



## **Group Discussion Guide: Adopting Children | July 25, 2021**

### **Begin with silence + prayer (5 minutes)**

**Read John 1:12-13.** Once finished, spend a few moments in prayerful silence. Then, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together – that your conversation, your words, etc. will be pleasing to God and uplifting to others.

You might even use this prayer from Ruth Haley Barton’s book *Life Together in Christ*:

*Lord Jesus, stay with us,  
For evening is at hand and the day is almost past;  
Be our companion on the way, kindle our hearts and  
awaken hope,  
That we may know you as you are revealed in  
Scripture and in the breaking of bread.  
Grant this for the sake of your love.  
Amen.*

### **Recap your past week and share some initial reflections on “Adopting Children” (10 minutes).**

- What were your highs and lows from this past week?
- What from the sermon stood out to you and resonated with you? What challenged you?
- When you think of the idea of adopting and fostering children, what feelings and questions does that bring up for you?



**Split into smaller groups of three or four to read Scripture and answer these questions as a debrief of the sermon (30 minutes).** *Have each person share their thoughts on the Scriptures and questions below.*

- Why do you think it's important for younger people (especially children) to have older folks present and active in their lives? How has having older people pour into your life made a difference in how your story has turned out?
- **Read Ephesians 1:4-5; Romans 8:15; 1 John 3:1.**
- When you think about salvation, do you primarily think about your sins being forgiven or about being adopted into God's family? Why are both of these perspectives important?
- How should our being adopted into God's family shape how we think about bringing other people into ours?
- **Read James 1:27.** If you were writing James, would you have written "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: *to look after orphans and widows in their distress*" or would you have ended it differently? What else would you be prone to write instead of writing looking after "orphans and widows in their distress?"
- Going back to last week's message, how do you think that Christian's efforts to take care of children outside of the womb would lend them credibility to their insistence that life matters inside of the womb?
- What unique challenges do you think our culture presents to those who wish to help kids who are in need of foster care or adoption?

**Transition back to a large group for recap (20-25 minutes).**

- What were some of things that came from your smaller group discussion that are noteworthy?



- How do you think our group can participate more actively or more effectively in the effort to foster and adopt children in our city? How might you be able to support foster or adoptive families in our church family?
- What challenges might your group face? What good might come from it? What would discerning actual next steps look like for our group in this regard?

**Transition to smaller same-gender groups for accountability (15-20 minutes).** *Ask some of the questions below to hold one another accountable. Don't feel like you have to use this list like a checklist. If needed, feel free to stop, dive deeper, and pray over one another.*

- How are you and the Lord these days?
- How has it been in pointing your friends and family towards Jesus this week with your words and actions?
- What has your prayer time been like this week?
- What has your time in Scripture been like this week?
- What has sharing Jesus looked like for you this week? Have you represented him well?
- In what ways have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- How can we pray for you?

Take a few moments to pray as a group over each other for resilient devotion to God this week.

**Finish with intercessory prayer in your split groups (10 minutes).**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?



Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.

**Things coming up:**

1. **GOD IS sermon series** begins August 8! GOD IS books are now available for life group leaders to pick up on Sunday mornings!
2. There will be two **GOD IS curriculum training sessions** coming up: (1) In-person on August 1 at 10am in South Room 3 at Franklin Rd. (2) Online on August 4 at 7pm via zoom. Email Emerson at [emersonkennedy@thecreek.org](mailto:emersonkennedy@thecreek.org) for more details on that!
3. **SERVE WEEK is August 21-28!** Whether it's doing home or yard maintenance for a struggling neighbor, cleaning up a road or park, or serving a couple of hours with a partner or at an event, we want to help you be #ForThe317. All you need to do is go to the VOMO.org website or download the VOMO app, click join an organization, type in TheCreekIndy, and look at the opportunities listed. You can access the app here: <https://app.vomo.org/org/thecreekindy>