

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

“My name is Davion and I’ve been in foster care since I was born. I know God hasn’t given up on me, so I’m not giving up either.” These were the words of a fifteen-year-old boy as he stood before a church congregation in St. Petersburg, Florida begging for a home. “I’ll take anyone. Old or young, dad or mom, black, white, purple, I don’t care. . . . I just want someone to love me for who I am, no matter what.” Davion’s story spread like wildfire across social media and on TV. After his plea for a family, tens of thousands of people came forward to inquire about Davion Only, but nobody adopted him. But by now he’d grown used to rejection.

He was born in prison to a mom he would never know. She was a drug addict and convicted thief, and her absence in his life left Davion struggling in school, with anger, and with his weight. He bounced from place to place in the foster care system, living with more families than he can name. He never had a real family. He never had a real home. He never had his own room or even his own pillow.

While surfing the Internet to track down his birth mom, Davion discovered that she had passed away just days before. At her funeral, he met relatives who couldn’t give him a home. But they offered him something else—hope. “One of the things they told Davion was that he was loved,” says Connie Going, Davion’s adoption caseworker.

That newfound hope led Davion to St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church. He stood before strangers in a black suit that didn’t fit, gripping a Bible in his sweaty palms. His story went viral, and for a while, it seemed Davion would find a home. He was placed with a minister and his family in Ohio, but after Davion got into a physical fight with one of the other children in the home, he was returned to foster care.

So he turned to the one constant in his life—his caseworker, Connie. He had known her for 10 years, and every year he’d ask her to adopt him. And every year she’d decline. “I always believed there was a better family than us out there,” she says. But this time was different. “In adoption, there is a ‘claiming moment,’ when you know [someone is] your child. When he called me to ask, in that moment, I just knew. When he asked me, my heart felt this ache and I just knew he was my son.”

Davion’s adoption was finalized on April 22, and Davion is part of a real family for the first time in his life. Says his new mom, Connie, “I want him to know he is unconditionally loved for who he is, the way he is.” Isn’t that really what we all want?

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above news story to read. After all teens have had the opportunity to read the article, discuss it in this way:

What makes Connie and Davion such a good fit?

Who has been a constant support and encouragement in your life?

Why is it important to have people to depend on?

The church was designed to work as a family, where we support and encourage each other as we grow in Christ. Although we’re all different, Christians have the most important things in common. But to really accomplish anything in Christ, we must work as a team. Today we’ll look at 3 aspects of fellowship that bring us together as one.



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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