

The Power of Home

Adoption and Foster Care

Grades 7-9

Goal: Students will learn about the number of infants and children available for adoption or in the foster care system. They will explore adoption as a loving option for unexpected pregnancies. Activities and personal testimonies will reinforce the need of each person to have stability, love, and family.

Diving into Dignity

As humans, we possess unique **powers** that animals do not. These are the powers to **think** and to **choose**. We are given these powers so that we can know and choose to do good. Today we'll learn about people who used their powers to make courageous choices for the sake of others.

Based on the Human Dignity Curriculum (World Youth Alliance)

Lesson: Introduce the topic of adoption. Why are there children who need to be adopted? What is foster care? Why do families adopt or taken in foster children? Why are these stories of redemption? 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?

Watch: [Veronica's story](#)

Overall, did the boys seem happy to be adopted? Why?

Did Veronica seem happy? Why?

Many people who are seeking to adopt are only interested in adopting an infant. What do you think about that?

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? Make sure to thank her for giving you the gift of life!

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