

Forever Home Celebration Day.

This resource was designed for families who have adopted children to use in celebration of their arrival, and to continue to be used as a part of family life, for example annually on a special date.

However, we would encourage you, if you would like to, to use it in whatever family situation you find yourself in when there is cause for celebration, and we'd love to hear how you do that!

Please note this is a new resource from At Home With God and so we would welcome your feedback on it.

Before you start:

- *Have a candle holder – only used for today - with enough cups for a candle for each member of the family.*
- *Have a special pudding or cake, perhaps one that you only ever have on this day.*
- *You might find that doing the celebration prayers works best half-way through a meal.*

Celebration with younger children.

Read: Psalm 68 v 4-6a *Read by a parent or child.*

Sing to God, sing praise to his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.
A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.
God sets the lonely in families.

The parents think of something they are especially grateful for in their child(ren). Try to be specific about what you are grateful for in each child.

Light a candle for each parent.



Say: Lord God,

We are so grateful to you for calling us to be the parents of _____ and _____ (*name all the children*).

Then as you light the candles for each child(ren) the parents say together:

Say: Dear Father,

We light this candle to thank you so much for _____ (*repeat for each child*)

Then one parent continues to pray for the eldest child:

Thank you that you have chosen _____ to be part of our family. Thank you especially _____.

Help him/her always to know that we love him/her, and that you love him/her too. Amen

This is then repeated by the same, or other parent, for the remaining child(ren).

Read: **Josh 24 v 15**

Joshua tells the people of Israel:

“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

The family hold hands:

Say: Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for our family, help us to keep growing closer to each other, and help us as a family always to follow and serve you. Amen

Now eat the pudding or cake!



Celebration with older children.

Read: Psalm 68 v 4-6a *Read by a parent or child.*

Sing to God, sing praise to his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.
A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.
God sets the lonely in families.

The parents think of something they are especially grateful for in their child(ren). Try to be specific about what you are grateful for in each child.

Light a candle for each parent.

Say: Lord God,

We are so grateful to you for calling us to be the parents of _____ and _____ (name all the children).

Then as you light the candles for each child(ren) the parents say together:

Dear Father,

We light this candle to thank you so much for _____ (repeat for each child)

Then one parent continues to pray for the eldest child:

Thank you that you have chosen _____ to be part of our family. Thank you especially _____.

Help him/her always to know that we love him/her, and that you love him/her too. Amen



This is then repeated by the same, or other parent, for the remaining child(ren).

The (older) children think of something they are grateful for about their family and they pray for their family:

Thank you Father for our family,
especially _____ . Amen

Read: Eph 1 v 3-6: (The Message) *Read by a parent or child.*

³⁻⁶ How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

The family hold hands/shoulders and say together:

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for our family, help us to keep growing closer to each other, and help us as a family always to follow and serve you. Amen

Now eat the pudding or cake!

