

SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES



SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES OF FOSTER/ADOPTION

SCRIPTURAL EXMAPLES OF ORPHANS

- Lot
- The Daughters of Zelophehad
- Jotham
- Mephibosheth
- Joash
- Esther

Genesis 11:27-28
Numbers 27:1-5
Judges 9:16-21
2 Samuel 9:3
2 Kings 11:1-12
Esther 2:7

SCRIPTURAL EXMAPLES OF "ADOPTION"

- Moses adopted by Pharaoh's daughter
- Job cared for unnamed orphans
- Mordecai adopted
- Jesus adopted by Joseph
- Every Christian has been adopted by God through Jesus Christ

Exodus 2:1-10
Job 31:16-18
Esther Esther 2:7
Matthew 1:18-24
Ephesians 1:5

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MOSES, THE FIRST EVER RECORDED RELINQUISHED, FOSTERED AND ADOPTED CHILD

When baby Moses was rescued from his watery grave, ironically it was a cry that earlier would have got his birth family executed that softened the heart of Pharaoh's daughter. It was the cry that set the course for her to become his adoptive mum.

Quick-thinking, Miriam, the sister who was watching the basket float downstream, had to brush her tears away as she plucked up the courage to offer her own family as a foster family until Moses was weaned.

So here is the first abandoned baby, the first child in foster care and the first adopted child. This could have been the happy ending to the story. But the Bible is always realistic about the complications and difficulties of family life and so we are given the whole roller-coaster story of what happens next.

Moses was rescued, and he was loved no doubt. But he also had issues. Identity issues. Confidence issues. Trust issues. These issues got him in trouble. Eventually they led to a murder, a cover-up and time on the run....

Through the ancient story of Moses, the first ever recorded relinquished, fostered and adopted child, God gives us a worked example of what it means to care for vulnerable children with our ears and our eyes open.

Our ears must be open to the cry of those in distress. Even a pagan princess could not ignore a helpless cry. Moses' ethnicity did not deter her. Her father's hatred of the Israelites did not deter her. The fact she had to wait for him to be weaned did not deter her. If even the daughter of the enemy can show this kind of commitment and compassion, then no less is expected of God's people.

Our eyes must be open to the possibilities and potential in each child made in God's image, however damaged they seem to be. Nobody could have guessed that rescued baby Moses would have been the one who would rescue God's people from slavery, see God with his own eyes, and lead God's people through the wilderness. God has a habit of choosing the most unlikely people to do the most amazing things and bring the greatest blessing.

Our eyes must also be open to the difficulties that may lie ahead. Moses achieved great things in his life, but it was not without long periods of turmoil. The euphoria of adding to a family through adoption will quickly be replaced by the daily challenges and rewards of parenting a child with additional struggles as a result of their displacement.

Our ears must also be open to what God is saying to us. It was through Moses that God dictated the following challenging words to be read to his rescued people throughout history as part of the blueprint of life under God's rule:

Never take advantage of any widow or orphan. If you do and they cry out to me, you can be sure that I will hear their cry. (*Exodus 22: 22- 23, God's Word Translation*)

Kandiah, Krish (2013-03-14). Home for Good: Making a Difference for Vulnerable Children (Kindle Locations 374-411). Hodder & Stoughton.

MEPHIBOSHETH

David, who wrote Psalm 68, knew what it was like to be lonely. He had come from a large family with six older brothers and two sisters. But when he was about sixteen years old, he had to leave them behind to begin his new job singing and fighting for King Saul. During his time living in the palace he became close to Saul's son Jonathan, but this relationship was to be wrenched away from him too. Intensely jealous of David, King Saul banished him. David then spent around fifteen years in exile, and many of the psalms are heartfelt cries of loneliness and distress from this period of his life. Eventually David became king, had his own family and, indeed, a dynasty.

But King David never forgot the truth that God sets the lonely in families. He had experienced it for himself; now he felt it was his turn to pass on the blessing.

Remembering his valued friendship with Jonathan, David asked around about what happened to his family after he had been killed in battle, and when he found out that there was one dependent son left, he effectively adopted him. Mephibosheth had been orphaned and crippled at the age of five, but his emotional scars and permanent physical disabilities were no obstacle to David's love. He provided for him not only financially, but treated him like a son, ensuring he always joined him at mealtimes.

A mighty king using his power and influence to set the lonely in families – this was what David knew about God, what David loved about God, and what David aspired to emulate. The Bible commends David as a man after God's own heart, 4 and as a man to aspire to emulate ourselves. Through his psalms and through his home life, David inspires us to know his God, father to the fatherless, and challenges us to be like his God, who sets the lonely in families.

Kandiah, Krish (2013-03-14). Home for Good: Making a Difference for Vulnerable Children (Kindle Locations 696-710). Hodder & Stoughton.