



ROOTED
in Love ♦ ♦

— ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE —

**EQUIPPING FAMILIES TO CARE
FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

— ♦ —
**LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
GAINESVILLE, GA**



*“So that Christ may dwell
in your hearts through faith - that you,
being rooted and grounded in love...
may be filled to the measure
of all the fullness of God.”*

EPHESIANS 3:17-19

SCAN TO
REQUEST CEU
CERTIFICATE



SCAN TO TAKE
POST CONFERENCE
SURVEY



✦ A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR ✦



Welcome to Lakewood Baptist Church's 2nd annual Rooted In Love Adoption and Foster Care Conference! We are so glad you have joined us today. Just by being here, you are a part of the story God is writing through Rooted In Love!

Lakewood began our Adoption and Foster Care Ministry in 2016 with a goal of assisting and supporting adoptive and fostering families, ministering to the children in their care, and walking

alongside local birth families as they work to be safe and healthy caretakers for their children. We've seen the Lord move in mighty ways over the past 10 years. Many children have found their forever families, dozens of children in foster care have been loved within our walls, and many vulnerable families in our community have received tangible help and support through our ministry. And ALL of it has been for the sole purpose of honoring the Lord and advancing His kingdom.

Whether you are a seasoned foster parent, just starting your journey, ready to explore foster care and adoption for the first time, or are interested in serving these families, we are so glad you are here! We pray you leave today feeling seen, encouraged, and equipped. We are deeply grateful to all the staff, volunteers, and speakers who made this conference possible. But, most importantly, we give glory to God for the opportunity to gather, rooted in His love, and be a part of something much bigger than ourselves.

Tanna Roush

**DIRECTOR OF ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE
LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH**

JASON JOHNSON



Jason is a writer and speaker who encourages families and equips church and organizational leaders on their foster care and adoption journeys.

He currently serves as the National Director of The Pure Religion Project with Christian Alliance for Orphans. In his work he develops resources, coaches leaders and teaches in a variety of contexts on church-based

ministry structures, organizational leadership and strategy. He is also a sought-after speaker for churches, retreats, conferences, and events for foster and adoptive parents as well as for those considering getting involved.

Prior to his work at CAFO Jason spent 14 years in church staff ministry, including planting and pastoring a church in Houston. It's there that his family's foster care journey began.

Jason and his wife, Emily live in Texas with their daughters. He has authored 4 books:

- ◆ *Reframing Foster Care*
- ◆ *Everyone Can Do Something*
- ◆ *The ALL IN Curriculum*
- ◆ *Effectively Engaging Churches*

Find many of Jason's resources at
JASONJOHNSONBLOG.COM

◆ AGENDA ◆

8:15-9:00 AM Registration, Coffee & Exhibit Hall Open

9:00-10:30 AM Opening Session & Keynote 1

KEYNOTE 1

Who We Are Becoming

Jason Johnson

God's great interest in our lives is not in what we can accomplish for Him or what level of comfort or success we can achieve for ourselves. No. God's great interest in our lives runs much deeper. His highest good for us is nothing less than the people we are becoming. This is God's ultimate aim for us; everything else is a distant second. In the end, our ability to rest in Him is rooted in our belief that His first goal is our becoming.

10:45-11:45 AM Breakout Session One

11:45-12:45 PM Lunch & Exhibit Hall Open

12:45-1:45 PM Breakout Session Two

2:00-3:00 PM Breakout Session Three

3:15-4:00 PM Closing Session & Keynote 2

KEYNOTE 2

The Relentless Pursuit of Cultivation

Jason Johnson

We are bombarded daily by a myriad of images, messages and opportunities to consume that which is being sold to us as good. And yet, despite the bountiful harvest this world has to offer, we're all too often still left feeling empty for more. This session will walk us through the unique distinctions between consuming and cultivating and give us practical insight and next steps for what a life spent cultivating things that ultimately satisfy looks like.

✦ BREAKOUT SESSION ONE ✦

CHOOSE ONE SESSION FOR BREAKOUT ONE AT 10:45 AM

CHAPEL

Jason Johnson | *Keynote Speaker*

For Those with Questions: An Open and Honest Conversation

You probably have questions, thoughts, fears or struggles—or all of the above. Perhaps you're not sure if you're allowed to ask them, or whether there is a safe and understanding place to take them. Now there is. Join this unscripted conversation to publicly process what has been personal and private in a supportive place. Come with your questions, hopes, fears and dreams. Leave encouraged.

ROOM 108/109

Andy Nelson | *Eagle Ranch*

Lies We Believe and Spiritual Practices That Help Remind Us of the Truth

Foster and adoptive parents sometimes believe things like, 'I am alone in this' or 'I shouldn't feel this way.' The gospel reminds us of the truth of who we are in Christ. This breakout will challenge common beliefs and point to spiritual practices and postures that help combat those lies.

ROOM 133

Ingrid Burnell | *GCAC of GA*

The First 90 Days: Building Safety, Trust, and Connection with a New Placement

The first 90 days after a child enters your home can set the foundation for healing and stability. Learn what behaviors to expect during transition, how trauma may affect a child's responses, and practical trauma-informed techniques that support emotional regulation, attachment, routines, trust and connection. Whether this is your first placement or your fifteenth, leave with tools to navigate those critical days with confidence and compassion.

ROOM 113/114

Mark Andrews | *Adoptive Family Resources*

The Invisible Disability: Important Information for Parents on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

FASD is the leading cause of preventable learning disabilities and birth defects in the U.S. Current studies indicate that many children in foster care are affected. This hidden disorder may be misdiagnosed as other conditions. Learn to recognize physical and behavioral signs of FASD and receive practical parenting approaches, interventions and resources.

✦ BREAKOUT SESSION TWO ✦

CHOOSE ONE SESSION FOR BREAKOUT ONE AT 12:45 PM

CHAPEL

Moderated by Chaunda Brooks

Adult Adoptee Panel

A guided discussion among people who were adopted as children and are now adults. This is a safe, validating space to share lived experiences, unpack lifelong identity questions and learn from those who understand the complexities of being adopted. Time for questions and answers will follow.

ROOM 108/109

Jason Johnson | *Keynote Speaker*

For Dads Only - A Unique Conversation for Men

Guys, you are pouring yourselves out to love and lead your families well through foster care or adoption. It is amazing, beautiful and exhausting. This workshop is for men, husbands and dads living through shared experiences. Be encouraged in the gospel, inspired in your calling and challenged to take your next best steps forward in a healthy, sustainable way.

ROOM 133

Marissa Lavender | *Nightlight Christian Adoptions*

Amanda Gibbs & Gabbi O'Brian

Beyond the Behavior: What Trauma Is Trying to Tell Us

Understand the roots of behavior and learn to respond with connection, compassion and trauma-informed care.

ROOM 113/114

Johnna Stein | *Promise 686*

Reunification and Reframing Foster Care

The goal of foster care is reunification, and a good relationship with the biological family can improve outcomes for children. It is often messy and there is no magic bullet. Learn ways to connect with the biological family from day one through permanency, whether the outcome is reunification or adoption.

◆ BREAKOUT SESSION THREE ◆

CHOOSE ONE SESSION FOR BREAKOUT ONE AT 2:00 PM

CHAPEL

Jason Johnson | Keynote Speaker

Staying Connected - Making Your Marriage a Priority Along the Way

In the foster and adoptive journey, marriage is often one of the first things to take a back seat. This workshop will help bring marriage back to its rightful place as one of the most important relationships to nurture. The goal is not merely for marriages to survive the journey, but to thrive and grow because of it.

ROOM 108/109

Ari Mathe |
Child welfare law specialist

April Breedon |
Former SAAG DFCS attorney

Foster Care in the Courts: What Foster Parents Need to Know About the Law, the Timelines and the Process

A practical overview of foster care in the courts, including what foster parents need to understand about the law, legal timelines and the court process.

ROOM 133

Wayne Naugle | *Families 4 Families*

Partnering Well with DFCS

Learn how to build a good working relationship with DFCS while faithfully advocating for the children in your care.

ROOM 113/114

Megan Ward | *The Five Hive*

The Teen Task List: Navigating the Requirements and Resources Specific to Teens in Care

DFCS policy for teens in care is extensive, and requirements and resources for ILP-eligible youth can be confusing. The Teen Task List supports families and youth as they navigate driving, college support, funding opportunities, exiting care and more. This session makes policy more transparent and accessible so we can better care for teens as they transition into adulthood.

◆ EXHIBIT HALL ◆

Lakewood would like to thank all of the organizations represented in our exhibit hall!

Georgia Baptist Mission Board

Promise 686

The Five Hive

Jennifer Moye

Adoptive Family Resources

Nightlight Christian Adoptions

CCAI

Cherish Children Adoption International

FaithbridgeU

Faithbridge Foster Care

GCAC of Georgia

Giving Children A Chance

CarePortal

Hall/Dawson CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocate

Bethany Christian Services of Ga

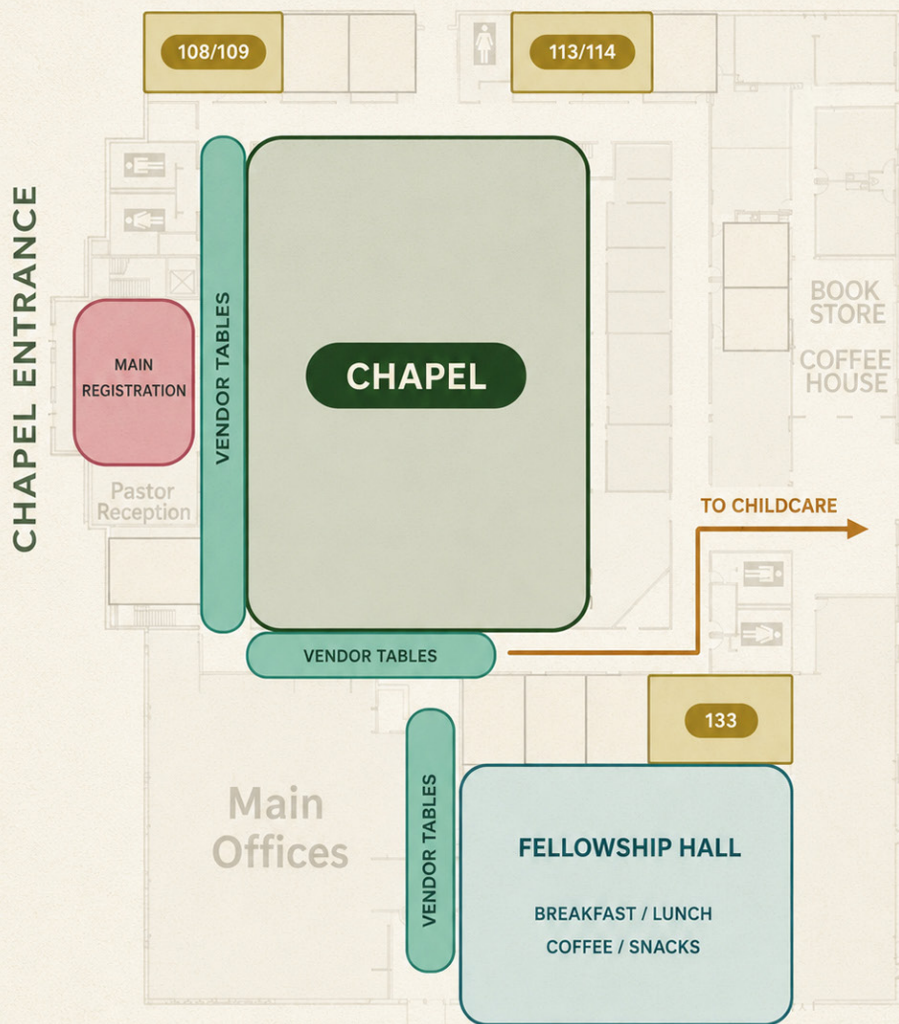
Thank you for partnering with families and children.







✦ CONFERENCE MAP ✦



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