

Psalms and Proverbs for Adoptive Parents - Class Handout 6/4/17

Proverbs 1:5 'let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance' (see 15:22)

Psalm 146 'Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the LORD...The LORD opens the eyes...The LORD raises those who are bowed down...He relieves the fatherless...' (NKJV)

Psalm 68 'A father to the fatherless...God sets the lonely in families...our Savior, who daily bears our burdens...from the Sovereign LORD comes escape...God gives power and strength to his people'

Psalm 103:13–14 'As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed [or our frame, our make-up]' (all verses in NIV unless noted)

God's adopting and fathering Israel from a hard place (Egypt) provides a model for us

Ps 78 calls parents to teach their kids so they'll trust God and not forget what He did for Israel:
¹³ He divided the sea and led them through ... ¹⁴ He guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night ... ¹⁷ But they continued to sin against him, rebelling ... ²² for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance. ²³ Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens; ²⁴ he rained down manna ... ²⁵ ... he sent them all the food they could eat ... ²⁹ They ate till they had more than enough, for he had given them what they craved ... ³⁶ But then they would flatter him with their mouths, lying to him with their tongues ... ³⁸ Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them. Time after time he restrained his anger ... ³⁹ He remembered that they were but flesh ... ⁴⁰ How often they rebelled against him ... and grieved him ... ⁵² But he brought his people out like a flock; he led them like sheep through the desert. ⁵³ He guided them safely, so they were unafraid ...

How was Israel like our children? How was Israel like us? What can we learn from God's parenting?

1. The troubled or grieving or in need of help

Ps 10:14: *You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief...The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless...You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear...the fatherless and the oppressed...* (NKJV)

Ps 73 'Surely God is good to Israel... I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand... You will guide me, And afterward receive me... the nearness of God is my good (NAS)

2. Those who don't otherwise feel safe in bed

Ps 4:8 *I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety*

Ps 63:6, 8 *On my bed I remember you...My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.*

Ps 139: *You discern my going out and my lying down...You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me...if I make my bed in the depths, you are there...your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast...darkness will not be dark to you...When I awake, I am still with you...know my anxious thoughts...and lead me in the way...* (also Ps 23, Prov 3:24)

3. The fearful and fretful

- There is a prudent fear (Prov 22:3) but fretting is at the root of many wrong responses (Ps 37:8)

- In Psalm 23:4 why does David not fear? In Psalm 46, what do we learn in v. 1-2, 5, 7, and 11?

Practical applications: Empowered to Connect [podcast](#) 3/23/17 (creating an environment of felt safety)