

FOR curriculum

YOU · YOUR KIDS · FOSTER CARE · ADOPTION · SAFE FAMILIES
BIRTH PARENTS · CAREGIVERS · PERMANENCE · REUNIFICATION
EQUIPPING · ENCOURAGING · CONNECTION · REFRESHMENT





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*“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is
FOR us, who can be against us?”
- Romans 8:31*

The world we live in has significant shifts in emotion. We experience exuberant highs and despairing lows. Some days, it feels all too much- the courts and paperwork and social workers and emails and visits. Even routine tasks become challenging as our children show us the full gamut of their emotions.

On other days, the beauty is almost too vivid. Our children make a breakthrough in counseling, call us “Dad” for the first time, or get hurt and run to us, knowing that we are their safe person. We meet with our Replanted group and come away with a laughter that permeates into our soul as we’re reminded that other people understand us.

Though we live and walk through great emotion with our children, God’s light shines, even on the dark days, to illuminate our next steps. Though much is required of us in this beautiful task, much is given. That is what we will be reminded of this year. Though we have always recognized the greatness of our calling, this year, we look to our great God who is always FOR us.

A note of caution, however. While He is a God that is FOR us, not against us, let’s make sure that we don’t interpret this to mean that God is on our side only. Someone once asked President Abraham Lincoln if God was on His side. He replied, “Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God’s side, for God is always right.”

Let’s be people on God’s side in this adoption and foster journey. Where we align our prayers with His, even if it means our hearts break in the midst of it. Where we root for birth parents and pray for reunification and do the hard work of helping our kids heal for as long as they are home with us. Where we are for our children’s ultimate best and true healing.

Because God is for us, we can be for them - praying and acting in ways that brings about their ultimate good, even in very difficult circumstances. As carriers of His light, let’s not walk with an “us verses them” mentality concerning birth parents or social workers or court judges. Instead, let’s move through this year with a team mentality that says ‘we,’ and responds to situations not in anger or impatience, but with the light of Christ that both illuminates the path in front of us, and gives us the grace to respond as He would.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Look up 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 and read it out loud. Who are we called to be? As you reflect on the above, did anything challenge or inspire you to live out your journey differently?
2. Can you think of a time in your journey when the “we” mentality has been difficult? How could you press in to that and be “for” that person?
3. What are some of the fears you wrestle with? How can you sit in God’s peace when the victory isn’t what you had hoped for or wanted?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Curriculum written by Sarah Goldstein Roney.

Sarah lives a life of beautiful chaos with her family in Wheaton IL. She loves living near the Great Lakes, blogging at pilgrimagetowardspeace.blogspot.com, capturing her six glorious children on film, and leading a women's workout group called FiA.

After living in India, she and her husband became passionate adoption advocates, motivating them to bring four of their children home through domestic and international adoption. She would love to meet you and hear your story, preferably over a cup of dark coffee, and may invite you over for dinner after only a short conversation. Sarah was at the very first Replanted meeting, and is delighted to be serving as the Chicago District Leader for the ministry she is most passionate about.

ABOUT REPLANTED MINISTRY

At Replanted Ministry we understand the unique challenges foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers face, which is why we've been able to help over a thousand families heal, connect, and thrive through on-going post-placement support.

Our goal is that no adoptive or foster family goes unsupported.

REPLANTED GROUPS

Groups are a place of encouragement and support for families - both parents and kids. We believe that as families and children grow in relationship with each other, these groups can become a place of deep trust and encouragement for all involved.

REPLANTED CONFERENCE

Our annual conference offers encouragement and support through specialized training, connection times, self-care options, foster parent training credits - all offered to help families heal, grow and thrive! Caregivers can attend in-person in Chicago or at simulcast sites all across North America.

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