

TAKEAWAY:

God's mission to care for the vulnerable is carried out through His body, and the power belongs to Him. When we make ourselves available and do something, He weaves our offerings together into a picture of His love and redemption that we could never create or offer under our own strength.

INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS:

Think of someone who made room for you; a family that took you in, a mentor who opened their calendar, a church friend who took on discipling you. What did they do that made you feel like you belonged?

UNDERSTANDING:

Ask group members to read: James 1:27, James 2:1, James 2:14-17, Ephesians 1:3-6, Luke 14:12-24, Ephesians 3:14-21.

- How did this sermon/testimony help you better understand the importance of the churches efforts in foster and adoptive care ministries? Is there anything that was mentioned during the sermon that stuck out to you?
- Before today, how often did you connect the topic of orphan care to your own faith or theology?
- James 1:27 describes pure religion as caring for orphans and widows. How does this challenge the way you typically think about practicing your faith?
- The quote from the sermon states: "I didn't adopt because of sad pictures. I adopted because of theology." What is the difference between those two motivations? Why does it matter?
- James 2:14-17 warns against faith that has no action. In what areas of your life might you be holding faith without corresponding action?
- Ephesians 1:3-6 describes God choosing and adopting us into His family. How does remembering your own spiritual adoption change the way you view orphan care?

APPLICATION:

- The sermon offered three ways to respond: repent, take a next step toward adoption or foster care, or serve families who are already doing so. Which of these feels most

relevant to where you are right now?

GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY:

Consider prayerfully choosing one of the following steps before your group meets again:

- **Pray specifically.** Spend time this week asking God to give you His heart for vulnerable children. Ask Him to show you what your next step should be.
- **Learn more.** Research the foster care or adoption landscape in your local area. Find out what the actual needs are in your county or city.
- **Support a family.** Identify one family in your church or community who is fostering or has adopted. Reach out and ask how you can serve them practically – meals, childcare, encouragement, or financial support.
- **Take a next step.** If you have sensed a call toward foster care or adoption, take one concrete step this week – attend an information meeting, make a phone call, or have an honest conversation with your spouse or a trusted friend.

GROUP PRAYER:

Take time to pray for the following: The orphan, those considering foster/adoption, those in the process of foster/adoption, those who have failed adoptions, those that are fostering currently and asking the Lord to strengthen them and take care of them in this season.