

Adoption Parenting Class handout 5-21-17

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A. Review - The Gospel and the 1st book of the Bible

1. A foundational issue: "*it's not good for man to be alone*" (Genesis 2:18, applies to family relationship of marriage and also not good when kids are left alone, abandoned, neglected)
2. The first gospel (Genesis 3:15) - note it's in the context of conflict between mothers and offspring and Satan's opposition to God's design, and the turning of spouses against each other. Note also how the promise was understood of One who would not only defeat Satan but would also bring relief from the curse and reverse the effects of the fall (Genesis 5:29)
3. The family of faith was to include other ethnicities (Genesis 12:3b, Paul calls that text the "*gospel preached beforehand to Abraham*," Galatians 3:8). Note also the beautiful picture of adoption in Genesis 48:5-6 (for further study, hear Baucham's sermon on Genesis 48)
4. The family struggles in Genesis as a result of brokenness and departing God's design:
 - birth-mother issues, like Hagar's son being given to Sarah for her own and growing up in conflict with Sarah's biological son Isaac, serious sibling issues with Isaac vs. Ishmael
 - There's a mom who doesn't love one son like the other, and a dad who loves a son who's like him but not the other (Isaac and Rebekah with their sons Jacob and Esau)
 - a father's favoritism with siblings of different birthmothers (Rachel's sons vs. Leah's)
 - family issues include violence, anger, aggression, chronic lying, inappropriate sexuality, bitterness, lack of forgiveness, manipulation, etc., all in the family of faith in the 1st book
 - difficult pasts affected but didn't define those God redeemed (Tamar's son, Joseph, etc.)
 - even evil done towards or by children in the past God intends good in it (Genesis 50:20)

B. The rest of the book of Moses - God's adoption of Israel

1. Moses, Israel's representative and leader, was adopted (Exodus 2:10, Acts 7:21 ESV '*when he was exposed, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son*').
 - Moses had struggles with identity, belonging, anger, violence, he ran away, he spoke back to God, disobeyed God, struggled with his biological siblings, etc. He knew the struggles of a sojourner and urged mercy to them; Ex 2:21-22, 22:21-23
 - God helped Moses overcome his past and struggles to be a great man of God
 - Others not raised by their parents who did great things? In books and movies?
2. Through the adoptee Moses, God reveals the adoption of Israel His son (Exodus 4:22-23)
 - God the Father already had a natural Son in the Trinity but now speaks of Israel as His son (Romans 9:4 NASB '*Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons*')
 - God rescued Israel like an abandoned child in a wilderness (Dt 32:10-11, 1:31)
 - He chose based on love, not based on anything great about Israel (read Dt 7:7-8)
 - Israel was therefore to show that love; Dt 10:18-19, 24:17-22, Ex 23:9, 22:21-23

C. Learning from God's model as adoptive Father of Israel (Rooted study guide, p. 19)

1. God sees us (compare Exodus 2:6 on a human level to 2:23-25, read also Genesis 16:13)
2. God relates to us and enters our world (read Exodus 3:7-8)
3. God reaches into space and time to help us (read Exodus 3:12, 20-21, 4:12, Dt 31:8)

Video 2 Handout – Seeing Our Children – Pastor Phil’s Supplemental Notes

Trauma – consider Israel’s past in Egypt and ‘law of survival’ at work (Rooted guide, p. 27-28)

- was their disobedient hoarding food (Ex 16:19-20) related to past and/or lack of trust?
- did their anger and aggression (Ex 17) also reflect a fear of survival and/or lack of trust?
- were their power struggles with Moses reflective of past experience also (Ex 2:14, 6:9)?

Grief and fear can be gripping and paralyzing – Ex 15:14-15 NKJV ‘*Sorrow will take hold... Trembling will take hold... They will be as still as a stone*’ (for help with fear, read Gen 50:21)

Attachment problems – Dt 1:31-32 NIV ‘*God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.*’ *In spite of this, you did not trust in the LORD*’

Disability - God mercifully called to remove what would make the disabled stumble – Lev 19:14

Lack of learning – Dt 31:13 NIV ‘*children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn*’

Bad learning – in Israel’s history lying by Abraham affected his son Isaac’s lying (Gen 12, 20, consider also sins of birthparents can impact their children but God’s love is greater, Ex 20:5-6)

Spiritual - James 3:16 says where ‘*selfish ambition exists, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown...*

- Could this principle include selfish sin of birthparents at the root of their child’s disorder?
- Is it possible selfish sin in a child unchecked could cause or compound a disordered life?
- What are the things that wisdom applies that lead to ‘good fruits’ being sown in this text?

Verses to help us see our children with compassion (Rooted study guide, bottom of p. 28)

1. James 1:27 says pure religion is ‘*to look after orphans and widows in their distress...*’ (NIV)

- ‘*to look after*’ can be translated ‘see, observe, pay attention to, look upon with mercy, study, examine carefully, show care for, take care of, visit graciously, go to help’

- ‘*orphans...in their distress*’ (‘distress’ can also be translated as ‘suffering, anguish, affliction, need, trouble, tribulation from fears within, that which causes pain, pressure’)

2. Psalm 103:13-14 (NASB) *Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful ...*

3. Matthew 9:36 says Jesus ‘*Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited* [or other translations have ‘troubled and abandoned’ or ‘cast away’ or ‘cast aside’, or ‘hurting,’ or ‘helpless,’ or ‘confused,’ or dejected,’ or ‘dejected,’ or ‘faint,’ etc.]

Key Verses on Forgiveness (Rooted study guide, p. 29-30)

1. Note in Ps 103 above, v. 3-12 and how they relate to v. 13-14 and the frame of God’s children

2. Note Christ’s cry on the cross for those still in sin: ‘*Father forgive them, for they do not know*’

3. Note how Joseph treated those in his family despite their great sin against him (Gen 45:4-15)

4. We’re commanded to forgive in our heart in prayer before the offender asks (Mark 10:25)

5. We should also confess sins to each other and pray for each other to be healed (James 5:16)