



ADOPTION: GOD'S IDEA

In this world you are an orphan—

Eagerly anticipating your adoption as God's child.

In this world you are a widow—

Longing for reunion with your Bridegroom.

In this world you are a stranger—

A pilgrim waiting to become a citizen of heaven.

*And in this world, God has called you to care for the orphan, the stranger,
and the widow.*

—Fields of the Fatherless by C. Thomas Davis

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:5 NLT

His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.

Reflection

- ☞ How were you brought to faith in Jesus?
- ☞ What do we gain by being part of “his own family”?
- ☞ Why does God draw us to him?

Scripture Reading

Psalms 68:4-6 NLT

Sing praises to God and to his name! Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds. His name is the LORD—rejoice in his presence! Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.

Reflection

- ☞ Take a few minutes of corporate prayer to praise God. What are you thankful for? Why do you love God? What are his attributes? Why is his name powerful? Etc.
- ☞ What insight does this passage give us into God's passions?

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 10:18 NLT

He gives justice to orphans and widows. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing.

Reflection

- ☞ How does God dispense justice to orphans and widows?
- ☞ How can you enter into God's passion for these people?
- ☞ How have you observed God's justice in your life?

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 24:19-21

"When you are harvesting your crops and forget to bring in a bundle of grain from your field, don't go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all you do. When you beat the olives from your olive trees, don't go over the boughs twice. Leave some of the olives for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. This also applies to the grapes in your vineyard. Do not glean the vines after they are picked, but leave any remaining grapes for the foreigners, orphans, and widows."

Reflection

- ☞ Why are these people groups so precious to God?
- ☞ What is the principle that God is conveying in this passage?

So when God commanded that every person set aside a portion of his or her fields for the widow, alien, and orphan, He was telling them to set aside a portion of all they had. And He made it clear this was not a suggestion, or even an act of charity! Instead, this portion belonged to these people. Now its time to ask the obvious question. What about today? Did God stop caring about this group with the dawn of industrialism? Does He still have "fields" to provide for those in need? And if so, what does He expect from His people in an age when few of us are farmers? —Fields of the Fatherless by C. Thomas Davis

Scripture Reading

James 1:27 NLT

Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us.

Reflection

God has called us—your family and mine—to work together in bringing His love into this world. Right now there are millions of children around the world in need of a loving home. How are we—the church—going to respond to the heart of God to care for orphans? Search your heart, study the Scriptures...When you're done, I promise your life will never be the same. You'll step into the joy of God's miracle.

We are the hands and feet of our Savior. Will you join me? There are millions of orphans, single moms, widows, and strangers waiting to see that someone cares. —Steven Curtis Chapman

- ☞ What are two action steps that you and the group can take to bring your actions into better alignment with God's heart beat for the "fatherless"?