

The Family of Adoption: One Family/Four Narratives

Caitlin Hale, Jennifer Hale, Beth Harris, Helen Harris

NACSW Continuing Education



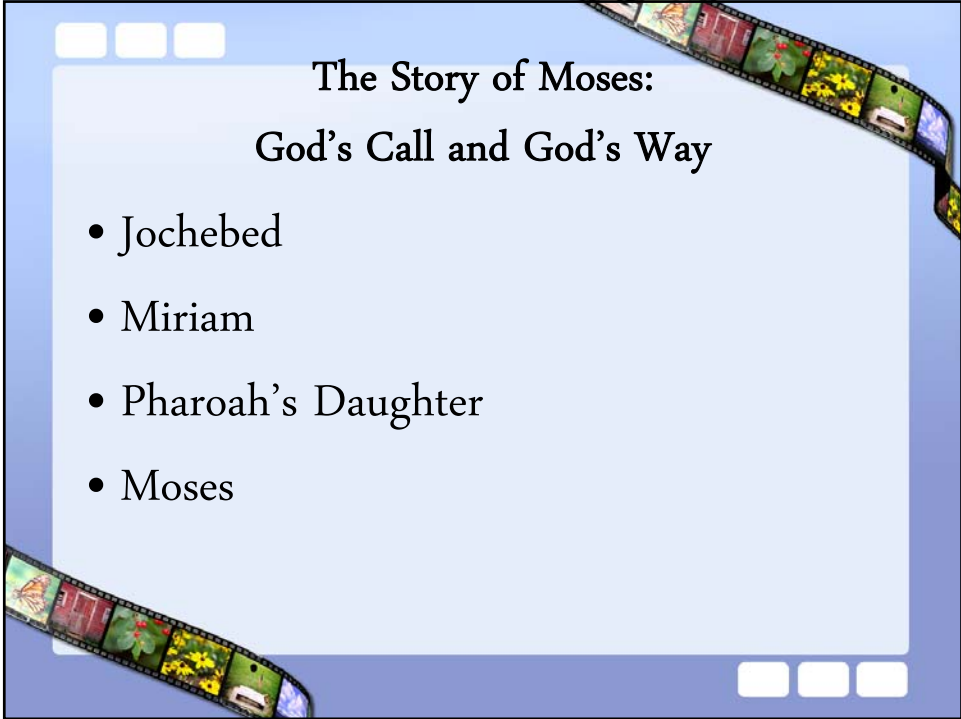
Objectives

- **Hear the adoption narrative from birth parent, adoptive parents and children and be better prepared to work with and support all three**
- **Understand the common losses and the healing in reunion that are part of the adoption experience**
- **Apply the principles of Alan Keith-Lucas to the adoption experience**

Agenda

- The story of Moses as a framework
- The issues according to the literature
- Four Narratives
 - Jennifer, Caiti, Beth, Helen
- Principles
- Conclusions

Myths, Stereotypes, and Stigma



The Story of Moses: God's Call and God's Way

- Jochebed
- Miriam
- Pharoah's Daughter
- Moses



Statistics

- Adoption is Rare: 2 per 100,000
- Less than 2% of unplanned pregnancies result in adoption
- Yet....400,5000 children without permanent homes



Issues

- Secrecy and Shame
- Stigma and Pain
- Loss and Grief
- Divided Loyalties
- Wish for Reunion
- New Family



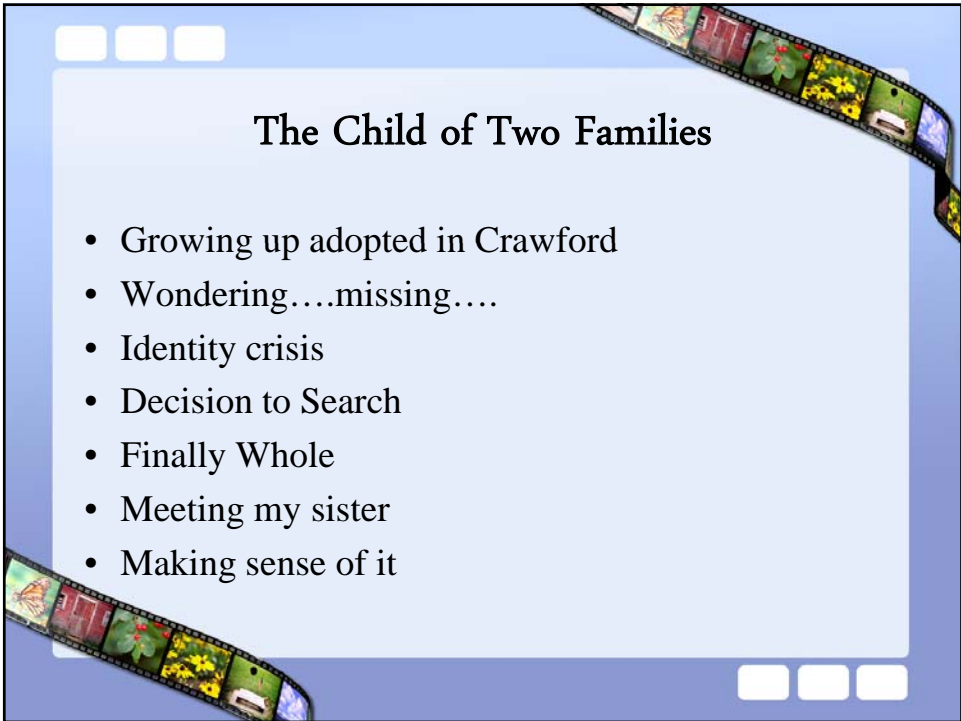
Pregnant and Scared

- Teenage mother
- Abortion or Adoption
- Decision and Peace
- Birth and Loss
- Found
- Reunion



The Older Sister

- My Baby sister
- Mom and Family
- Making sense of it to others
- We make our coffee the same
- And now....family



The Child of Two Families

- Growing up adopted in Crawford
- Wondering....missing....
- Identity crisis
- Decision to Search
- Finally Whole
- Meeting my sister
- Making sense of it

Old Empty Arms

- Damaged, Barren, Useless
- Scared but Grateful
- Telling the story and writing the letters
- Reunion
- New Family



The Alan Keith-Lucas Principles

- Christianity is the ministry of redemption and reconciliation
- Birth families have central significance in the welfare (health) of children
- A parent who relinquishes for permanency elsewhere has made a loving decision intended to benefit rather than abandon the child.
- Children's self-esteem is impacted by understanding placement as a caring parental decision.

Recommendations

- Address the stereotypes. Adoption is not “less than.”
- Value and validate adoption
- Recognize the pain and loss
- Consider open adoption
- Support reunion



Questions and Comments





Summary and Conclusions

Thank God for Jochebed

Thank God for Miriam

Thank God for Pharoah's Daughter

Thank God for Moses



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