

Small group ideas

1. Divide into two teams and have a competition to see which team can list the most orphans featured in film, music or literature.
2. Why do you think orphans feature so often in the great stories of our time?
3. Why do you think Paul links our adoption into God's family with the longing of all creation for renewal?
Read Romans 8:22-25
4. What does knowing that you are adopted into God's family mean to you?
How would you complete the following sentence?:
"Adoption into God's family is one of the greatest gifts God can give us because....?"
5. How does our adoption into God's family equip us to understand the situation of the children in care in our city, town or village?
6. What is our church currently doing to serve the children in need of families who are in the care system in our city, town or village?
7. What do you think are the most common reasons that Christians volunteer for fostering and adoption?
8. What do you think are the most common reasons that Christians don't consider getting involved in fostering and adoption?
9. What kind of practical support could our church give to church members who stepped up for fostering and adoption?
10. How would welcoming children from the care system into our church be a good challenge for us as a congregation?
11. Prayer:
Spend time thanking God for adopting us into His family.
Spend some time asking God what steps He might be asking us as individuals, as families and as church to get involved with children in care in our city.
Pray for more foster and adoptive carers to step forward from our church.

Activity / reflection

Give everyone in your group a sheet of paper and ask each person to write down...

...the one place in the world that is most precious to you.

...the one object in the world that is most precious to you.

...the one person in the world that is most precious to you.

Difficult isn't it? But it gets harder. Now ask people to choose one of the things on this list to lose, forever, never to be seen again. Hard, yes? Then ask everyone to choose another thing on their list to cross out and lose forever. It's getting painful just contemplating it isn't it? Finally, ask them to cross out the last remaining thing on their list. Heartbreaking.

It is an exercise that is designed to pull at your heartstrings. But it illustrates the reality for many children entering the care system.

Adapted from Page 128/129, Home for Good: Making a difference for vulnerable children, Krish and Miriam Kandiah

