

Going Further

@Home

- **[Bellevue.org/adoption](#)** – The purpose of these adoption efforts is to provide resources, information, and support for prospective adoptive couples. This website is a great first-step.
- **[Successful Adoption: A Guide for Christian Families](#)** (by Natalie Nichols Gillespie)
- **[Handbook on Thriving as an Adoptive Family: Real-Life Solutions to Common Challenges](#)** (by David & Renee Sanford)
- **[Adopted for Life: the Priority of Adoption for Christian Families & Churches](#)** (Dr. Russell Moore)
- **[Fields of the Fatherless](#)** (by C. Thomas Davis)
- **[Loved by Choice](#)** (by Susan Horner)
- **[Mario's Big Question: A Child's Guide Through Adoption](#)** (by Carolyn Nystrom) Adopted Mario tries to understand who he is, how he should relate to his birth and adoptive parents, and how he fits into his family.
- **[My Adopted Child: There's No One Like You](#)** (by Kevin Leman) This read-to-me children's picture book conveys love, acceptance, and a sense of individuality to adopted children.
- **[HowtoAdopt.org](#)** is a service of Shaohannah's Hope, the organization founded by Christian musician Steven Curtis Chapman. It provides background information, responses to myths about adoption and practical steps for pursuing adoption.

@Church

- **Life Group** – Adults are invited to connect with others at 8:00, 9:20, and 11:00a.m. Visit [Bellevue.org](#) for a current list of classes where you will experience biblical teaching, encouraging relationships, and fellowship opportunities.
- **Contact Family Ministry** to be referred to a family that has been blessed by adoption. (901) 347-5740

[bellevue.org/homepoint](#)

Exploring Adoption



HomePoint

Pointers

Exploring Adoption

By Kurt Bruner, The Center for Strong Families

There are families desiring children. There are children desiring families.

AND there are questions:

- How much does an adoption cost? What financing options are available and where do we start?
- Should we consider domestic or international adoption? Should we consider foster care adoption and/or embryonic adoption?
- Is an open or closed adoption best for my family?
- Which adoption agencies should we consider?
- Are there adoptive families I can talk to?

Exploring adoption means weighing the practical concerns in your head against the inexplicable tugging of your heart. With so many factors to consider, where do you start?

STEP ONE: ADOPTION IS GOD'S DESIGN

God uses the term *adoption* to picture our new relationship with God through salvation. (Romans 8:15, Ephesians 1:5, Galatians 4:5) According to Romans 8:23, we were permanently placed into the Body of Christ, through no effort of our own, but we have full rights as His adopted children.

STEP TWO: REASONS FAMILIES CONSIDER ADOPTION

Initially, medical reasons or other circumstances may direct a family toward adoption. However, adoption is God's Plan A for adding children into the loving home for some families. They soon discover God's design is perfect and rejoice in His plan and His provision.

Motivated by a desire to "look after the orphans" as directed in James 1:27, some families choose adoption to welcome children into their home. For these families, adoptive children may be added to children already in the home through birth.

Additionally, families may choose adoption for a friend or relative to provide a loving and nurturing choice for a displaced child.

STEP THREE: EDUCATE YOURSELF

Many things about adoption have changed in the past few decades. New opportunities and new challenges have emerged and should be considered. Various churches and non-profit ministries have expanded their support for orphans and adoption in recent years and provide invaluable support for families considering adoption. National and international laws, federal tax benefits, and financial assistance through grants are important topics to consider.

One of the best ways to increase your understanding of both the head and heart issues of adoption is to spend time with others who have adopted. You will hear and understand both the joys and challenges of each step along the adoption journey.

Bellevue has many families who have explored and chosen adoption. They are available to talk with you and share their experiences. Contact the Family Ministry office at (901) 347-5751.

Take advantage of hearing from families who chose different adoption paths. For example, talk with parents who adopted a child of a different race, or an abused or neglected child, or an older child. You will benefit from receiving counsel because each adoption is as unique as your family.

Local Adoption Agencies:

Life Choices loves the women in Memphis. Their counselors and professional medical staff are here to offer safe and confidential services free of charge! ***LifeChoicesMemphis.org***

Bethany offers adoption services for national and international adoption. They can guide families through the adoption process. Adoption is an exciting journey of love, and Bethany will assist you through the journey. ***Bethany.org/Memphis***