Adoption Panel

Participants:
Mike & Beth Metarko (Samuel & Theodore)
Brent & Amanda Aucoin (Addison, Aaron, Andrew & Alex)
Jim & Susan Eaker (Emma, Will & Evelyn)

Welcome to our final Adoption BFL class, where we’ve spent the past 5 weeks discussing theology and practical issues surrounding adoption and foster care.

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How the kind the Lord has been to us this morning. We are privileged to have 3 families on our panel with domestic, international and foster care experience.

Here’s how this is going to work this morning:
- I’ve got just a small handful of questions here. I’ll ask them, but you guys should feel free to chime in with questions as we go.
- Some of these questions are ones where we’d like all the panelists to respond, so, if you have a question, just raise your hand and I’ll come to you at the appropriate time.

QUESTIONS

1. Would love if each of you could take a few minutes to introduce yourselves and briefly share how the Lord led you to pursue adoption?
   - Dial up which route they took
   - How did the process go for you?
   - Any particular reason you pursued the path you took?

2. We’ve talked about how, in many respects, parenting is parenting, but that there are some unique challenges associated with parenting adopted children. I wonder if you each could speak to 1 or 2 of the biggest challenges of parenting an adopted child, as well 1 or 2 of the biggest surprises?

3. Any advice for families considering:
   - Foster care (Aucoin)
   - International adoption (Family to be named)
   - Domestic adoption (Eaker)

4. Looking back at your adoption, what preparation (e.g., seminar, book, consult with friend, etc.) did you do that you were most glad for after you brother your child home
5. I'm a member of FBC, I don't believe The Lord is calling my family to adopt, but I want to be an encouragement to you and your family. And I really don't want to speak in a way to you and your children that would be at all discouraging. What are a few things you wish I knew before I talked about adoption?
   a. Ask one family and then ask the others if they would add anything