Questions for Your Marriage

What changes do we need to make in our marriage/family to welcome our new child?
Are we in agreement about adopting?
What are ways we intentionally spend time together?
What changes do we need to make in our marriage/family?

For more information, visit ICareAboutOrphans.org

Love and Respect
Focus on the Family offers resources and help to strengthen your marriage. For more information, visit www.family.org or call 800-A-FAMILY.

Questions for Your Child

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What kind of activities do you enjoy doing?
What kind of family do you want to have?
What are your thoughts about being part of a family? Are you excited? Scared?
What kind of music do you like?

On average, it costs between $15,000 and $40,000 for a domestic adoption. Even though the cost can be high, adoption is often significantly cheaper than the costs associated with the foster care system, which can be as high as $500 per month per child.

Regardless of which type of adoption you pursue, the US government provides a $10,000 tax credit for each adopted child. Your Guide to Adoption is meant to serve as a guide and give suggestions to assist in this process. It is not an exhaustive list of all of the possible steps to take. In addition, please don’t hesitate to contact Focus on the Family’s Judd W. For more information, visit ICareAboutOrphans.org
How to use the Trail Map

So you’ve decided to adopt. What now? Adoption isn’t an overnight process. In fact, it rarely happens as quickly as we’d like. Even biological children take 9 months! Our goal with this “trail map” is to guide you through this process. We’ve broken it down into segments so it isn’t too overwhelming. Take it one step at a time, and be sure you take time to celebrate after you complete each milestone.

We’ve included scripture verses with each section – read these and other verses to encourage you along the way. Also listed are some ideas you may want to consider as you wait. Feel free to use the ones you like and add your own creative ideas. We also suggest that you hang this on your refrigerator, next to your bed, or another place of prominence as a reminder of all you have accomplished.

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Getting Started
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Meet with your pastor
Find an agency
Attend orientation
Turn in application

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1.27

While you wait…
- Go public about your decision to adopt
- Read, read, read!
- Start a prayer journal
- Pray for the child God has for your family

Training & Certification
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- Fingerprints, background check and FBI clearance for all adults in the home
- Complete required training
- CPR and first aid certification
- Start your home study

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12.11

While you wait…
- Connect with other adoptive families
- Complete all additional licensing requirements
- Complete the home study
- Complete picture package
- Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom.

Isaiah 40.28

While you wait…
- Read praying
- Continue education
- Arrange post placement support (meals, respite care, wise counsel, etc)
- Consider how this will impact your marriage and family

Enjoy the View
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- Child match day
- Get to know your child
- Transition your child into your home
- Welcome your child home

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29.11

While you wait…
- Learn your child’s likes and dislikes
- Decorate your child’s bedroom together
- Prepare the adoption announcement together
- Assess spiritual openness
- Establish a new family tradition

The Final Push
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- Complete post-placement report
- Finalize adoption
- Maintain support connections
- Share your story with others
- Have a party!

Here, in the presence of the LORD our God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has blessed you.

Deuteronomy 12.7

Continue the journey…
- Help your child work through past hurt and trauma
- Help your child understand God’s view of family
- Share the gospel message with your child
- Promote healthy activities and your relationships with your child
- Talk to your accountant about the adoption tax credit

You’re Approved!
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- Connect with other adoptive families
- Complete all additional licensing requirements
- Complete the home study
- Complete picture package
- Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom.

Isaiah 40.28

While you wait…
- Keep praying
- Continue education
- Arrange post placement support (meals, respite care, wise counsel, etc)
- Consider how this will impact your marriage and family

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