

Pure Religion

Introduction: Every year, Northside dedicates one Sunday to talk about our role in addressing the Foster Care crisis in our country. Children matter to God, so they must matter to us. While not everyone is called to be a Foster Parent, how differently would our culture view the Church if they saw us actively engaging to help?

Discussion Questions

1. Do you have any personal experience with either adoption or the foster care system? If so, what do you wish everyone knew about it?
2. **Read James 1:27** There are two parts to the “pure religion” that James describes. How does the care for the “least of these” and not being corrupted by the world work together? How is this command similar to what we memorized in Romans 12:2?
3. **Read Ephesians 1:5** When you think about salvation, do you usually think along the lines of being adopted into the family of God? If not, how is that different than just being forgiven? How can understanding this concept help shape your perspective on adoption and the importance of caring for children in need?
4. What does the involvement of the church in caring for orphans and widows say about their understanding of what God has done for them?
5. How can every Christian play a role in adoption and foster care, even if they aren't able to adopt or foster children themselves? What steps can you take in your life to support children in need and those involved in adoption and foster care?
6. Brainstorm some ways that your group might be able to work together to encourage Foster Families or show love to kids in care. Check out fosteradopt.org or conerstonesofcare.org or realencouragement.org for suggestions

Shaping Your Mind – *God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:5*

Moving Forward – *Everyone can do something, that's the picture of the body working together*