

Answer the Cry: Faces of Hope Discussion Guide

Thank you for watching *Answer the Cry: Faces of Hope*. This discussion guide is designed to help you dive deeper and to start exploring how God might want you to be involved with orphans. The questions are divided by stories; feel free to follow the format or to just focus on the stories that resonate most with you and your group. The goal is not to necessarily get through all the questions, but to look closer at the issue and to explore God's calling on your life.



Lydia

- In the video, Lydia shared that she reached the point where she no longer thought getting a family would be possible. Can you think of a time when you, or someone you are close to, completely gave up hope? Describe what that was like.
- What do you think would be the hardest thing about entering a new family and a new culture at 8 years old like Lydia did? What do you think would be the hardest thing about bringing a child like Lydia into your family?
- Have you ever known children who have lived in institutional settings like Lydia did? What was your experience with them like?

Tiffany

- There are currently around 408,000 kids like Tiffany in foster care and almost 110,000 of them are awaiting adoption today. Do those numbers surprise you? Why or why not?
- When you hear about children in foster care, what has been your typical response? Does Tiffany's story cause you to see children in foster care differently? In what way?
- Have you ever known a child in foster care or a foster family? In your opinion, what could a church have done to come around and support them?
- Besides foster parenting and adopting, what are some other ways you can serve children in the foster care system?

Mat and Elizabeth

- When in your life have you felt inadequate and fearful in following God's call? What happened? How did God show His faithfulness in leading you places you might not have wanted to follow? What blessings might you have missed had you not followed God's lead in that situation?
- How does this story illustrate God's heart for all orphans and how does it contrast with the way the world might see a child like Ben?

- What are some of the ways you can support children like Ben whose countries don't allow international adoption? How can you support families that are caring for special needs children?

McKelveys

- In what ways do you look at your life and see that you've bought into the "selfishness" propagated by our culture? How might Ray's words about the American church motivate you to see the orphan crisis differently?
- How can you come alongside women who are considering making an adoption plan for their child?
- What might God want to do through you and your church to address the orphan crisis in your community and the world?

Sarah and Caroline

- How have you typically seen orphan care in the past? What does this story say about some of the preconceived notions you might have about orphan ministry?
- Who are some of the people in your circles that you might be able to reach out to and encourage to become involved in orphan ministry?
- What are some ways your church's youth ministries can serve and love orphans and children in foster care?

Dr. Sharen Ford

- What possibilities do you see for churches and government working together to meet the needs of kids in the foster care system?
- What would it take for churches in your state to reduce the number of waiting kids in the foster care system?
- How can you mobilize your church to care for children in foster care?

Summary

- Which stories resonated most with you and why?
- After watching the stories, how do you view orphans differently?
- What next steps might God be calling you to do – whether today or in the future?

For more information on additional resources, or to watch extended versions of Tiffany's and Mat & Elizabeth's stories, as well as the story of Jim and Yolanda Chapman's adoption journey, please visit cryoftheorphan.org.