



THE
EMMAUS
INSTITUTE

Discipleship Classes

WINTER 2023

REFRAMING ORPHAN CARE *Foster Care and Adoption Through the Lens of the Gospel*

CLASS INFORMATION & DETAILS

Class Title: Reframing Orphan Care

Class Subtitle: Foster Care and Adoption Through the Lens of the Gospel

Class Description: This class is for anyone who is considering or actively caring for orphans through foster care or adoption. The journey of orphan care is full of beauty and brokenness, joy and heartache, excitement and exhaustion. By looking through the lens of the gospel, we can find the hope, strength, motivation, and courage to sustain us along the way. Come learn (or be reminded) that the work of orphan care is worth it, and you are not alone.

Teacher Biography: *John and Cassie Adams spent four and a half years as foster parents with Hall County DFCS. They have three children, one of whom was adopted out of foster care during that time. They are passionate about raising awareness of the needs of orphan care within the church and equipping others to do this gospel work.*

Class Resources/Books: Each participant will receive *ReFraming Foster Care* by Jason Johnson

CLASS OUTLINE

Week 1 - Wednesday, January 4

Title: The Gospel Is Our Why

Description: This week we will introduce ourselves to one another and share a little about what brought each of us to this class. We will look at the Introduction to *ReFraming Foster Care* and learn how the gospel compels us to step into broken places. Reading in advance of this session is not necessary.

Week 2 - Wednesday, January 11

Title: Into the Unknown!

Description: Entering into orphan care through foster care or adoption requires us to say yes to the unknown. Many Christians hesitate to get involved when they begin to count the costs for themselves and their families. In this session, we will explore God's mercy in not always sharing all of the information with us and how Jesus paid the ultimate cost when He adopted us into His family. Read Chapters 1 and 4 of *ReFraming Foster Care* prior to this session.

Week 3 - Wednesday, January 18

Title: Excuses, Excuses, Excuses...

Description: There are many reasons to not get involved in orphan care “yet”. You don’t feel equipped or like you have anything to offer an orphan or family in need. Your life is busy with work, small children, and church commitments. In this session, we will all be challenged to take the next step *now*, trusting God in the journey. Read Chapters 8 and 9 of *ReFraming Foster Care* prior to this session.

Week 4 - Wednesday, January 25

Title: It’s Not About You

Description: For many people, stepping into orphan care can come with complicated motivations. Some people want to add a child to their families. Others want to save a child from a bad situation. (In truth, we were both!) In this session, we will discuss the importance of viewing orphan care as a chance to give, not to get, and a chance to die to sin, not to be the hero in the story. Read Chapters 15 and 19 of *ReFraming Foster Care* prior to this session.