



## How To Neighbor - Week 3

### “Orphans Embraced”

Psalm 68:5-6, Psalm 82:3-4,  
James 1:27, Ephesians 1:5  
*When it comes to embracing the  
orphans in this world—the Church is  
Plan A.*



## SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

### FOR FURTHER READING:

*Orphanology: Awakening to Gospel-Centered Adoption and Orphan Care*  
By Tony Merida

*Orphan Justice: How To Care For Orphans Beyond Adopting*  
Johnny Carr

*Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families  
and Churches*  
Russell Moore

### SUBSCRIBE TO OUR PASTORCAST WITH PASTOR LEON AND MERIDETH

Podcasts can be found by:

- Listening online through the “Audio” page of Pastor Leon’s website [leonbloder.org](http://leonbloder.org)

- Searching for “PastorCast Weekly Podcast” in iTunes

*You can also subscribe to our podcasts from iTunes and receive them automatically.*

### DAILY DEVOTIONALS THIS WEEK:

*The daily devotionals will be posted on Pastor Leon’s blog, linked on his Tumblr account, the church’s Facebook Page and Twitter.*

### RECAP—THE WORLD IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE CONNECTED

*BUT SOMETIMES WE LOSE SIGHT OF HOW TO NEIGHBOR—*

*POOR EMPOWERED, RACISM RECONCILED... ORPHANS EMBRACED*

### OUR OBSESSION WITH ORPHANS—IN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

*WHAT STORIES STAND OUT FOR YOU? WHAT IS AT THE HEART OF THESE STORIES?*

*WHAT ARE WE CONFRONTING? WHAT ARE WE AFRAID OF?*

### THE REALITY IS THAT OUR CONTEXT IS NOT AS ROMANTIC

*2016 - 437,500 CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ON ANY GIVEN DAY IN THE U.S.*

*ROUGHLY 102,000 ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION*

### THE CHURCH—IS PLAN A FOR THIS CRISIS

*PSALM 82:3-4 - DEFEND THE WEEK AND THE FATHERLESS... THE WEAK AND NEEDY...*

*PSALM 68:5-6 - GOD IS A FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS... SETS THE LONELY IN FAMILIES*

*JAMES 1:27 - TRUE RELIGION—CARE FOR ORPHANS AND WIDOWS...*

### 39 TIMES IN 27 DIFFERENT PASSAGES

*GOD CALLED HIS PEOPLE TO THIS TASK...*

*BECAUSE THEY WERE ONCE ORPHANS, ENSLAVED...*

### THINK ABOUT THIS...

**THERE ALMOST AS MANY CHURCHES IN THE U.S. AS CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

*SO WHAT DO WE DO TO FULFILL OUR ROLE AS “PLAN A”*

### 1. WORK TO ELIMINATE THE REASONS CHILDREN ARE IN THESE SITUATIONS

*THE NUMBER ONE REASON FOR KIDS IN FOSTER CARE—PARENTS ADDICTED*

*CYCLES OF POVERTY, HOPELESSNESS, CRIME... REPEATS ITSELF*

### 2. SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS WHO ARE ON THE FRONT LINES

*WE HAVE ONE OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS RIGHT DOWN THE STREET!!*

*AND YOU CAN GET INVOLVED AND HELP*

### 3. DECIDE TO FOSTER PARENT OR ADOPT

*TWO PROMISES: IT WON’T BE EASY. BUT IF YOU’RE CALLED TO IT—IT WILL BE WORTH IT.*

### HERE’S WHY THIS MATTERS TO ME—MY OWN STORY IS ONE OF ADOPTION

*OUR HEAVENLY PARENT CALLS US TO THIS... IT IS OUR STORY, TOO.*