

Everyone Deserves a Home - a Lesson on Adoption

GRADES 4-6 - Lesson I (Year III, Day 3)

Goal: Students will learn about the loving choice of adoption and explore stories of people who have been adopted. 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.

Discussion:

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?

What is foster care?

Why do families adopt or take in foster children?

Watch: Clips of [Olivia](#) and [Denise, Anthony, and German](#) from Wednesday's Child, a news segment highlighting children available for adoption.

Discussion: This video shared the story of children with different backgrounds. But they all had one thing in common. They were in need of a forever family.

Help students to make the connection that some parents don't know they need help with their children until the children are older. Then, many of these children have temporary homes—foster care—while waiting for a family to give them a forever home. What would it be like to be in their shoes? How would it make you feel if you had to try and convince someone to adopt you and bring you into their family?

Activity: 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 are in need of an adoptive family? Ask each student to think about and write what they would say to a child who is in this situation.

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 can't be together 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.

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website