



## Adoption and Orphan Care Resource Kit

Your guide to making a difference in the life of a waiting child

As Christians, we have a clear command to care for orphans. While not every family is called to adopt, we can all make a difference in the life of a child—and Focus can help you support orphans in your community and around the world.

This kit is designed to help you and your family be a blessing to waiting kids in your community and around the globe. Inside, you'll learn more about the adoption and foster care process, practical ways to support adoptive families and inspiring ways to pray for orphans.

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**Special Offer**  
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*Oliver Twist*

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*Although the children in this kit are fictional, there are thousands just like them in need of permanent adoptive families.*

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# GET INVOLVED

Want to support waiting kids and adoptive families? We can help you discover creative ways for the whole family to get involved!

Whether you're called to adopt or simply want to be a blessing to kids and adoptive families in your community, there are countless ways to help. Best of all, you don't need money or a lot of time—just a willing heart.

Look through our free booklets, crafts and prayer tips for exciting ways to start making a difference today.

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GET INVOLVED



# Wrapping Around Adoptive Families

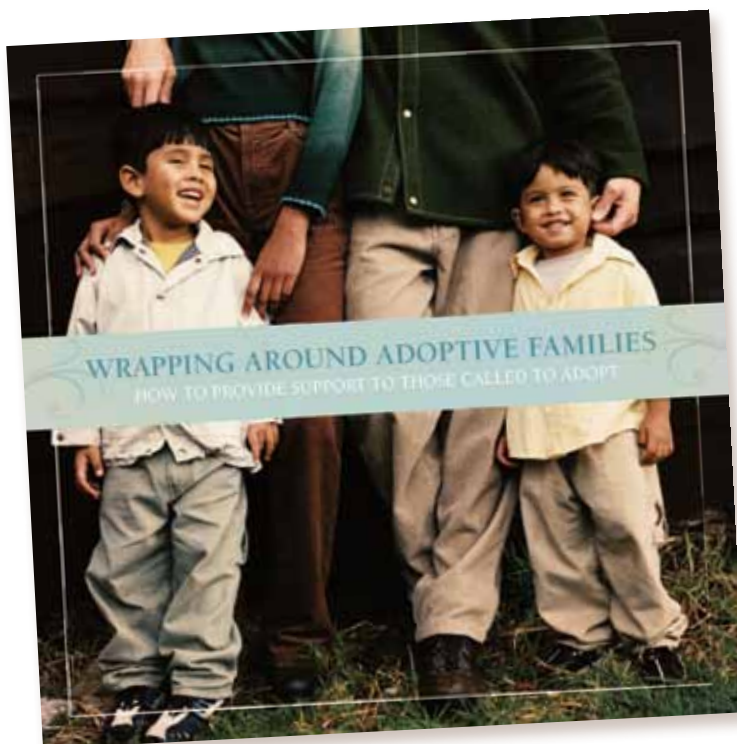
Not every family is called to adopt. But you can be a blessing in many other ways. This free booklet is full of inspiring ideas to help you and your kids “W.R.A.P.” around adoptive families in your church and community.

## Instructions:

[Click here](#) to download a FREE PDF of the “Wrapping Around Adoptive Families” booklet.

## You can play a role in the adoption journey.

There are many different ways to minister to God’s orphaned children and to the adoptive families who have welcomed these children home. Struggling adoptive families need their church families to wrap around and support them during times of trial. When churches do this, they mirror our heavenly Father, who wraps His arms around us during times of joy as well as times of trouble.



"Adoptive families need others to WRAP around them with prayer and practical help. Here's an easy way to remember their needs:

**W.** wrestle in prayer  
**R.** respite care  
**A.** acts of service  
**P.** promises of God"

# Daily Prayer Calendar

The easy-to-use prayer calendar on the next page will help you and your family remember to pray for kids in need of forever families—as well as the churches, agencies and partners involved in the process.

## Instructions:

Print one calendar per month, then fill in the month and days in the blank spaces provided. Hang the calendar on your refrigerator or mirror to remind you and your family to say a special prayer each day.

Difficulty: Easy

Supplies Needed:

- Two hands for prayer
- Caring heart for orphans
- A place to hang the calendar

Children come into the United States foster care system for various reasons, including neglect, abuse, abandonment and substance abuse by their primary caretakers. Historically, the church has cared for children such as these out of obedience to God's repeated mandate to care for the marginalized. However, many Christians today are simply unsure of what they can do to make a difference.

The National Foster Care Prayer Vigil was created to call followers of Christ wherever they are to ask the God of the Universe to do great and mighty things on their behalf. He hears our prayers, and we know He will answer our plea for these precious children and for the people who love and care for them.

Perhaps the best place to start is on our knees, crying out to a Holy God on behalf of these children, their birth families, their foster families and their social workers.

Prayers within the calendar are from the "Foster Care Prayer Guide" by the Cry of the Orphan collaborative campaign.



# DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually. Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth [...] Psalm 105:4-5 NASB	Pray that the children in the foster care system would come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.	Pray that these children would experience God's love through the love and care given to them by all involved in the child welfare system.	Pray that God would provide each of these children with a "forever family," and that God would prepare the hearts of these children to be ready for the families He will provide them.	Pray that God would open doors to keep sibling groups intact or in contact with one another as they grow up.	Pray that God would heal the deep hurts these children have experienced and protect them from future harm.	I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27 NIV
Pray that God would transform these children's lives and hearts and that they would be able to forgive those who have wronged them.	Pray for the thousands of young adults who have "aged out" of the child welfare system, that they might still find a Christian forever family, that they might find mentors, and that they would come to know Jesus.	When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; [...] These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer [...] Acts 1:13-14 NASB	Pray that God would raise up laborers to fill every void: judges, attorneys, guardians ad litem, social workers, court appointed special advocates (CASA), support staff, therapists and others.	Pray that God would draw these workers to Himself, that their motivation might be rooted in the Gospel and its ability to do the impossible and transform lives.	Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress [...] James 1:27 NIV	Pray that God would move more Christians to launch careers in the child welfare system.
Pray that God would encourage our state's social workers, that they would experience great joy in their work and that they would not grow weary in doing good.	Pray that God would provide what is necessary for our state's social workers to do their jobs well, and that lawmakers would continue to provide funds for the system to operate effectively and in a way that is best for the children.	Pray for the families of the workers, that the overwhelming realities they experience each day will not prevent them from giving 100 percent at home.	Pray that the workers will seek justice for everyone involved.	My soul, waits in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; the rock of my strength, my refuge is in God [...]	[...] Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:5-8 NASB	Pray that God would draw these children's biological families to Himself and that they would experience the life transformation that will allow them to parent their children well.
Pray that God would intervene in the lives of other at-risk families, and provide them with mentors who can help prevent the removal of their children in the first place.	Pray that God would raise up an army of godly foster parents who are equally committed to reunification and adoption when necessary, trusting God alone for the outcome He desires.	Pray for current foster parents, that they would not lose heart and that they would be diligent in seeking justice for the children in their care.	Pray that potential adoptive families will step forward and not grow discouraged while waiting to become qualified to adopt children in our state.	[...] they help each other and say to their companions, "Be strong!" Isaiah 41:6 NIV	Pray that families who have already adopted children from foster care would have wisdom and would experience God's grace as they parent their children.	Pray that foster families would have the ability to see these children as they see their biological children—as gifts from God that deserve to be cared for in the best way possible.
Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves [...] Proverbs 31:8a NIV  Ask God to show you ways you can speak up for others in this next week.	Pray that God would raise up people in many churches to launch ministries for orphans and waiting children, and that many of these ministries would become engaged with the child welfare system.	Pray that more and more church leaders would respond to the needs in foster care and would actively engage in the child welfare system.	Pray that believers all over the state would be consumed with compassion for the children in foster care, and would make themselves available for how God wants to use them.	Pray that believers in our state would be unified in Christ and that our unity around this issue would draw others to Him.	Ask God what He would have us do in the future in relation to the foster care system and the children and families it serves.	Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8 NASB



# Picture a Forever Family

This fun, easy craft will help your kids pray specifically for a child in foster care to find a forever family.

## Instructions:

Go to one of the websites below to pick a child or sibling group you'd like to pray for and print out the photo to fit a 4" x 6" frame. Next, print out the frame below and glue it to a piece of cardstock to make it stronger. Cut it out. Then, fill it with the child's photo and secure it with tape. Create as many frames as you'd like. Hang the frame on your refrigerator, mirror or wherever you'll see it regularly to remind you to pray for that child to find a forever family.

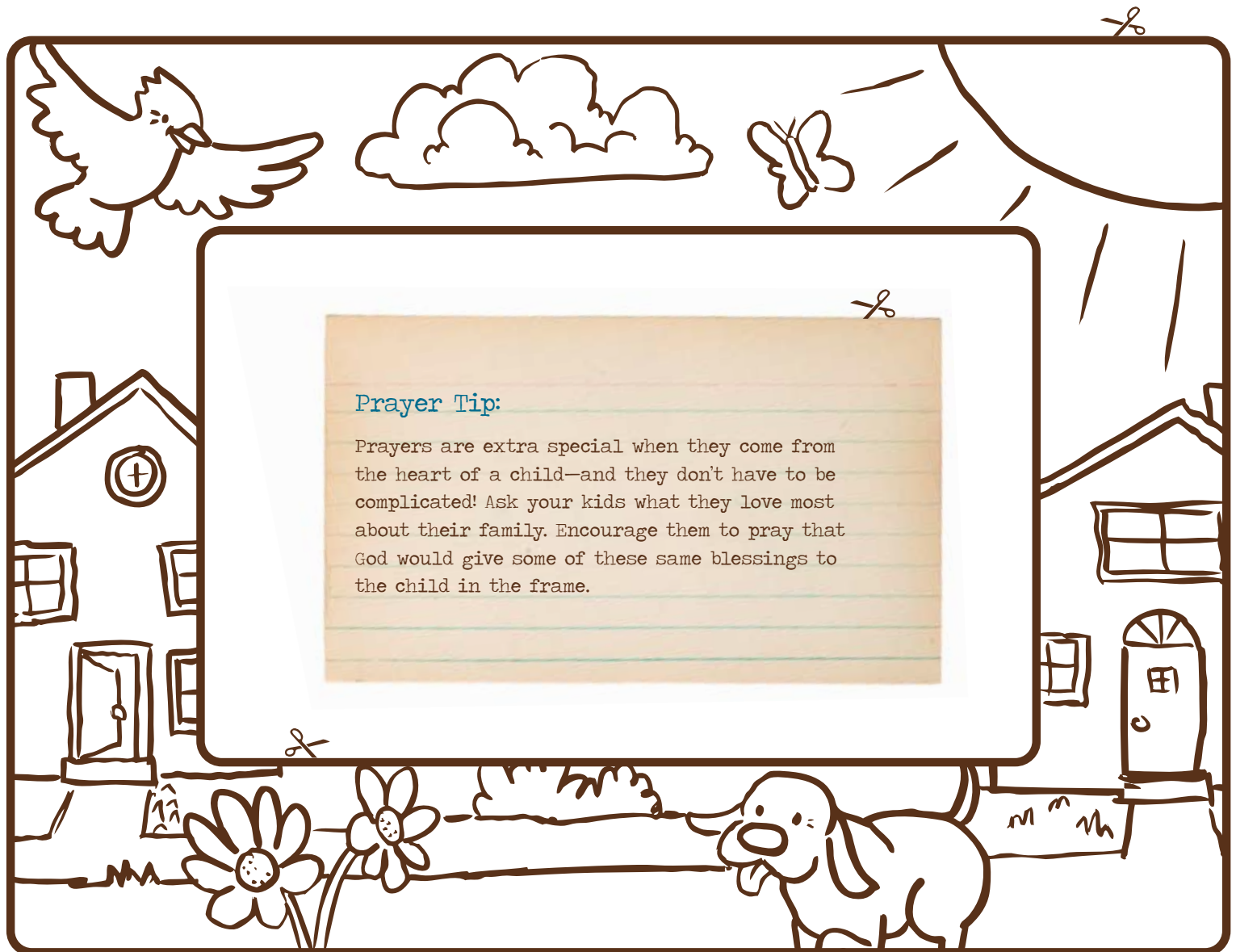
[Heart Gallery of America](#)  
[Adopt US Kids](#)

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Difficulty:** Easy

## Supplies Needed:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Photo
- Tape
- Cardstock
- Markers or anything else you would like to decorate with



## Prayer Tip:

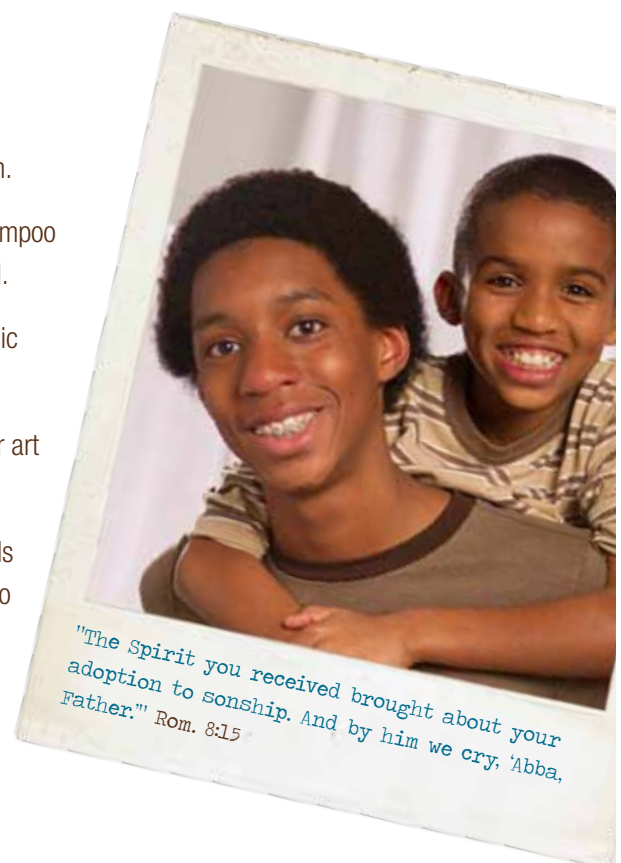
Prayers are extra special when they come from the heart of a child—and they don't have to be complicated! Ask your kids what they love most about their family. Encourage them to pray that God would give some of these same blessings to the child in the frame.

# Be a Blessing

Just because you can't bring a child in foster care into your home doesn't mean you can't make a difference in their lives! There are countless ways to be a blessing to kids in foster care. Volunteering, donating and encouraging others are only the beginning of your journey to bringing smiles to the faces of waiting kids in your community. Working with your local human services division or other licensed child placing agency is the best way to get connected. For more information on agencies and ministries in the your area, [click here](#).

## Creative ideas and activities for the whole family to get involved!

- Pray regularly for the kids in foster care, the social workers in your city and the judges and caseworkers that are making decisions on behalf of children and youth (see page 6 for a helpful guide).
- Volunteer at your county's child welfare office.
- Clean up the playground at the county child welfare office.
- Surprise county child welfare staff with baked goods or lunch once a month.
- Create and donate "care" bags with items such as toothbrushes, soaps, shampoo and something comforting—a hand-knitted blanket or small stuffed animal.
- Donate items such as cosmetics, hygiene products, pre-paid cards for music downloads, or new or gently used books to local group homes.
- Host a "drive" for in-need kids' items like backpacks, books, toys, games or art supplies. (Ask your local contacts what they need!)
- Encourage teens to get certified to provide babysitting or respite care to kids in foster care. Work with your local child welfare office or licensed agency to do this. (This is easy for adults too, not just teens!)
- Volunteer to be a mentor to a child in foster care.
- Offer to take a group of kids to a local matinee. Ask about discounts and specials for non-profits/community members in need.





# LISTEN

There's nothing more inspiring than hearing the true stories of families who've been impacted by adoption.

In the following section, you'll hear the heartfelt words of a special couple who chose to open their home to four children from the foster care system. You'll journey with a young boy named Oliver who finally found his forever family. And you'll even find a special Adventures in Odyssey® episode just for kids.

We hope that these stories will encourage you and your family to talk about how you can make a difference in the life of a child.

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**Special Offer**  
on Page 14:

*Oliver Twist*

LISTEN

# Finding Home

Long before Jim Daly was President of Focus on the Family, he was an orphan, just like so many children in the world today. He spent years in foster care before finding the redemptive love of Jesus Christ in high school and, eventually, creating his own forever family. As the parents of two young boys, Jim and Jean seek to give them the life that Jim never had growing up. Listen to his story of hope, love and family.

## Instructions:

Click the link below to watch the Jim Daly video!

## Jim Daly Video

Focus on the Family President Jim Daly knows what it feels like to be an orphan. After his mother died and his stepfather walked out, Jim and his siblings were left alone. Watch the video below as he shares his heart behind the Focus on the Family Adoption & Orphan Care Initiative™.

[Click here to watch!](#)



Jim Daly is President and Chief Executive Officer of Focus on the Family.

"He is a Father to the fatherless, and somehow He put His hand around the back of my neck and said you are not going to go the wrong way."

- Jim Daly

# Wait No More

Kelly and John Rosati never expected to adopt four children from the U.S. foster care system. But God's plan for them turned out to be even more extraordinary than they could have planned. Follow Kelly and John in their amazing journey through the child welfare system. You'll be inspired by the story of how God brought their family together and challenged by their honest and revealing look at the desperate need of children still waiting for families. The Rosati's story is one of hope amid challenges, beauty from ashes and faith that sustains. It's a beautiful picture of what family truly looks like.

## Instructions:

Click the link below to stream the broadcast for **FREE!**



## Wait No More

Focus on the Family's Kelly Rosati and her husband, John, share their passion for orphan care as they describe how they adopted their four children from the foster care system.

[Click here to listen!](#)

Want to hear more from John and Kelly's heart? [Click here](#) to read an article series based on their book, *Wait No More*.





# Adventures in Odyssey®: The Chosen One

God has asked the Washington family to do something very special. Find out what happens when a family takes a step of faith and opens their home to a girl named Kelly.

## Instructions:

Click the links below to stream the broadcast.



## The Chosen One: Part 1

Is there something more to the new girl in town than causing trouble? Can the Odyssey crew help her find her way?

[Click here to listen!](#)



## The Chosen One: Part 2

The inspiring conclusion to *The Chosen One*. What will happen to the mysterious runaway? [Click here to listen!](#)

Be sure to check out the family discussion guide on the next page!



# Family Discussion Guide: The Chosen One

To help start a conversation with your family, discuss the following questions with your children after listening to *The Chosen One*. Encourage children to talk about what they are thinking, even if their answers might not be “right.”

## Instructions:

Listen to *The Chosen One* on page 12. Then print out the discussion guide provided below to record your discussion.

## Use The Chosen One discussion guide to dig deeper!

1. What skills and abilities does Kelly have?

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2. What are some things about Kelly that attract other people to her?

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3. What were some of the Washington family's concerns about taking Kelly into their home?

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4. What were some of the things that changed their mind?

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5. How did the Washington family look for God's will? How did they know what God's will was?

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6. What “pearl of wisdom” did Eugene have to offer?

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7. How do you think God feels about children who don't have a home?

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8. How can we show God's love to orphans and other lonely children?

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9. How does God want us to respond to these statements by Mr. and Mrs. Washington?

a. “If God is calling us to do this, we can't just blow it off.”

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b. “What if God's plan for us is different than our plan?”

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c. “Maybe He wants us to go down a more challenging road.”

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# Oliver Twist

Focus on the Family Radio Theatre® presents the inspirational tale, *Oliver Twist*. Escape to another place and time with this full-cast audio dramatization of Charles Dickens' classic tale of Oliver—a young orphan battling the streets of 19th century London. This powerful story will draw you into a timeless adventure of danger, compassion and redemption as a single child changes the lives of everyone around him. Featuring cinema-quality sound, award-winning writers, an original music score and a stellar cast of England's most renowned actors.

## Instructions:

Click on the links below to watch the *Oliver Twist* promo and a preview for a documentary detailing the reality of modern-day orphans.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY  
RADIO THEATRE®

Special Offer:

[Click here](#) to  
listen to a sample  
of *Oliver Twist*

# Oliver Twist

Bonus DVD includes a compelling documentary featurette with “behind the scenes” footage, expert interviews and emotive stories of real, modern-day “Olivers.”

[Watch](#) the behind the scenes promo.

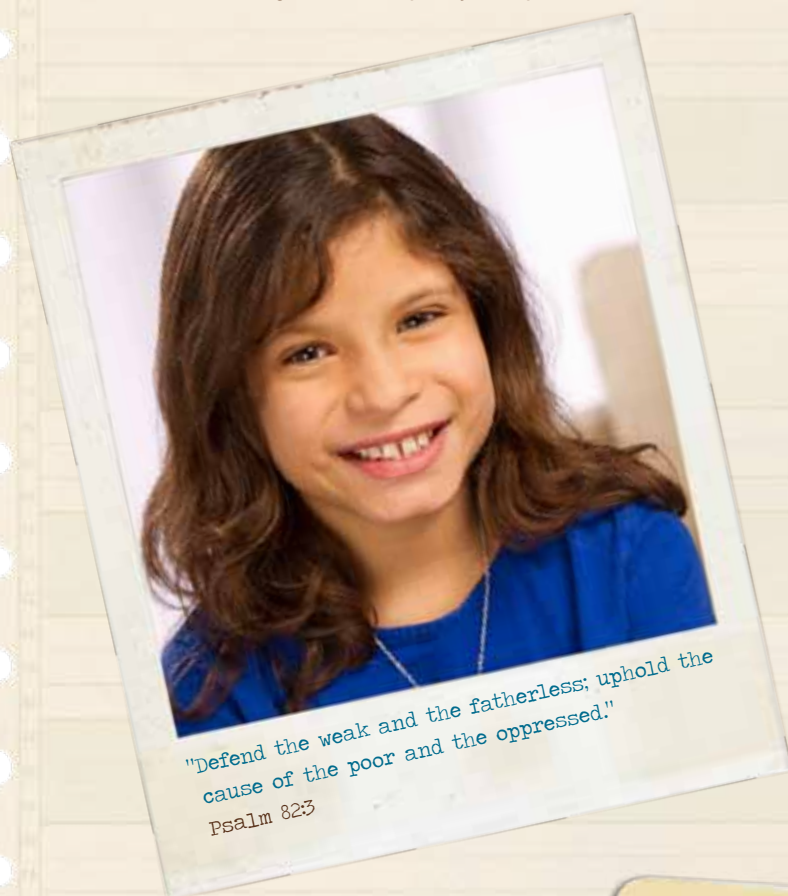
[Watch](#) a preview for the documentary.



# LEARN

As Christians, God calls all of us to care for orphaned children. In America, it is difficult for many to people to understand just how many children are in need because our country no longer has institutional orphanages. But at any given time, there are over 100,000 children waiting in foster care for a permanent family—a home to call their own.

Do you feel called to adopt? Are you interested in learning more about foster care? In this section you'll explore the details of the adoption or foster care process from start to finish—including state requirements and tips on choosing an agency. You'll also find advice on helping a child adjust to a new family, tips from experts and step-by-step guidance for your journey.



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LEARN

# Adoption Requirements

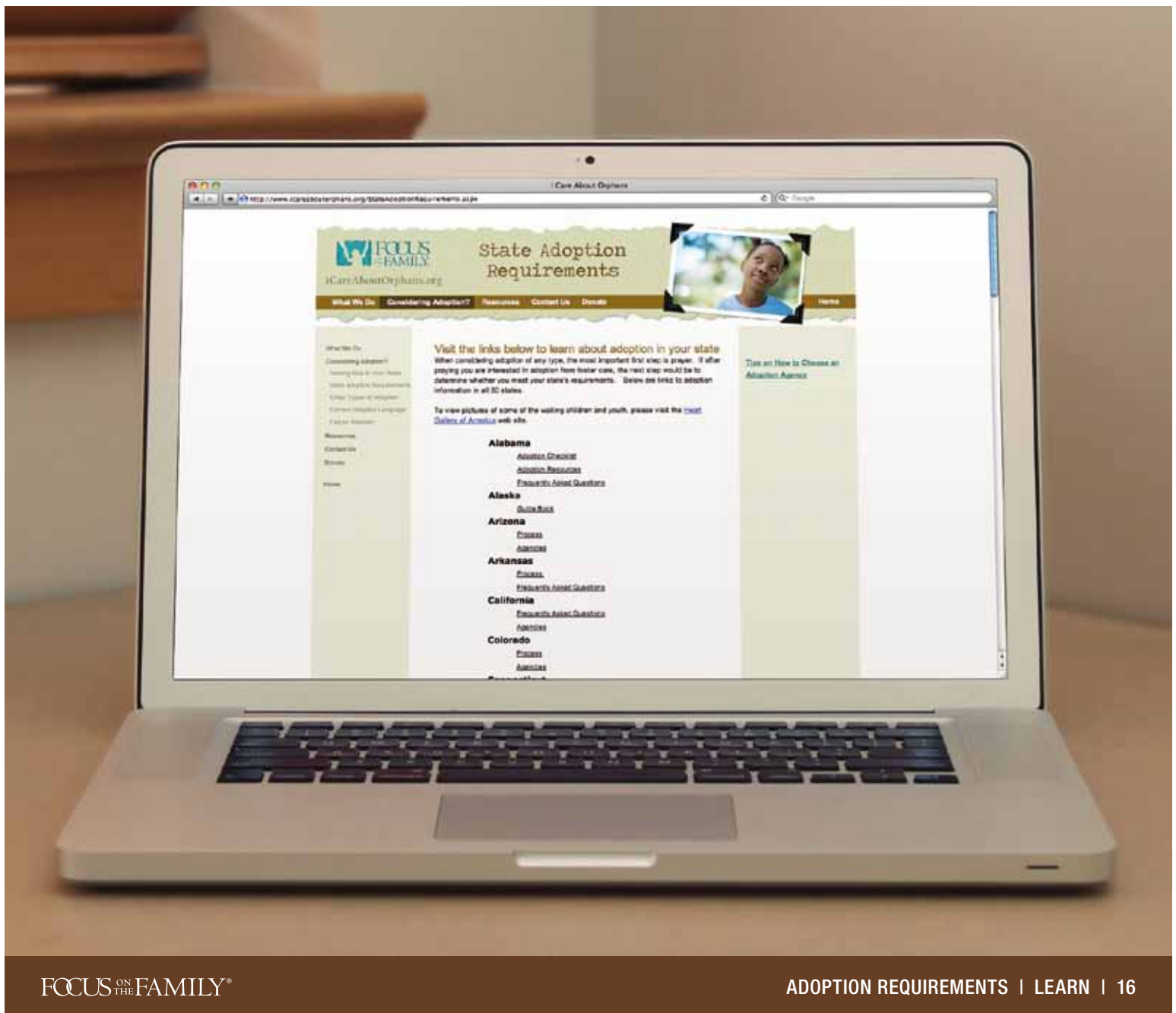
Find out what your state requires before beginning your journey. When considering adoption of any type, the most important first step is prayer. If after praying you are interested in adoption from foster care, the next step would be to determine whether you meet your state's requirements.

## Instructions:

[Click here](http://www.iCareAboutOrphans.org) to obtain adoption information in your state from iCareAboutOrphans.org.

### Some basic requirements:

- At least 21 years old
- Own or rent your own home
- Have adequate financial resources to maintain the home
- Can provide for the child's physical, mental and character development
- Have parenting experience or none at all
- Already have children in your home or not



# Choosing an Agency

A good adoption agency can be a great asset in helping you and your family through the adoption process, but not all agencies are licensed to do all types of adoptions. How do you decide which one is right for you?

Adoption is a lifelong process for parents and children, and it is important to choose an agency that can help you assess your readiness to adopt and that has the expertise to help you through the process. Child placement agencies must meet the licensing standards to provide adoption services in their state. A personal evaluation prior to selection of an agency will generally lead to positive results for families.

There are more than 100,000 legal orphans waiting for families in the United States.

The following points may be helpful in choosing an agency:

## 1. Learn about adoption and the issues involved

- Read books and articles on adoption
- Attend an adoptive parents' group
- Talk to other adoptive parents

## 2. Determine the type of adoption you feel called to pursue

- Infant or older child
- Domestic or International
- Special needs (emotional challenges, mental or physical disabilities) or minimal challenges

## 3. Contact the agencies and learn about their programs

- Ask about any requirements/restrictions on adoptive parents such as length of marriage, age, etc.
- Ask for brochures on their program
- Attend orientation/information meetings

## 4. Evaluate the agency's program (some good questions to ask)

- Ask about the steps in the agency's process such as orientation, application, study, parenting classes and the estimated time frames involved. Make a list of special questions you want answered.
- Make sure the agency is licensed; ask when was the last time the agency was visited by a representative from the licensing unit.

- Find out if complaints have been filed against the agency and if so, how they were resolved.
- Find out the staff's education, background and experience in adoption.
- Ask about the services the agency gives to birth parents and evaluate the completeness and sensitivity of this work.
- Learn the costs involved for the screening, orientation meeting, home study, supervisory visits, court reports, educational groups, services to and expenses in connection with birth parents in designated adoptions, extra work in connection with interstate placement and other possible expenses. Obtain written detailed information on all costs involved including the agency's policy on refunds.
- Ask about any support groups the agency facilitates and any post finalization services they might offer.
- If possible, talk to other adoptive parents about their experience with the agency.

## 5. After you have chosen the agency

- Keep in regular contact with the agency but be realistic with the staff's time.
- If you have a complaint or are dissatisfied, talk honestly to the person with whom you are working and, if this is unsatisfactory, then talk to the director.

\* Adapted from Colorado Department of Human Services/Division of Child Welfare "Tips for Selecting an Adoption Agency"



# Attachment Booklet

The parenting of children from hard places can be a challenge for many adoptive parents—but there is hope for even the most complex situations. “Attachment in Adoption” gives adoptive and foster parents in-depth insights into why their child may have difficulty adapting to life in a new family—and gives them hope for success. This positive and informative booklet will show you how your child has formed his or her current behavior and offers tips and resources for overcoming their past and building a bond that is rewarding for both you and your child.

## Instructions:

[Click here](#) to download the “Attachment in Adoption” booklet.

## Learn how to grow closer

“When emotional, psychological, behavioral or learning difficulties arise with children who were adopted or in foster care—especially children with a history of neglect or abuse—the problem is nearly always rooted in or related to issues of attachment. That’s because kids from hard places tend to be disconnected kids. In negotiating conflicts and impasses with these children, parents need to understand that the ultimate goal is to draw them into a circle of safety and security, disarm their defenses and help them reconnect.”



"It's crucial to remember that healing comes from deep, intuitive insight into the child's early experiences and a patient, painstaking reversal of their negative effects."

# Your Guide to Adoption

*Your Guide to Adoption* is an excellent roadmap to help you navigate the journey of adoption from foster care. From small details to the big picture, the *Guide to Adoption Map* will give you expert advice from those who work within the system and those who have previously adopted children, along with inspiring Scriptures, tips and much more.

## Instructions:

[Click here](#) to download the map!

The number of lives it takes to make a difference for one orphan: 1.

Download your own map to guide your adoption journey!





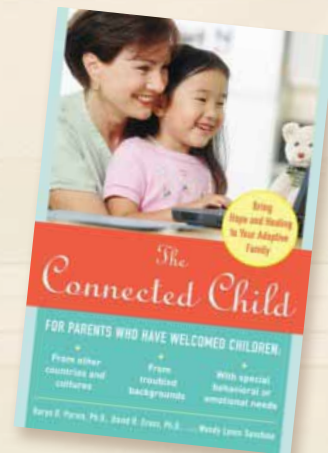
# Created to Connect

Many orphans have faced abuse, neglect and abandonment that make it challenging to relate to others. This study guide will help you understand and address the unique emotional and spiritual needs of children who've experienced trauma.

*Created To Connect* is designed to help illuminate the biblical principles that serve as the foundation for the philosophy and interventions detailed in *The Connected Child*.

## Instructions:

[Click here](#) to download a free copy of the study guide from Empowered to Connect™.



[Click here](#) to download a free chapter of the book *The Connected Child*

Download the entire study guide or one chapter at a time!



Chapter 1  
Hope and Healing

Chapter 2  
Where Your Child Began

Chapter 3  
Solving the Puzzle of  
Difficult Behavior

Chapter 4  
Disarming the Fear Response with  
Felt Safety

Chapter 5  
Teaching Life Values

Chapter 6  
You Are the Boss

Chapter 7  
Dealing with Defiance

Chapter 8  
Nurturing at Every Opportunity

Chapter 9  
Proactive Strategies to Make  
Life Easier

Chapter 10  
Supporting Healthy Brain Chemistry

Chapter 11  
Handling Setbacks

Chapter 12  
Healing Yourself to Heal Your Child