

The Power of Home: Adoption and Foster Care

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

Goal: Students will explore adoption in the situation of foster care. Activities and discussions will provide opportunities to become more aware of the beauty of adoption and the goodness of people who have been adopted.

Lesson:

Foster care is different from adoption. Foster care is a temporary arrangement made by government agencies to place children in a safe, nurturing environment when their own parents are not able to care for them. Some children are placed in foster care while their families work on problems like addiction or mental illness in the hopes of being eventually reunited. Other children in foster care are waiting to be adopted by a “forever family” because their birth family are simply unable to care for them. There is often a lot of criticism of the foster care system because ultimately it is best for children to be part of a permanent family where they know they belong, rather than being bounced around from place to place. There is much more we can do as a society to help struggling families stay together, and match children who have been in foster care for a long time with a loving adoptive family.

Watch: [Forever Family Follow-up Stories](#) - Choose a few stories from this selection. Kail, Aaron and/or Paige are recommended.

- Did these families seem happy about their adoptions?
- Do you think some families might have been hesitant to adopt teenagers who have been in foster care a long time?
- What are some challenges that kids who are in the “foster-care system” might face?
- What are things we can do as a society to support families so that their homes can be safe places for their children to live?
- Do you have any ideas of what social workers and families can do to support children and teenagers who are coping with different traumas including the trauma of leaving their home?

Activity: Have the students do research on a famous person who is adopted and present their findings to the class. They can research when the person was adopted, why they needed an adoption plan, the gifts that they give/have given to society, etc. For ideas, watch this video - [Imagine Spot](#)

Additional Resource: ReMoved

[ReMoved](#) - This short 13 minute film portrays the experience of a child in foster care. It is emotionally intense and contains some disturbing scenes of abuse and neglect. You can determine if your students are mature enough to benefit from it. If you choose to show it, it is recommended to follow it with some positive stories of children who have been adopted from foster care like those above.

Prayer

O Lord, I come before you in prayer for all children and teenagers who have been separated from their families. Help them to know that they are loved and wanted. Raise up many generous and caring families to foster and adopt children in need of a loving home. Strengthen those families in times of struggles and bring healing to every wounded heart. Amen.

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