



"Share with God's people who are in need."
Romans 12:13

Small Group Guide for Adopting a Family

The Reality of Everyone's Need

Experiencing "need" is not a foreign concept. It is not something hard to understand or empathize with because it is an inescapable part of being a human being. We are *all* created with needs; whether physical, emotional or spiritual, they are real and present in everyone of our lives. We *all* find ourselves in moments when we need help. It can often be humbling and hard to acknowledge our own need, but even more so, it can be extremely difficult to accept help and allow someone else to meet that need. Yet we *all* have to do it - we are called meet the needs of others and likewise allow others to meet our needs.

Adopting a Family in Need

As we become r12 Christian and reach out to our local community to Feed the Need, we are asking each small group or mid-size group to adopt a family that has a need for food and provide a week's worth of fresh groceries for them. What exactly this looks like for each small group will vary, according to the adopted family you are assigned to, but the expectation is that your small group will provide groceries as you would for your own home. Here are some specifics:

The Mechanics:

- After church on February 6th-7th, there will be a short 10 minute meeting following each service. This meeting will allow small group hosts to hear a little bit about the details of the adopt a family project as well as what is required to help make this project successful.
- After that meeting, each small group will be assigned an adopted family (the host or a representative of your small group can stop by one of the "Feed the Need Family Tables" that will be set up during that weekend.) Upon receiving your adopted family, you will be given a "Family Information Card." This card will offer your small group some information about your adopted family including their name /address/contact info, number of members in their household, their ethnicity and primary language spoken in the home, and any particular foods that may be deemed unacceptable in their home due to cultural reasons.
- Once your small group has that information in hand, it will be up to you to determine the details of shopping and delivering these groceries. Unless certain items are specifically deemed "unacceptable" by your particular adopted family, each small group should provide fresh produce (fruits and vegetables), meat (beef, chicken, etc.), dairy products (milk, eggs, cheese), and whole grains (bread, pasta, cereals) to their adopted family. Consider what it would take to feed your own family for a week, and use that as a starting point.

- The delivery of groceries (which should be delivered by the entire small group) will take place between February 15-27th (the actual date will have been determined by your adopted family).
- As a small group, *pray* in preparation for entering your adopted family's home. If your adopted family does not speak English, you may consider finding an interpreter to come with your small group. Keep in mind how humbling it can be to accept help from others. Consider what a blessing it is that they are willing to allow you into their home and accept your assistance with provision of food. Once in your adoptive family's home, be warm and friendly. Treat them with kindness and respect, engage them in conversation and do your best to help them feel at ease. Introduce yourselves, ask them questions and engage them genuinely and with authenticity.

Preparing Your Small Group to Visit Your Family

PROVIDE for a family in need.

Pray for your adopted family, for your interactions, that your small group may be examples of Christ.

Release any concerns, anxieties, fears, expectations, etc. you may have to the Lord. He has a plan in this and is looking forward to using you for His glory.

Outline a plan: determine what you want to buy, what your group can afford to spend, who will shop, if you will bring an interpreter, what time you will deliver, etc.

View this project through the eyes of your adopted family. Take the time to think through how they may feel as strangers (you!) enter their home. Commit again to asking God to use you as a representative of Him.

Invest your time and resources. There is a personal cost and we know that. Thank you for participating!

Decide again to allow God complete control of this project. Spend time giving Him thanks and asking Him to use the time with your adopted family for His glory.

Engage with your adopted family! Smile big and be friendly. Ask the family questions, tell them a bit about you, love them through being genuine, warm, and kind.