

The Power of Home: Adoption

GRADES 7-9 - Lesson I (Year III, Day 3)

Goal: Students will explore adoption as a loving option for unexpected pregnancies. Activities and personal testimonies will reinforce awareness of 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? Do you know anyone who has been adopted, has adopted a child, or who has placed a child for adoption?

Watch: Story from birth mom, [Grace](#), who placed her child for adoption.

Discussion:

Why did Grace choose adoption for her child?

Did it seem to be the right choice, or one she regretted?

Was it difficult?

How do you think other people viewed her choice to place her child for adoption?

Do you think she cared what others thought?

Overall, did she seem happy with her decision?

Watch: [Adam & Sophia's Story](#)

Discussion:

Why did Adam and Sophia choose to adopt children?

Did they experience adoption as a positive thing? Why?

Why were they so grateful to the birth mothers of their three boys?

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

- 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? Is there anything you want to thank her for?

Additional Resource: I Lived On Parker Avenue

I Lived on Parker Avenue is a powerful 30 min. documentary and an excellent resource to share with students. The film tells the story of 19-year-old David and his journey to meet his birth parents for the first time. It is about a mother's agony in choosing what's best, the joy of a couple starting a family, and a young man's search for where his life began. [Watch the film here!](#)

For ideas on lesson plans, discussion questions and supplemental resources with the film, check out the [I Lived on Parker Avenue School Packet](#).

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.

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