

## Parenting Adopted Teens and Young Adults Outline

- Why is parenting an “adopted” teen different from parenting a child who comes to you by birth?
- What issues related to adoption come to the front during the teen years?
- What issues related to early neglect, abuse, or loss come to the fore in adolescence?
- In your book, “Parenting in the Eye of the Storm: The Adoptive Parent’s Guide to Navigating the Teen Years,” you talk about adoptive or foster parents taking a learning stance when working with teens. What is a learning stance?
- Many of our kids have experienced early life adversity and carry the scars of this early trauma. Parents often naturally feel bad for their teens because of this. How can these feelings of pity interfere with the healthy parenting of teens? When to step in and help and when to let our teens figure out how to handle things on their own?
- Some adoptive parents adopt out of a feeling of needing to save the child. How does the savior narrative impact parenting teens?
- Birth family issues:
  - Birth parents search
  - Handling hard birth parent situations
  - Identity formation-nature vs. nurture
  - Navigating an open adoption with teens
- Identity formation as a transracial adoptee.
- Transitioning into adulthood.
- We hear that adopted teens are more likely to have mental health issues and more likely to commit suicide. How do adoptive parents support their adopted teens?