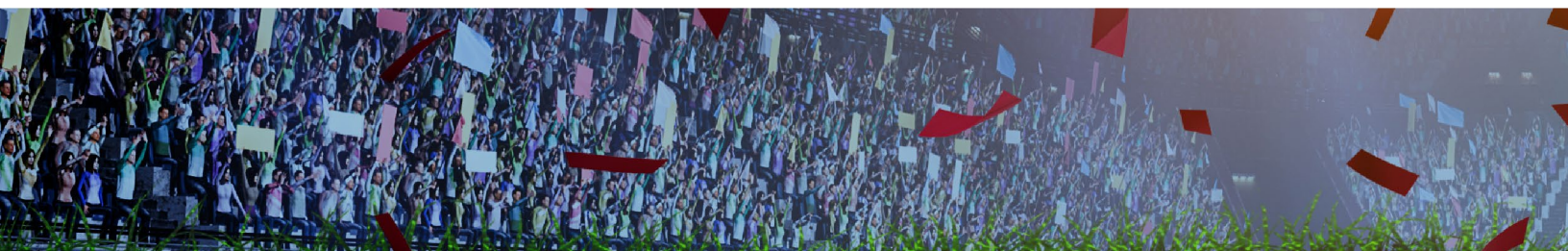




Home Team

**GROUP
CURRICULUM**



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OVERVIEW

Have you ever competed in an event as the away team? You're surrounded by fans of the opposing team, hearing their cheers, traditions, and chants. Your support is minimal and maybe even non-existent. The opposing team's colors fill the stadium, and for a moment, you feel out of place - like you don't quite belong.

Now picture a home game. The atmosphere changes instantly. You're surrounded by people who share your passion, who know the players (i.e., you), the history, and the fight songs. The parking lot is full of fans wearing team colors, jerseys, and even face paint. They have your back no matter what. There's an energy, a sense of unity, and that can literally be a game-changer. That's the power of a home-field advantage.

For many walking the path of adoption, foster care, or kinship care, life can feel like an endless string of away games – courtrooms, therapy appointments, school meetings – spaces where you feel like an outsider, uncertain if anyone is really on your side. Perhaps your support system or “fan base” decided they could no longer support you. Some days, it doesn't just feel like you're on the visiting team - it feels like you're playing alone.

But at Replanted, we understand. And we want to be your home team. We're here to cheer you on, to sit beside you when you're weary, and to remind you that you're not walking this journey alone. Jesus, our ultimate teammate, is with us, and together, we're stronger. This journey is filled with both beauty and struggle, but you were never meant to walk it alone. Together, let's show up for one another, walk through the highs and lows, and live out this journey knowing we've got a home team – and a Savior – rallying around us.



CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE #
WELCOME	5
GROUP GUIDELINES	6
TEAMMATES	8
JOSEPH	9
MOSES	10
GIDEON	11
BARAK	12
SAMSON	13
OUR TEAM	14
THE PRODIGAL SON	15
OUR RACE	16
ADULT ICEBREAKERS	17
GROUP PRAYER GUIDE	18
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	20

WELCOME

to your Replanted Group

We are so excited for you to be a part of this community. If you are new to Replanted, we want to give some basic information about what our groups are like and what you can expect from the group.

PURPOSE

Replanted groups exist so that adoptive, foster, and kinship families (or those who are considering adopting or fostering) can come together for support, encouragement, and discipleship. We know that caring for the needs of children through adoption and foster care is deeply important AND it can be difficult and challenging. Your Replanted group is a place where you can come, just as you are, and give and receive support from other families who "get it." Your children will be able to develop relationships with other kiddos impacted by adoption and foster care as well.

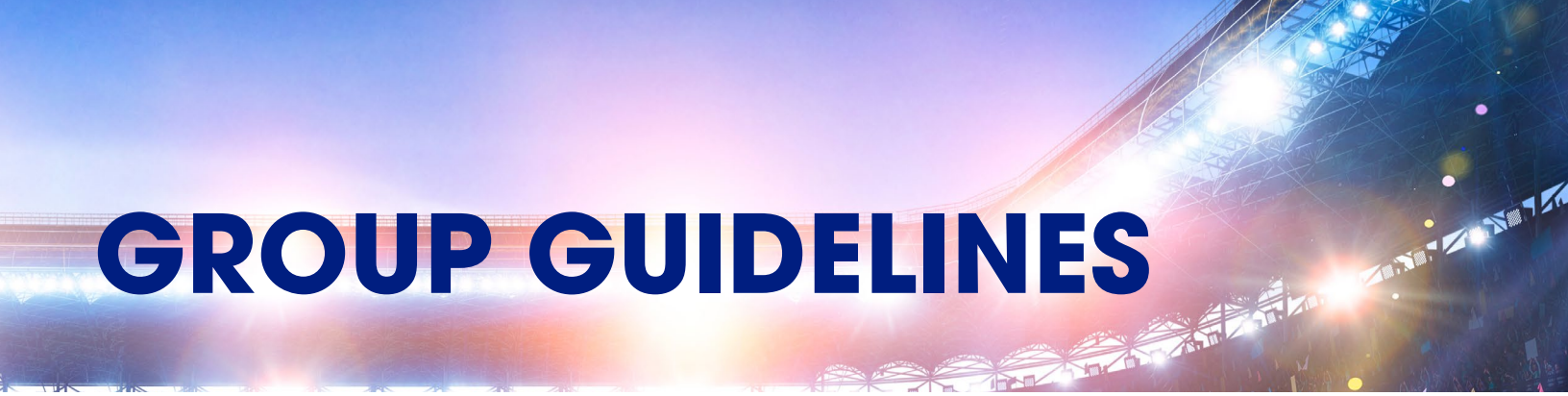
STRUCTURE

Groups generally meet for two hours, once per month. The first part of group is designed for you to share a meal together, and have an informal time for visiting and catching up. In the second part of group, you will work through a devotional as a group and have time for sharing and discussion.

Be blessed,



Jenn Hook
Founder & Executive Director



GROUP GUIDELINES

We know that it can be scary to share how you are doing in a group where you don't know everyone well, especially if you are struggling. To help develop and maintain safety in the group, we ask all group members to follow the following group guidelines. If you have questions about the guidelines, please ask your group leader.

1. Engage with grace. We all have unique experiences and situations, and we each may be struggling in our own way. Wherever we are, we need grace and acceptance. Do your best to extend grace and acceptance to your fellow group members, even if you are surprised by what they share.

2. Confidentiality. As a general guideline, what is said in group stays in group. You can share about your own experience or what you are learning about yourself outside the group, but don't share the experiences of another group member.

3. No judgment/criticism. Making judgment about another group member or criticizing their parenting can make the group feel unsafe. So avoid judging or criticizing. Instead, extend grace and offer compassion to other group members who are struggling.

4. Limit advice. It is normal to want to give advice to other group members. But sometimes we rush into giving advice and try to "fix" a problem, rather than sitting with people in their pain and helping them discover their own solution. So limit your advice unless it is asked for.

5. Take risks and share vulnerably. You will get as much out of the group as you put into it. Take a risk and share vulnerably about your experiences - get the support you need.

6. Do not dominate the conversation. Share the floor with the other group members - let everyone have a chance to participate.

7. Commit to attend. The group will feel safer as all group members attend consistently. Make a commitment to attend the group regularly and make the group a priority. Let the group leader know in advance if you have to miss.

8. Avoid discussion of divisive topics. There are many contentious topics (e.g., political or theological debates) that we may agree or disagree about. In general, we want to avoid these types of discussions in our Replanted groups, and keep the focus on supporting each other and our families.

CONNECTION FOR CHILDREN

We firmly believe that our groups are just as important for our children impacted by adoption and foster care and for children already in the home. There is a uniqueness to their experience as well and we believe deep connections can form between peers when they can share their experiences with one another. So, even if you are in an “okay” place as parents, your children may need this space where they can say “same here” with others impacted by the journey.

REPORTING A CONCERN

ADULT PROGRAM

We do our best to empower and equip local leadership team and facilitators. That being said, sometimes there may be concerns that need to be addressed by the National Replanted Ministry. If you have concerns with the facilitator(s) actions or attitude, or if there is uncertainty whether a subject is being addressed appropriately within the values of the Replanted Ministry, please feel free to email Amy Cope to report your concern amy@replantedministry.org. We will do our best to resolve the concern in a gracious, loving, and compassionate manner.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The safety of your children is our top priority. Replanted has partnered with MinistrySafe to ensure that committed volunteers are appropriately trained and vetted. All committed volunteers are required to

- a) complete a background check
- b) complete sexual abuse awareness training
- c) sign our policies & procedures document, and
- d) watch our trauma training video prior to serving

If your child reports any concerning behavior from a mentor or peer, please notify Replanted immediately by contacting Amy Cope at amy@replantedministry.org.

TEAMMATES

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race set out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before him, he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Matthew 7:11

I currently identify with the “growing weary and losing heart” part of this verse. I don’t want to. I want to continue believing that family dinners, church on Sunday, structured rhythms, and lots of love can heal the hurt within the children I love so dearly. But these things don’t always seem to help.

When tears drip from their eyes and they whisper, “you’ve never cared,” or when anger oozes from their pores and they yell, “you’re not my real mom,” you want to yell right back at them:

“I’ve never stopped caring, not even for one millisecond, from the moment I saw your stunning picture and knew you were my little girl!”

“Hey Bud, guess what? You have two very real moms, and I’m one of them. I’m doing the day-in and day-out work of feeding your body, helping you in the shower, meeting with your IEP team, and loving you through your tantrums. I’m right here, working really hard as your Mama, and I’m quite real!”

Have you had days when you stood with your spouse behind closed doors and whispered, “I don’t know what to do?” Then wiped away tears and went back downstairs to make the specific sandwich you knew they’ll eat, and brush tangles out of knotted hair. You keep going, because that’s all you knew how to do in seasons where answers are hard to come by. The only thing we do know is that we can keep running the race set before us because our eyes are fixed on Him. We persevere through the hurt and the tears and the glares and the silence.

But we cannot lose sight, during a hard season, of who loves us. The author of Hebrews reminds us of two things. First, we are meant to fix our eyes on Jesus himself - both the author and the perfecter of our faith. We persevere because the Lord is captaining this team, and He knows what He is doing (even if it is not always apparent). Second, we have teammates. Hebrews speaks of a “great cloud of witnesses” who have gone before us and are cheering us on with their testimony of God’s faithfulness. And every month, we have the privilege to eat, share and pray together with others who are running this same race, encouraging us in our call to persevere.

So, keep going. When your pillow is tear-stained and your face is streaked with mascara, fix your eyes on Jesus. When you don’t have the faintest clue as to what to do next, refuse to lose heart. Think of your teammates, believing in you and cheering you on. Think of your Captain, who has the master plan in mind. Our odds may look dismal, but in the end, we are on the winning team.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: please be mindful of the time so everyone has time to share.

*When you have felt most supported by your team, what has that looked like?
Or, what support would be helpful to have that you are lacking?*

How can we as teammates cheer each other on in the month to come?