

## Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way



July 12, 2015

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

**Amos 7:7-15**

**Psalms 85:8-13**

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

**Mark 6:14-29**



**God's Adopted Children.** Object: None needed.

I read a wonderful book called "We Belong Together." It is a book that explains adoption in such a way that children can understand it. In fact, I even understood it! Every year, there are millions of children adopted. Why? Well, the book explains it this way. "You needed a home and I had one to share. You needed someone to help you grow healthy and strong, and I had help to give. You needed someone to love you, and I had love to give."

There was once a couple who had wanted children for many years, but had been unable to have a child of their own. They began trying to adopt a child and after years of waiting, a baby boy who needed a family became available for adoption. The couple stood before the judge and listened as the judge said to them, "From this day on, this is your son. There may be times when he will disappoint you. There may be times when his behavior may break your heart, but he is your child. He will have your name and, one day, everything you own will be his because he is your son."

Adoption is a beautiful thing. Did you know that you and I have been chosen for adoption? The Bible tells us that long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us to be his own. His plan, from the very beginning, was to adopt us and to make us a part of his family through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Why do you think God did that for us? We needed someone to love us and he loves us more than anyone ever could.

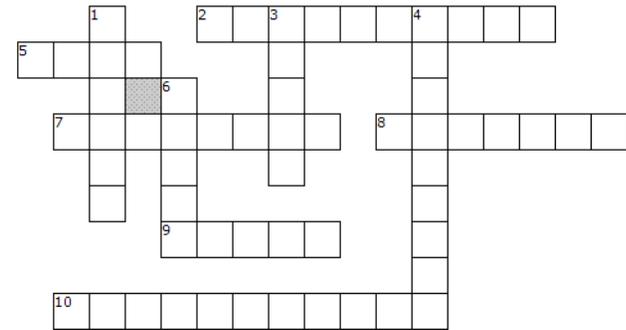
We praise him for the wonderful kindness he has poured out on us as his adopted children. He gives us everything we need.

Dear Father, thank you for loving us and adopting us into your family. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Citation: "We Belong Together" A Book About Adoption and Families by Todd Parr. Used by permission, sermons4kids

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know the hope to which God has called us. Alleluia (Ephesians 1:3-14)

## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

2. Remaining the same
5. A proposed course of action
7. A considerate and thoughtful act
8. The ability to go wherever one chooses without restriction
9. To have confidence in someone or something; to depend on
10. Money or property left to children by their parents

### DOWN

1. A group of persons consisting of one or two parents and their children
3. To have selected something from several possibilities
4. Assurance that something will be done as promised; to make certain
6. To take into one's family and raise as one's own child

GUARANTEE	FAMILY	TRUST	FREEDOM	UNCHANGING
INHERITANCE	PLAN	CHOSE	ADOPT	KINDNESS

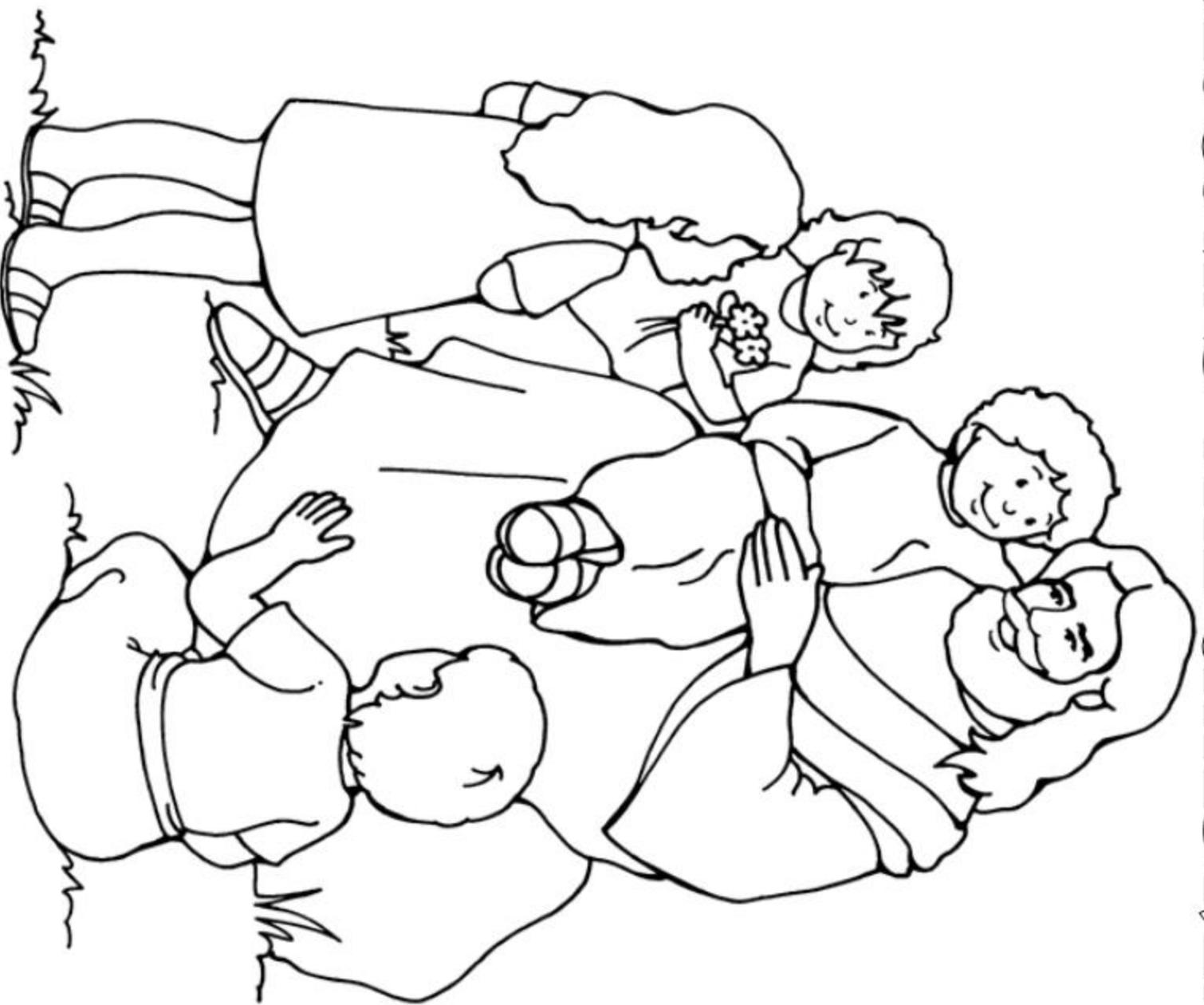
**ADOPTED FAMILY PARADE:** Let the children make a banner to hold as they march in a parade. Give supplies to each team for the parade such as whistles, flags, kazoos, and streamers. Decorate the banners with markers and write WE ARE ADOPTED INTO GOD'S FAMILY! Let the children march to fun music or sing some songs that they would like to sing in their parade.

**FOOT FAMILY:** Let the children trace both of their feet several times and cut them out. Place the cutouts in the shape of a wreath and tape or glue them to a paper plate. Write their family names on the "foot family" and ADOPTED BY GOD on the wreath.

**I AM ADOPTED ART:** Let each child draw a picture of themselves in the middle of a sheet of paper and write - I AM ADOPTED - I AM A CHILD OF GOD. Decorate the paper as child desires and make a border for the art.



# JESUS AND THE CHILDREN



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