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GROUP CURRICULUM



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OVERVIEW

The theme for this curriculum is “&.” The adoption and foster journey is full of griefs that live alongside joys, and we can find greater meaning and purpose when we learn to embrace all that this journey brings. This curriculum explores the ways the foster and adoptive journey can be both more challenging and more rewarding than we could have imagined, the ways we can both hold the pains and embrace the joys, and the ways God is with us in all of it.

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DREAMING BIG & DISAGREEING

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." Then he said to me "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

Ezekiel 37:1-6

We have had emails, coffees, phone calls, and Zoom meetings, in which people have disagreed with our decision to adopt or foster. There are times when I argue and cry and rail against the smallness of the box they put God in, and I do so politely.

I also listen, and respond to their concerns, asking them to join us in praying. Are our dreams too big? Or must we keep dreaming on and recognize that we don't have to be understood by others to be walking in God's will?

We can disagree with those who love us, AND still be walking on the well-lit path that God has paved for our family.

My son loves Ezekiel 37, the Valley of Dry Bones. Our Easter Vigil contains this reading and it is often told through rap and hip hop dance. How can you not be moved by that interpretation? What surprises me is that God didn't choose to bring the dry, sun-bleached bones back to life Himself. He told Ezekiel to prophesy. He told Ezekiel to speak God's words of life into them. God could have used His power directly. But He handed the act over to His prophet, so Ezekiel could be the hands of God.

How is God asking you to be His hands or His voice? Where are we meant to speak Holy-Spirit-filled life into something or someone else? Yes, God could do that directly Himself, but instead He chooses to use His broken people – people who lack confidence and don't always see God's path ahead of them clearly. I don't know who God is calling us to adopt or foster, fight for, and advocate on behalf of. But I do know He is willing to use us all as He did Ezekiel. People didn't always agree with him either.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When have you encountered push-back as you moved forward in the adoption/foster care journey?
2. How did you respond, and what would you recommend to others when they find themselves in this position?