



Foster Care

Family Guide

Preschool - 2nd Grade



Adapted from:



For parents ...

We know you care about raising compassionate, empathetic, Christ-like children who see and care about the needs of our world. But talking about heavy topics like abuse, neglect, addiction, and foster care can seem overwhelming.

There are over 12,000 children and youth in foster care in North Carolina. Your family likely interacts with these children in your neighborhood, at your church, and in your schools.

CFK believes that everyone can do something to engage in foster care in our community, and it starts with learning about foster care and what the Bible says about caring for our neighbors.

This 5-day family devotional guides you through teaching your children about foster care and how to pray for children and families impacted by foster care in our community.

We encourage you to use this study as a starting point to open this discussion in your home. We pray that God uses this study to open your hearts to how he may be asking your family to step in to foster care right where you are.

1

God wants children to be safe.



Read

God wants children to be in a family. And God wants children to be safe. Sometimes, a child is born into a family that cannot keep them safe. Some mommies, daddies, or other caregivers need extra help learning how to keep their children safe.

When this happens, a grown-up will make sure that child is safe by putting them with a family to take care of them while their mommy and daddy get the help they need. This is called a **foster family**.



The Bible Says

Mark 10:13-16 - Jesus welcomes the little children. God loves children and wants them to be safe.



Reflect

- What does it mean to be safe?
- When do you feel safe?
- Who is a person you can talk to when you or a friend doesn't feel safe?



Pray

Dear God, we pray for children in foster care. We pray that you would help their mommies and daddies get healthy enough to keep them safe. Thank you for being our Safe Place. We love you. Amen.



Draw

Draw a picture of a time you felt really safe.

2

Foster care is not forever.



Read

A foster family is a family that can love and take care of a child while their mommy, daddy, or caregiver learn how to be healthy and how to keep them safe. The foster family feeds the child, reads them books, plays with them, and does all the things your mommy and daddy do for you.

When the child's mommy and daddy are healthy and can keep the child safe, the child gets to go back home to live with them again. Sometimes, it's not safe for the child to go back home. If this happens, the child will need a new forever family. This is called **adoption**.



The Bible Says

John 13:34 - Love one another. God wants us to love others. Foster families show love by caring for children who need a safe family.



Reflect

What are some things a foster family does for children who need a safe home?



Pray

Dear God, we pray for foster families. We pray that they will show love to children who need a safe home. We thank you for loving us and providing for us. Amen.



Draw

Draw a picture of a family getting to be together again.

3 God is close.



Read

Think about your favorite toy. What is it? What if you had to leave this toy behind and move somewhere far away? How would that make you feel? Children who are in foster care can feel lonely and scared. They might have to leave their favorite toys behind, and they have to move to a new place and live with new people. This can feel very sad, but we know that God is close to us when we are sad. He comforts us and stays near to us.



The Bible Says

Psalm 34:18 - God is close to those who are sad. Children who are in foster care might feel very lonely and sad. But God loves them and is close to them.



Reflect

When is a time you felt lonely or sad?
How can we help someone who feels lonely or sad?



Pray

Dear God, we pray that children who are in foster care will know that you are close to them. We pray that you will give them comfort and peace.
Amen.



Draw

Draw a picture of a time you felt very lonely or sad.
Then draw a heart around it to show that God is close
to us when we are lonely and sad.



We can help children who are in foster care.



Read

Remember when we talked about helping people who are lonely and sad? Sometimes children in foster care feel lonely and sad because they are not with their mommy and daddy.

These children probably love some of the same things as you! They love toys and games and playing outside. What could we do to show love and kindness to a child who is in foster care? What do you think would make them feel safe and loved?



The Bible Says

2 Corinthians 9:7 - God loves when we give to others. Our family has everything we need. We can help children in foster care by giving them things they need.



Reflect

When you are lonely and sad, what makes you feel better?
What does it mean to be generous?



Pray

Dear God, we pray that you will show us how we can help children who are in foster care. Teach us what to say and do to help them feel safe and loved. Amen.





Draw

Draw a picture or write a note to a child who is in foster care.

5 We can help foster families.



Read

Do you remember what a foster family is? (Look back today two for a hint.) Being a foster family is a really hard job. Foster families can feel really happy and really sad when it's time for a child to go back to their mommy and daddy. Foster families need extra help sometimes because they have extra kids to take care of.

Kindness is important to our family. One way we can show kindness is by helping foster families in our community.



The Bible Says

Romans 12:13 - Share with those who are in need. We can help foster families by sharing with them and giving to them.



Reflect

What is something that you think would help a foster family? Do we know any foster families?



Pray

Dear God, we pray that you will show us how we can help foster families in need. Teach us to be generous and cheerful givers. Amen.



Draw

Draw a picture of something that would help a foster family.

Now what?

Thank you for engaging with our Foster Care Family Guide. We pray that your conversations were fruitful and that your family feels better equipped to care for children and families impacted by foster care in our community.

We have a variety of ways your family can engage deeper in this mission:

- Donate new toys books and games
- Check out our volunteer opportunities (CFK hosts family-friendly serve events throughout the year)
- Attend a foster parent info session
- Encourage other families you know to walk through this guide
- Babysit for a foster family
- Bring a meal, plan a playdate for a foster family

Interested in learning more about the needs of children and youth in foster care in your community?

Visit ***cfknc.org/next steps***
or scan the code to learn
how you and your church
can get involved.

