

2025 GRAFTED GATHERING



*Empathize
Embrace
Enrich*

**“GRAFTED IN LOVE,
GROWING IN HOPE.”**

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*“May the Lord give you
increase, you and your
children! May you be blessed
by the LORD, who made
heaven and earth.”*

Psalms 115:14-15

Schedule

8:00–8:30am	Registration
8:30–9:15am	Welcome & Breakfast
9:15–9:30am	Personal Perspective
9:30–10:15am	Main Session #1 - Empathize
10:15–10:30am	Break
10:30–11:30am	Small Group Discussion
11:30–12:45pm	Lunch & Fellowship
12:45–1:00pm	Personal Perspective
1:00–1:45pm	Main Session #2 - Embrace
1:45–2:30pm	Breakout & Adoptee Sharing
2:30–2:45pm	Break
2:45–3:30pm	Breakout & Adoptee Sharing
3:30–4:00pm	Main Session #3 - Enrich
4:00–4:15pm	Fellowship/Dismiss

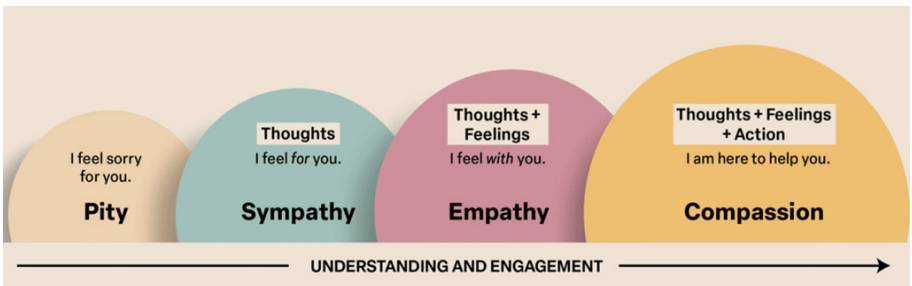
EMPATHIZE

Main Session #1

WHAT IS EMPATHY?

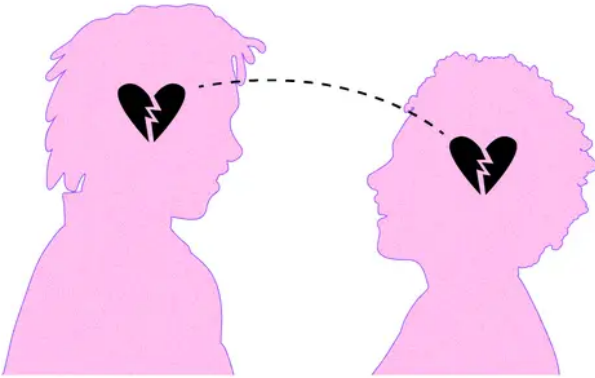
- The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

LEVELS OF CARE FOR OTHERS



CONNECTION

- People who are empathetic:
 - Validate others' feelings.
 - Resonate with others' feelings and perspective.
 - Build a connection with others through understanding.



INSIDER

EMPATHY IS A SKILL TO LEARN

4 Step Approach To Practice

EMPATHY



Perspective taking,
or put yourself in
someone else's
shoes.



Stay out of
judgment and listen.



Recognize emotion in
another person that
you have felt before.



Communicate that
you recognize that
emotion.

SOURCE: DR. BRENE BROWN

IMAGE: JACOB MORGAN

EMBRACE

Main Session #2

EMBRACE

- The Opportunity
- The Risk
- The Mess
- The Help
- The Savior

DEFINITION OF EMBRACE

- Hold (someone) closely in one's arms, especially as a sign of affection.
- Accept or support (a belief, theory, or change) willingly and enthusiastically.

EMBRACE THE OPPORTUNITY

- Adoption and foster care uniquely reflect the Gospel.

EMBRACE THE RISK

- We are not guaranteed a happy ending.

EMBRACE THE MESS

- You might not ever win “Christmas card of the year.”

EMBRACE THE HELP

- Sometimes love means saying yes to an offer of help.

EMBRACE THE SAVIOR

- Keep close to Jesus so you can keep close to others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EMPATHIZE

1. What is the easiest and hardest part being empathetic to others in your life, especially your children? Why do you think that is?
2. What would be helpful for you to be able to become more empathetic to others?
3. How can you be more purposeful in practicing empathy?

EMBRACE

1. Which “Embrace” topic (Opportunity, Risk, Mess, Help or Savior) was the most meaningful for you to think about today? Why?
2. Why do you think it’s important for us to regularly reflect on how adoption and foster care uniquely reflect the Gospel?
3. When we embrace the mess, we learn to both extend and receive grace. Describe a time when you’ve had to humbly adjust your expectations, or describe a difficult time that you’ve sensed God’s grace in your life.
4. Describe a time you’ve embraced help? Why do you resist embracing others helping you?
5. What is a way you embrace the Savior? Is there a habit, practice, or Bible verse that you cling to regularly?

AGENCY RESOURCES



Apostolic Christian Counseling & Family Services

515 E. Highland St. | Morton, IL 61550
309.263.5536 | www.accounseling.org

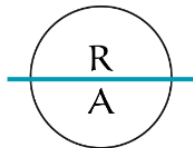
Offer triage calls and direction towards further resources.



Gateway Woods

14505 Klopfenstein Road | Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283 | GatewayWoods.org

Offer triage calls and direction towards further resources.



RAD Advocates

New resource. Offers email updates & resources.
www.radadvocates.org



**Beatitude
House**

Matthew & Fawn Bradley

Great godly couple- good for parent/teen support or help for referrals and treatment options. | [828.734.0720](tel:828.734.0720)

www.beatitudehouse.org

Email: counseling@beatitudehouse.org



Nancy Thomas | Families by Design

Tons of very specific resources, videos, podcast.

PO Box 2812 | Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

970 984 2222 | www.attachment.org

www.facebook.com/ntp parenting



UnplowedGROUND
THERAPEUTIC PARENTING

Unplowed Ground

www.unplowedground.org

- Offer free initial parent consults.
- Helpful videos & trainings.
- Part of King's Ranch.

RESOURCES



When Love is Not Enough:
A Guide to Parenting With
RAD-Reactive Attachment Disorder
Author: Nancy Thomas

All Nations
Nurturing Cross-Cultural Relationships
www.acbookstore.org



Inside Transracial Adoption
Authors: Beth Hall and Gail Steinberg

Childhood Disrupted
How your biography becomes
your biology and how you can heal.
Author: Donna Jackson Nakazawa



The Body Keeps the Score
Author: Bessel Van Der Kolk M.D.



The Connected Child:

Bringing Hope and Healing
to Your Adoptive Family

Authors: Dr. Purvis, Dr. Cross, & Wendy Sunshine

The Connected Parent:

Real-Life Strategies for
Building Trust and Attachment

Authors: Dr. Karyn Purvis and Lisa C. Qualls



Faith to Foster

Authors: TJ and Jenn Menn

Orphanology:

Awakening to Gospel-Centered
Adoption and Orphan Care

Authors: Tony Merida and Rick Morton



Wait No More:

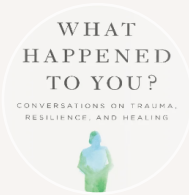
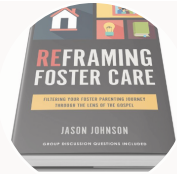
One Family's Amazing Adoption Journey

Authors: John and Kelly Rosati



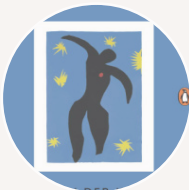
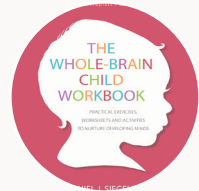
Karyn Purvis Institute
at Texas Christian University
<https://child.tcu.edu/>

Jason Johnson
Blog & books
www.jasonjohnsonblog.com



Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D.
Books & Resources on Trauma
www.bdperry.com/books

Dr. Daniel Siegel
Books & Resources on Trauma
www.drDansiegel.com/books/

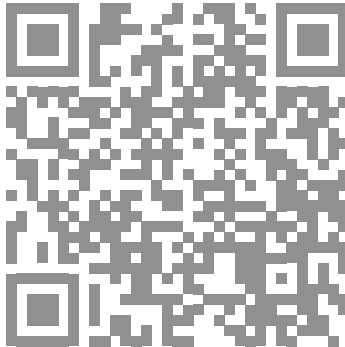


Bessel Van Der Kolk M.D.
Books & Resources on Trauma
www.besselvanderkolk.com



Scan QR code to view
gathering presentations & details.

[www.accounseling.org/
grafted-gathering-2025/](http://www.accounseling.org/grafted-gathering-2025/)



Scan QR code to fill out the
2025 Grafted Gathering follow-up survey.

We appreciate your feedback!

