

LIVE in the STORY

A Together for Adoption Initiative

LIVE in the STORY is a half-day or full-day, church-based event that is designed to take Christians deeper into God's story of adoption. God's work of adoption is a story that encompasses all of human history, from its pre-temporal beginnings when God predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to the renewal of the heavens and the earth. From the Apostle Paul's perspective, adoption is *the* story that makes sense of the universe, that gives our lives and the existence of all creation ultimate meaning.

Just look at the way Paul uses the word adoption (Eph. 1:4-5; Rom. 9:4; Gal. 4:4-5; Rom. 8:15, 23). According to Scripture, adoption serves as the grand purpose or objective of God's work of redemption. When the story of redemption reaches its intended goal (Romans 8:20-23), Scripture calls it adoption, and adoption is ultimately the 'happily ever after' of God's giving us Himself forever in a renewed creation. Adoption is the story that gives our personal stories meaning and significance.

The previous two paragraphs are basically a synopsis of *Reclaiming Adoption: Missional Living Through the Rediscovery of Abba Father*. In Scripture adoption is the story that makes sense out of the smaller stories which are our lives—stories that often feel irrelevant and insignificant. We wrote *Reclaiming Adoption* to help Christians live bolder, more intentional lives for the glory of God through the rediscovery, the daily fresh discovery, of God's extravagant love for them.

The story of God's work of adoption is needed today more than ever before. Robert McKee, the great modern day master of storytelling and screenwriting, captures the critical importance of story for our day:

"The world now consumes films, novels, theatre, and television in such quantities and with such ravenous hunger that the story arts have become humanity's prime source of inspiration, as it seeks to order chaos and gain insight into life. Our appetite for story is a reflection of the profound human need to grasp patterns of living . . . Story isn't a flight from reality but a vehicle that carries us on our search for reality, our best effort to make sense out of the anarchy of existence" (*Story: Style, Structure, Substance, and the Principles of Screenwriting*, p. 12).

The story that makes sense out of all other stories is the story of God's work of adoption. It is the only story that gives our stories ultimate meaning and significance.

Our efforts to help Christians daily rediscover God's love for them do not end with the book. **LIVE in the STORY** events (LSE) are half-day or full-day, church-based events where Christians are provided with in-depth training in the theology of adoption and its implications for missional living. We believe that robust theology produces robust action. So, our objective with LSEs is to put a robust theology of adoption at the center of missional living.

One important aspect of the missional life is the care of orphans. Therefore, one of the applications of LSEs is how the good news of our adoption in Christ mobilizes Christians to care for orphans. If the church is to be mobilized to care for 163 million orphaned and vulnerable children, then a gospel-centered theology of adoption must be informing and driving the church's care for orphans.

Contact dan.cruver@TogetherforAdoption.org for information about hosting a **LIVE in the STORY** event at your church, organization, or in your area.