

7/23/17 Handout – Biblical Counsel and Your Child in the Gospels

Luke 9: *An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest.” ... he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me (v. 46-48, 23 NIV).*

Right after speaking of His cross (v. 22), Peter objects that’s not the way of the kingdom he envisioned, but Jesus tells Peter: *“Get behind me, Satan! ... you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:22-24).* Remember Satan also tried to tempt Jesus by a kingdom without a cross (Matt 4:8-10) and how he challenged Christ’s identity right after God declared Him to be His beloved son (Mt 3:17-4:3). Russell Moore helpfully compares that pattern to adoption and spiritual warfare, identity challenges and temptations for kids to doubt whether they’re really beloved children, and the temptations for parents to want to avoid risk, hurt, the cross, and self-denial in children they welcome.

Jesus is the ‘Wonderful Counselor’ as well as ‘the Prince of Peace’ and ‘God with us’

Gospel truths to help counsel kids with adoptive and/or identity struggles to find their identity in Christ:

1. Jesus knows what it’s like to have an adoptive parent (Joseph, Mt 1:20-21; Lk 1:27, 33; Jn 6:42)
2. Jesus knows sibling tensions as He experienced with Joseph’s biological children (Jn 7:3-5)
3. Jesus knows rejection and neglect by His own kinsmen who refused to take Him in (Jn 1:11)
4. Jesus knows identity questions, temptations of food, trust, testing Father’s love, etc. (Mt 3:17-4:7)
5. Jesus knows anguish and feelings of overwhelming sorrow in a father’s separation (Mt 26:37-39)
6. Jesus knows abuse and abandonment greater than we’ll know (Mt 26:67-68, 27:30, 39, 46, etc.)
7. Jesus has compassion for those who are hurting or from hard places or in need of shepherding:
Mt 9:36 *‘Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd [NASB, or the other translations have ‘troubled and abandoned’ or ‘cast away...cast aside...hurting...helpless...confused...dejected...faint,’ etc.]*
8. Jesus has a tender place in His heart for children (Lk 19:15-16, Mt 18:5-6, 21:15-16, 25:40, etc.)
9. Jesus has special care for the fatherless (ex: His first resurrection was a fatherless son in Lk 7:12)
10. Jesus died and rose so we would be adopted and loved as God the Father loves His natural Son:
 - Jesus promises them before the cross He wouldn’t abandon them as orphans (John 14:18) and that just as the Father loves Jesus, God loves them and puts the same love in them (17:23, 26)
 - Jesus calls them *‘my brothers’* after He rose, as His redeeming adopting work is done (20:17)
 - Despite their sin (abandoning, denying, lying), the Lord relates to them as *‘children’* (21:5)
 - Despite our sin, we’re Christ’s *real brothers*, He understands a child’s temptation, weakness, and sympathetically and mercifully has grace to help in time of need (Heb 2:11-17, 4:15-16)
 - We can cry to God as *‘Abba’* as our Brother Jesus did (Mk 14:36, Rom 8:15, 29; Gal 4:4-7)
 - Jesus is His Father’s natural *‘beloved son in whom [He] is well pleased’* but in love the Father chose to adopt us and sees us as in Christ the same way, *‘accepted in the Beloved’* (Eph 1:4-6)

Biblical Counseling Books and Related Resources for Adoptive Parents

For links below go to 7/23 notes at www.sermonaudio.com/gcbc

Biblical Counseling Movement Resources Specific to Adoptive Parents

Rooted Study Guide, chapter 8 specifically on “Becoming Your Child’s Biblical Counselor”

‘One of our primary roles as parents is to be biblical counselors for our children. Our aim is to help our kids see God’s love for them and integrate the gospel into everyday life. We want our children to see the beautiful picture of Christ—the one who will never reject them, who will never abandon them, and who will never abuse them...our goal is not so much behavior modification or obedience; it is ultimately about Christ...He is our righteousness and provides the opportunity for repentance’ (p. 78)

Brian Borgman, *After They Are Yours: The Grace and Grit of Adoption*.

- Audio seminars for adoptive parents at www.ibcd.org and www.sermonaudio.com/gcbc

Paul David Tripp, *Helping Your Adopted Child* (New Growth Press booklet)

- Videos at: <http://media.sermonaudio.com/mediapdf/63017059410.pdf>

Julie Smith Lowe, “Counseling the Adopted Child,” *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, Winter 2007

- Shame and Guilt in Parenting and the Gospel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ilVz5ozNNo>

- Counseling Kids Reluctant to Change: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qajl1x1BTgU&feature=youtu.be
(Why does video say we shouldn't conclude 'I've tried everything, nothing works' if we don't see change?)

Linda Rice, *Parenting the Difficult Child: A Biblical Perspective on Reactive Attachment Disorder*

Steve Viars and Amy Baker, seminars on adoption, attachment, special needs, etc. www.faithlafayette.org

Other Scripture-Rich Resources on Adoption

Shari McMinn, *Adoption: Encouragement Advice for a Hopeful Journey* (www.generations.org)

Michael Monroe and Karyn Purvis, *Created to Connect Bible Study* (www.empoweredtoconnect.com)

Twila Miles, *Whispers of Hope: Finding Perspective Post Adoption*

Russ Moore, *Adopted for Life* (2nd edition recommended, extra chapter ‘what I’ve learned 10 years later’)

Dan Cruver, editor, *Reclaiming Adoption* (includes chapters by John Piper, Jason Kovacs, Rick Phillips)

Biblical counseling or scripture-rich books on related subjects but not limited to adoption

Paul David Tripp, *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles*

Joshua Mack, *Compassion: Seeing With Jesus’ Eyes* (P&R booklet, Josh is a counselor and adoptive dad)

Joshua Mack, *Courage: Fighting Fear* (P&R book, also titled *Fear Factor*)

Andrew and Rachel Wilson, *The Life We Never Expected: Hopeful Reflections on the Challenges of Raising Children with Special Needs*

Michael Emlet, *Angry Children: Understanding and Helping Your Child Regain Control* (booklet)

Lou Priolo, *The Heart of Anger: Practical Help for the Prevention and Cure of Anger in Children*