the orphan.

Across the country people like you are seeing God do astonishing things through their small steps of obedience on behalf of the orphan. Consider the following real life case study:

Jay and Suzanne were adoptive parents in a small Texas town church who sensed that God wanted them to go beyond the adoption of children into their own family and make a difference for the orphan in even bigger ways.

At first Suzanne used a church bulletin board to display information and pictures of waiting children to make the congregation aware of the needs of orphans.

Soon she started a Christian support group for families with adopted children in the community, and the new ministry grew so rapidly that they outgrew their facility.

Even though the support group was going well, God's work had only just begun. Suzanne's greatest desire was to see children adopted. She went to the elder board of her church to propose a hosting program in which children from an orphanage in Kazakhstan would be brought to the United States to live with families for a month. This would give each child the opportunity to experience being a part of a family, and the family an opportunity to consider adopting that child.

Some in the church gave money, some gave clothes, and some hosted children. Regardless of their role, members made the necessary sacrifices to bring 29 children from Kazakhstan for a visit, with the intention of finding them permanent homes. In the end, some couples decided to adopt more, and altogether more than 40 Kazakh children found homes in Texas.

This ministry has already grown far beyond Suzanne's expectations. "If more than forty children could get families in a small Texas town where people wear

cowboy boots and drive pickup trucks,” says Suzanne, “think about what other churches could do.”

*Adapted from “His Heart, Our Hands,” Familylife’s guide to establishing and growing orphans ministry in the local church.

- 1.** As Jay and Suzanne watched God orchestrate the remarkable circumstances that brought more than 40 orphans to forever families in their little church, how would you think their personal faith was affected?
- 2.** In what ways do you think this journey and these children have changed the way the church views God, the body of Christ, and the world?
- 3.** What kind of impact would you guess observing this church living out their faith in this way has had on their community, especially those who are not Christians?
- 4.** From a missions standpoint, what are some ways you think this one act has changed the world?
- 5.** Besides adoption, what are some other ways this group, along with others in your churches, could get involved in helping the orphan?

6. If you did even one or two of these things, how do you think it would change you, your church, your community, and the world for Christ?

HomeBuilders Principle:

Small steps of faithfulness to care for those close to God's heart will not only impact you and them, but also your church, your community, and the entire world.

A Spring of Water

7. Read Isaiah 58:10-12.

*And if you give yourself to the hungry
And satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
Then your light will rise in darkness
And your gloom will become like midday.
And the LORD will continually guide you,
And satisfy your desire in scorched places,
And give strength to your bones;
And you will be like a watered garden,
And like a spring of water whose waters do
not fail.*

According to this passage, what promises does God give to those who help the helpless? How would you apply these promises in your life?

Make a Date

Make a date with your spouse to meet before the next session to complete the HomeBuilders Project. Your leader will ask you to share something from this experience.

DATE

TIME

LOCATION



Now that you've spent a few weeks working through this decision as a couple, we suggest that you obtain some resources that will help you along in your journey. These are available through FamilyLife by calling 1-800-FL-TODAY (358-6329) or by visiting familylife.com.

“God’s Heart for the Orphan,” a message by Dennis Rainey (DVD).

Fields of the Fatherless, by C. Thomas Davis.

His Heart, Our Hands: A Guide for Establishing and Growing an Orphans Ministry in the local church, a booklet from FamilyLife’s Hope for Orphans ministry.

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