

15 WAYS TO CELEBRATE National Adoption Month

Read stories
of adopted
foster youth

Share your
perspective

Volunteer at
a bridge
organization

Follow new
accounts on
social media

Talk to your
family about
adoption

Read Bible
stories about
adoption

Support
foster &
adoptive
families

Watch
adoption
movies

Donate to
local
ministries &
organizations

Learn more
about
adoption

Consider if
you are called
to adopt

Read a
devotional
on adoption

Start a family
ministry at
your church

Write a
letter

Pray for
adoptive
families

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- **Read stories of adopted foster youth:** Listening to the importance of adoption in a child's life can help you recognize what role you might play. Visit the Focus on the Family website to read stories of former foster youth.
- **Talk to your family about adoption:** Do your children, parents, siblings, and other relatives know about the need for foster and adoptive families? Are they aware that families in their community need support? Each one of us has been adopted by Jesus Christ as believers (Ephesians 1:5). Therefore, we should be knowledgeable about adoption taking place in our community. Adoption is not something we need to talk about in hushed tones. Rather, we should celebrate with children who find permanency through adoption.
- **Support foster & adoptive families:** Can you bring a foster/adoptive family a meal once a week for the month of November? Will you offer to rake leaves or shovel snow? What services can you offer, like mentoring, tutoring, or cleaning?
- **Learn more about adoption:** This month, educate yourself about the many roles within the field of foster care and adoption. Click to learn about the role of a foster family, foster care social worker, child placing agency, school social worker, court-appointed special advocate (CASA), and more. Ultimately, understanding the many roles in foster care and adoption can help you identify how you can get involved.

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- **Read Bible stories about adoption:** In Exodus 2:1-10, Pharaoh's daughter adopts Moses after she finds in a "basket among the reeds" in the river. In 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Eli essentially adopts Hannah's son, Samuel, after she dedicates him to the Lord. The book of Esther continually mentions Mordecai, who looks after his cousin Esther because she has no mother or father. Finally, we read in the gospels how Joseph adopts Jesus Christ as his son despite not being his biological father.
- **Start a family ministry at your church:** Are you looking for ways to celebrate adoption beyond November? Commit to supporting foster and adoptive families in your church for a year. Appoint people in your church to help sustain the ministry. You can "adopt" families in your church and provide support services.
- **Follow new accounts on social media:** There are tons of groups, ministries, and organizations involved with foster care and adoption that regularly post on social media. You can find stories, statistics, and inspiration for supporting foster and adoptive families. If you are not already following Wait No More, do so today!
- **Share your perspective:** Do you know someone who was adopted? Were you adopted yourself? November is a month where your stories can make an incredible impact. So do not be shy about sharing your perspective on social media, through a group text message, or while getting coffee with a friend.

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- **Donate to local ministries or organizations:** With Thanksgiving falling towards the end of National Adoption Month, you might feel led to give financially to help foster or adoptive families. Research which ministry or organization you want to support, then be generous with your giving. Your funds can impact an adoptive family and their new child or children.
- **Volunteer at a bridge organization:** Volunteering is a great way to show support to multiple foster and adoptive families at the same time! Bridge organizations help bridge the gap of support between foster/adoptive families and the community. Your local bridge organization might have a foster closet or assemble activity baskets. Some organizations have events for parents to get a night out while licensed respite providers watch over their children. Reach out to get involved.
- **Watch movies and read books about foster care and adoption:** Choose from family-friendly animated movies such as *Meet the Robinsons* and *Despicable Me*. For teens and adults, read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.
- **Write a letter:** If you are an adoptive family, write a thank you note to your caseworker or other individuals who helped you during your adoption process. If you know a foster or adoptive family, send them a note of encouragement. While it might not seem significant to you, a letter could dramatically improve the day of a foster or adoptive parent who feels alone.

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- **Pray for foster and adoptive families:** Pray for these families in your community and let them know you are praying for them. Commit to praying for them throughout the month of November, whether daily or weekly. If you do not know any foster or adoptive families personally, pray for the 120,000+ children in foster care who await adoption. Likewise, pray that families would come forward and follow God's call to adopt.
- **Read a devotional about adoption:** Find a devotional with a guided prayer to help you learn more about adoption and pray for families and children impacted by foster care and adoption.
- **Prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to foster or adopt:** If God has placed it on your heart to foster or adopt, do not ignore that calling. Children and teens are waiting for someone like you to take a step forward.

November is National Adoption Month, a special time to celebrate with children who are adopted and their families.

In the United States, there are over 120,000 children in foster care who are legally available for adoption. Foster and adoptive families need support. And if you feel called to foster or adopt, do not delay. Children are waiting for you.