

## We Thank God for Our Families

### Everyone Deserves a Home—A Lesson on Adoption

Grades 4-6

**Goal:** Students will learn about the loving choice of adoption and explore stories of people who have been adopted. They will hear from children awaiting adoption. Activities will reinforce a thankfulness for family and home and a desire to pray for and support those children who do not have either.

### *Diving into Dignity*

As humans, we possess special **powers** that animals do not. These are the powers to **think** and to **choose**. We are given these amazing powers so that we can know and choose to do good. Today we'll learn about people who used their powers to recognize the dignity of others and to love them.

*Based on the Human Dignity Curriculum (World Youth Alliance)*

**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:** [“A Lott of Love”](#)

**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.

What are some factors that encourage a mom and/or a dad to consider placing a child for adoption?

Are the factors different for newborn babies than for older children?

Is the choice for adoption, made by the birthparents—either at the time of birth or later in life—a loving choice? Why or why not?

Have you learned anything new about adoption today that you did not know before?

What other questions remain?

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

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.

**Discussion:** These kids waiting for forever families are just like many kids in our school. I bet you can find kids with similar likes and dislikes, talents and skills that you have. Except that these kids don't have homes to live in with moms and dads. They are waiting for a forever family. How would you feel if you were in their shoes? What would you say to those kids if you could talk to them?

**Prayer:**

### 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*