

National Adoption Month

at Your Church

Share with your church about God's heart for the vulnerable

Our goal as the Church is not recruitment or activism first; it is discipleship. Ultimately, to see the people of God deeply celebrating the love of God for us through the work of Jesus and then widely demonstrating that love in our work to those around us. During National Adoption Month we want to honor, recognize, and celebrate the heart of God for vulnerable children and families and seek ways to demonstrate that love.

As people of God we want to live in ways that are decisively different and set apart. Scripture calls us to be holy and helpful, embodying sacrificial living towards those who are in need. James 1 identifies those people as the widow and the orphan. And when the Christian is filled with the love of Christ, living in gratefulness for Christ's sacrifice, Christ's love spills out of them to those around them. Our desire is to be a support and participate with you in that work of discipleship.

Ways to Recognize National Adoption Month as a Church

- Make an announcement highlighting ways your church seeks to care for vulnerable children or ask a member who has adopted/been adopted to share their testimony.
- Point out in your sermon text ways that God specifically cares for the most vulnerable among us.
 - Here are some examples from local churches [Exodus 21-22](#), [Luke 10](#), [Psalm 128](#), [Ex 11](#)
- Distribute [prayer cards](#) for children awaiting families and our [prayer calendar](#) for the month.
- Set aside a time to pray as a congregation for children who are waiting for families.
- Commission families who are pursuing fostering or adopting in the next year, and take an offering to support them.

Key Dates

The Second Sunday in November join with churches all over the world who are taking time to acknowledge caring for the vulnerable. Any time you are able is still welcome.

Topic Highlights

Take a moment to read Jason Johnson's article about James 1. [James 1:27 is Not a Command](#)

Next Steps

- Invite Family Hope Coalition to host a training or information event at your church
- Host a book study or group to explore the topic of adoption and care for the vulnerable
- [Meet with Family Hope Coalition](#) to decide next steps for your congregation
- [Blue underlines are hyperlinks](#)



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Sample Announcements to pair with Resources

- Throughout scripture, it is clear to us that God cares for the helpless. Psalm 68:5-6 says that God is a father to the fatherless and that he sets the lonely in families. As a church we want to reflect the heart of God in how we live our lives, including caring for orphaned and vulnerable children in our community and world. This month, Family Hope Coalition, has provided us with some resources to help us do that, starting with prayer. In the lobby on your way out, please be sure to take a prayer card for a child who right now is waiting for a family in Delaware to adopt them, as well as a calendar full of prompts for how we can intercede on behalf of those involved with the child welfare system. If you're interested in learning more about how you can support a child in foster care or through adoption, please scan the QR code on the slide.
- November is National Adoption Month, and many churches around the world are also celebrating Orphan Sunday or Pure Religion Sunday. For Pure Religion Sunday, we are referring to James 1:27 where it says that "religion that is pure and undefiled before God is this; to visit the orphan and the widow in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." As a church, we want to remember God's heart for the orphaned and vulnerable children in our community. To help us in this goal, we have some resources for you including prayer cards for some of the children in Delaware who are waiting for a family right now. We also have calendars with prayer prompts for each day this month. Will you join us, along with so many other Christians around the world, in prayer for those most vulnerable: children without a family.
- **Share a video from Christian Alliance for Orphans about adoption and Pure Religion Sunday**
 - Pastor Rephat, a former orphan, shares how he saw the love of Jesus through those who stepped in to care for him and how that continues to impact local orphans. (4:19)
 - Pastor Mike Kraft from Texas shares how the gospel takes root and spiritual formation flourish through caring for the orphan. (4:38)
 - Pastor Jay Strother tells us that our job is to be faithful and we have to trust God in the messy and hard. (3:50)
 - Jamie Finn shares how opening her family's heart and home to both vulnerable children and their families. (3:55)
 - (click on the underlined name for a hyperlink)