

[00:00:00.650] - Lisa Qualls

Welcome to the Adoption Connection Podcast where we offer resources to equip you and stories to inspire you on your adoption journey. I'm Lisa Qualls.

[00:00:10.390] - Melissa Corkum

And this is Melissa Corkum. Don't worry, we get it, and we're here for you.

[00:00:18.720] - Melissa Corkum

Hi, friends. Welcome to episode 146 of The Adoption Connection Podcast. This week, we are bringing you another adoptive dad. Greg is a friend of Lisa and me, and he is also a part of our Adoption Connection team. So we're really excited to bring you his story, not just about how he and his wife became adoptive parents, but also how he found himself as part of our team here at The Adoption Connection.

[00:00:43.640] - Lisa Qualls

Greg Lombard Rea is an adoptive and bio dad, a former pastor, a trustbased relational intervention practitioner, and a postadoption support specialist. Greg has been providing postadoption support for families for a number of years. He recently joined us at The Adoption Connection and he facilitates a group for dads in our membership community, the Village. He also provides private coaching. So let's hear my interview with Greg.

[00:01:14.980] - Lisa Qualls

Hello, Greg. Welcome to the Adoption Connection Podcast.

[00:01:18.690] - Greg Lombard Rea

Thank you. It is great to be here with you.

[00:01:22.200] - Lisa Qualls

Well, it's sort of funny to welcome you to the podcast because you are not new to The Adoption Connection. You're a little bit new, but you've just never been on the podcast and I would love our listeners to get to know you today because you're an important part of the Adoption Connection now.

[00:01:38.380] - Greg Lombard Rea

Yeah, I am absolutely thrilled and honored to be a part of the Adoption Connection now because I started listening to podcast well over two years ago.

[00:01:48.700] - Lisa Qualls

It's amazing what God can do, right? Like, it was so unexpected for all of us. So anyhow, before we get into what you're doing with The Adoption Connection, which we will share, I would love for you to tell our listeners how you became an adoptive dad.

[00:02:05.110] - Greg Lombard Rea

Kim and I were co-pastors. We've been doing pastoral Ministry in churches for a long time, and we were in a Church in Salina, Kansas. And in September of 2008, at the end of September, I got an email from my sister in another state saying, hey, our great niece and nephew have just been put into the system. There with social services. Please pray. So I said, okay, we'll pray. And then in the early November, they were placed in a group home. And in early November, she writes again, we've got to pray. There's nobody on either side of the family who can take these kids. They're going to end up in foster care, one's going to end up in an institution. All of this panic, and I read that email and it kind of knocked me back on my heels and I talked to him about it. And she said, well, we need to pray about this. And so we did and I went and prayed and my fun part is, I'm not Methodist, but I love Wesley's Quadrilateral, which is how God's revelation comes through scripture, tradition, reason and experience. So I sat down in my meditation spot. I was just sitting there with my Bible and just quieting myself and I said, okay, what does Scriptures say about this situation? And in my head, I heard my Bible laugh at me like, really, we need to spend time figuring out what I say about orphans? And I said, okay, never mind.

[00:03:41.020] - Lisa Qualls
Okay, check. Check that one off.

[00:03:43.400] - Greg Lombard Rea
And then tradition longstanding reason. It made logical sense and experience. My experience said that Kim and I were amazing parents. We were so good. We did great with our older girls. And, oh, my gosh, this is going to be a piece of cake. We're obviously equipped to take care of these two kids. Little did I know.

[00:04:09.720] - Lisa Qualls
You know, that's the big part of our story, too. We had seven kids. We felt like we were great parents. We had been parents for 20 years when we adopted our kids. And, wow, we were knocked to our knees for sure and had to rebuild. So I want to hear that part of your story, but so how old were your older girls grown and out of the home?

[00:04:31.260] - Greg Lombard Rea
They were a senior in high school and a freshman in high school.

[00:04:35.770] - Lisa Qualls
And how old were the children?

[00:04:37.650] - Greg Lombard Rea
They were four and six at the time, living in another state. And so when Kim and I came back together, I think she'd already decided before we decided to pray about it. I think she'd already decided we're going to do this. But when we met, she said, okay, this is on you. You work with the social worker, you take care of this. I said, okay, I'm in. So I called the social worker, senior social worker, Jennifer, and I said, hey, we're kind of interested, but wondering if reunification last time when we tried to get my daughter, she's six now, she was six months. We actually tried to get her when she was six months of age as well. The social order said, I think we can assume that reunification is no longer the goal. My niece, she just had too many issues. She loved her kids with a passion, but she couldn't put that love into action to save their lives and that was just a struggle. So I called her 10 days later, by that time, even ten days later, Kim had taken over the job. I think she's an Enneagram one, and I don't think I was doing it perfectly. She said, get out of the way, I got this. So she gets the call from our local social worker, Bob, and she gets off the phone and she's weeping because Bob speaks rather slowly and she says, no, no, we're going to get these kids into our home by Christmas, and he's going to be in the way. Well, he called her the next day and said, the funniest thing happened. All my other cases resolved themselves. And I really only have this case to work on.

[00:06:28.550] - Lisa Qualls
Wow.

[00:06:29.920] - Greg Lombard Rea
So all of the paperwork, we built a new bedroom in our basement, just did all of that work. So that was early November, November 4 I think when I called the social work and we got word and on December 22, we picked up our new kids to bring them home. And so we became a family of six on, we came home on the 23rd. On December 24, I bought a minivan because our car wouldn't fit a family of six. Then that night, at the Christmas Eve service, the six of us, plus my father in law, some other family members all came and so we lit the Advent and the Christmas candles together as a family.

[00:07:18.980] - Lisa Qualls
Wow. At your service, at your Church.

[00:07:22.020] - Greg Lombard Rea
Yea at the service at our Church.

[00:07:24.040] - Lisa Qualls
That's just amazing how quickly that works. But, you know, when God makes the plan and all we have

to do is step into it and follow, it can move kind of quickly, you know, not easily, though, right? I mean, this is not an easy thing. So, you thought you were awesome parents, you had a lot of experience. What happened after your kids came home?

[00:07:45.640] - Greg Lombard Rea

We were really good, we were strong, we both have master's degrees, Kim was an educator, and so by our sheer strength of will, we survived. And we just did it. And it was hard. And it was difficult. But as the kids got into the teen years, and then when my son turned 13, I was in middle school and a big blow up. It happened, it was 7th grade. At the end of the 7th grade year, a big blow up happened at school. And it was bad, really, really bad. And that was at the beginning of May and the end of May, we had a tornado warning. It ended up hitting the edge of town, jumping over and then hitting the other edge of town. But it wasn't a problem for us, we have a basement, we have a big screen TV down there. So tornadoes, were always you just go to the basement, we put on TV, we bring stacks down, it's a good time. But my son, now I know, he was totally, completely disregulated. And instead of going to flight or freeze, he was in fight. And when he's scared, he focused on his sister a year and a half older than him. So he was in her bedroom and I'm just ramping it up, trying to become scarier and trying to get him set up a space. Just stay, put up a wall around a bed, you're comfortable, you can see the TV. Just staying there. And he wouldn't do it. It was bad for the next hour or so, 9:30 at night, probably. I just sank into the comfy chair in the living room and just went, what? I don't understand, what are we doing? And Kim came from downstairs where our daughter was and she sat on the couch next to me and got out her phone, went on to Facebook. And the next thing I know, I hear from her phone coming with Chris Turner's voice saying, "Welcome to the Empowered to Connect podcast. Today, we're going to talk about why traditional parenting doesn't work with kids from trauma." And I went, what? Excuse me? There's a thing? And in the show notes, they talked about Empowered to Connect, of course. And they talked, in the show notes, there was Karyn Purvis and TBRI at TCU. And we're going, we're both graduates of TCU. How do we not know about this? Well, we left there before Karyn Purvis I started at TCU. And so we discovered it and a couple of days later, I discovered the Kansas Posted Option Resource Center and we got free TBRI training. And so we began our journey for that time. By that time, Kim had already told me this summer before she said, okay, you were away at camp with our daughter. That was great. That was wonderful. I was home alone with our son and you're never going to do that again. I will never stay home alone with him again. As that testosterone starts to fire up and the changes start to take place in the brain, his disregulation, his lack of impulse control and then that testosterone with the fight rather than flight or freeze. That was hard for her.

[00:11:10.820] - Lisa Qualls

And if he was aggressive, it's very scary.

[00:11:14.060] - Greg Lombard Rea

You know, he hadn't been physically aggressive, but he was verbally.

[00:11:18.560] - Lisa Qualls

Yeah. We definitely came to a point in our own lives where we couldn't function as only one of us. We had to have more than one adult. It was just too much and too scary and we had lots of other little kids. And so I understand that very, very well. So you began to learn, okay, well, let me back up and ask a question. Was there any part of you that was a little afraid to walk away from traditional parenting or afraid about what other people would think if you walked away, like, were you steeped in parenting stuff in the Church, or was it just sort of a small?

[00:11:57.600] - Greg Lombard Rea

That's a great question. We were not. Kim had become, she did active parenting and we had learned love and logic and had been using that and things. So when I learned the new way, for me, instinctively, both of us, from an intellectual point of view, we said, duh! This type of parenting is a no brainer. However, it turns out emotionally and habit wise and frustration wise and not having all of our attachment work done and all of that stuff, it was tough to bring it into our lives. It was challenging at times, especially in the face of certain behaviors.

[00:12:46.920] - Lisa Qualls

I mean, I think a lot of us we begin to learn this new way we understand it's the right way, but then we think, is it really working, like, would it be better if we reverted back to the old ways of parenting? And then sometimes you get couples who are in conflict over that, too.

[00:13:03.610] - Greg Lombard Rea

And for the most part, we were not. I was lucky that both of us were there. When one of us was trying the TBRI, the other person was disregulated. That's where the tension came, and it would go back and forth. It was lovely when both of us were on the TBRI page.

[00:13:22.840] - Lisa Qualls

Okay. So you first heard about it on the Empowered to Connect podcast, which I love, which is now, was it Ryan and Kayla North?

[00:13:31.490] - Greg Lombard Rea

Yeah, it is. It's now the Empowered Parent Podcast.

[00:13:34.230] - Lisa Qualls

Empowered Parent Podcast, right. There is still an Empowered to Connect podcast, but it's a different podcast. It's also very wonderful. So we have all of these wonderful ones. Yeah, so you first heard about it, you saw some things online, and did you just read some books and just start doing it? What happened?

[00:13:53.320] - Greg Lombard Rea

We must have gotten the Connected child. And I listened religiously to Ryan and Kayla's podcast and then discovered the Adoption Connection and so listen to those, and I think my biggest education was that and then finding what I could online and then developing a relationship. Clarissa, we invited Clarissa from the Kansas Posted Option Resource Center to come up, and she taught. We hosted at our Church the TBRI Caregiver Trainings. And then we hosted the Church, I partnered with a couple of organizations in town, and we hosted the two day Empowered Conference.

[00:14:40.410] - Lisa Qualls

Back when it was show Hopes and Power to Connect Conference? Yes.

[00:14:44.840] - Greg Lombard Rea

And so we hosted that. And so we immerse ourselves in as much TBRI as we could. And I listened to the podcast every time I was in the car because I had to change my brain. You know, as much as I love the ideas my brain literally needed to new pathways. And so that's why I listened to you all's podcasts just over and over to get that in my head.

[00:15:07.800] - Lisa Qualls

Well, somewhere along the road, you became a TBRI practitioner. There's kind of a leap from parenting using TBRI to actually becoming a practitioner, which we also did. So how did that come about?

[00:15:22.700] - Greg Lombard Rea

Well, by 2018, I had been probably 23 years of Ministry in Salina at that Church, and Kim had been with me, we partnered for 15 years, and then she left Ministry to stay at home with the kids because things had gotten along. So speaking of grief kinds of things, she lost her colleague at her Ministry to stay home, but she was better at it at home than I was. So I continued on, but then we went to a two day event with Amber Gibbons and Amanda Purvis. There was a big two day conference here in Topeka, where I live now, and so we dropped the kids off at my in laws house, and Kim and I went there. So very first session with Amanda Purvis, we're sitting in the second row weeping as she's telling these stories. And I get up and I go to the back of the room and just to have a cup of coffee and my bagel in peace and my future boss, Beth, who had been my first TBRI caregiver trainer. She came back to me and she said, you know, I know you have a job, but I'd like you to come work for me.

[00:16:39.580] - Lisa Qualls
Wow.

[00:16:40.480] - Greg Lombard Rea
And it was taught. So that was an early September of 2018. And by November of 2018, I was working full time for the Kansas postadoption Resource Center. The next April, I did my work to become a TBRI practitioner.

[00:17:01.520] - Lisa Qualls
Well, that's great. So 2019. So I did mine in 2011, just a few earlier. But that is so great. Now, at the Kansas Post Adoption Resource Center, what did you love doing there?

[00:17:22.600] - Greg Lombard Rea
Ah, my favorite part, well, my favorite parts, taking calls from desperate parents. You know, 40 years of pastoral Ministry and I'm rich in compassion and I had walked their journey, and I had hope. So when they called, I listened, I talked, I encouraged, I got their email and sent them here's all our resources, our training, here's online resources you can find, here's all this stuff. And then sometimes for some of the really desperate ones, I would walk them through their next 24 hours. How do you TBRI parent in the next 24 hours? Okay, when your kid gets in the car, I want you to show up with their favorite snack and a drink that they love. When they get in the car, don't ask them how it was or don't quiz them or anything else. Just say these words. "It's good to see you." And then shut up.

[00:18:27.700] - Lisa Qualls
That's great advice.

[00:18:30.340] - Greg Lombard Rea
And then I walk them through the dinner time and the bedtime. And every time they said, you normally do this, I said, yes. See, you're instinctively doing the right thing. That backrub for your 13 year old grandson who you're raising, yes, do that. That's a connecting activity. So just walk them through the actually the next 12 hours in some cases. So that was a favorite thing of mine to get the crisis calls.

[00:18:56.290] - Lisa Qualls
So I want to pause just for 1 second, because I realize that when we're talking about TBRI, we know what we're talking about. But I forget sometimes that there could be people completely new to us who are like, what the heck is TBRI? Can you just like, very briefly, tell people what it is?

[00:19:14.610] - Greg Lombard Rea
Yes, I sure can. So Trust Based Relational Intervention. TBRI, it is a system of parenting your children, and I like to talk that it's got four parts. The first part is a deep understanding of what happens to the brains of children who experienced early trauma, neglect, early medical treatment, all of those things and what it does to disrupt the normal brain and attachment development. So that first part is getting that deep understanding that leads to a deep compassion for our kids. Then we realize that our children just need three things. They need emotional felt safety, and they need physical felt safety, and they need skills. So in TBRI, how do we provide emotional file safety and the strategies to do that, how to provide physical felt safety by giving them a voice and the strategies for that, and then once our babies have emotional felt safety and physical felt safety, then we can teach them the skills that they're lacking.

[00:20:29.070] - Lisa Qualls
Okay, that is great for any of you listening, who didn't know what we were talking about, I hope that was helpful. And we will put some other resources about TBRI in the show notes of this episode as well. Okay, so you went, you became a TBRI practitioner, you had already left being a pastor, you're doing this work with Kansas and what was happening in your life? How are things going with your family?

[00:20:56.100] - Greg Lombard Rea
Well, in 2016, our family got a ovarian cancer diagnosis with my wife, and she went we went through

several years of treatment and getting better and remission and then coming back and treatment, so through 2016, 2017 all through that time. So in addition to, whereas Kim was the lead parent and the smart parent and the good natural parent for all of those years, by 2016, I started taking on those duties and kind of became the single parent and still trying to work and parent my kids and support and love my wife and support all of our kids. And it was really, really difficult, challenging. It was filled with painful experiences and glorious experiences. And I remember sitting in my backyard this one time and going through all of them bad stuff. And I'm going, but here's the thing, I like myself better than I ever have before. I like that what these horrible things in my life have done to me. None of these things are good things. They're all bad, but I really liked what it started shaping me into and the process hasn't ended. I like myself, I'm in a better place now than I even was a couple of years ago, even though we went through Kim's death in January of 2020 and, you know, there was grief and there was gratitude every day. You know, since that time, there is always something to be grateful for. And sometimes I just hung on to that.

[00:23:03.960] - Lisa Qualls

And there's something beautiful that happens in the most painful, difficult, gut retching circumstances when we have Jesus walking by our side. I mean, I know that suffering has really, I have been driven more deeply into the arms of Christ through suffering. And I would not choose it, I would not choose to have lost a child. I would not choose some of the suffering our family has experienced, but I have no regrets on how it has grown me in my faith and my compassion for other people. I know this is life, right?

[00:23:40.340] - Greg Lombard Rea
Yeah.

[00:23:40.790] - Lisa Qualls

Suffering and beauty and all of that all mixed together. And I think that's a lot of what parenting is. And parenting children with early adversity is filled with this. You know, this is not an easy road. We parents are walking for sure.

[00:23:56.660] - Greg Lombard Rea
Yeah, think about our poor kids, my kids.

[00:24:02.010] - Lisa Qualls
Thank you, yes.

[00:24:02.450] - Greg Lombard Rea
So they lost their first mom, and they had no stability those early years, and then they lost their second mom. And I've got healthier coping skills than either one of my my adopted kids.

[00:24:18.610] - Lisa Qualls

You make a really good point, Greg, but that our children. They have grief, even if they hadn't lost, even if your kids hadn't lost Kim, their second mom, all of our children who come to us through adoption and foster care have experienced deep, profound loss. Adoption is rooted in the tragedy of loss, and there's no way we can get around that. So they come with that. So there again, we have this beauty and the brokenness and the suffering and the good and all of it. It's like this swirling thing in our lives and in our families and deepen our children's hearts, too, I think.

[00:24:59.240] - Greg Lombard Rea

Yeah. You had mentioned in terms of the faith component, we got the cancer diagnosis on, I think it was a Thursday. And three days later, my son and I went to camp. I was the chaplain for the camp, he was a camper. And you go the day ahead. So we went on Sunday afternoon, and that was the staff and things like that. And we went to spend the night and for the very first time, he was going to sleep in a different cabin than I was. I had always had him in my cabin, but things had gotten good enough. So he stayed with a couple of other counselors in another cabin, and I was in this cabin. We spent the night, and I got up in the morning and headed out early before anybody else because I always went to this spot where there's a fountain at camp with water flowing out of the fountain or out of this rock.

That's where I spent every morning of camp for all years. That's what I did every morning. And so I was heading out the door, and I kind of prayed towards my son. Okay, God, watch over him. In a flash these words came to my head. I don't know why I'm bother asking, you can't even take care of my wife. I went, oh. No bitterness here. But I went to my spot and I was there and something happened is that I went through my morning routine that I did and I realized all the signs of God's presence that I had experienced every morning sitting in that spot over the years, it was still there. So I kind of went, okay, two things. You are present and my wife has cancer. Two things. You are present, my wife has cancer. I said, okay, that's enough. Well, that was our journey. God was present, and my wife had cancer, and it wasn't smooth or always calm. And I wasn't always a pleasant person to be around. My prayer life wasn't always a warm and fuzzy experience.

[00:27:12.620] - Lisa Qualls

Yeah, I get that. I get that. But God did sustain you and Kim did pass away which is, it's not even been a year. Is that correct?

[00:27:23.940] - Greg Lombard Rea

It's actually been over a year now because it was January 2020.

[00:27:27.990] - Lisa Qualls

Okay, okay. But still, grief is a long process, so we could do a whole episode on grief alone. So tell me, why don't we move to, I mean, your Ministry with families continue to flourish, you continue to meet lots and lots of needs. And then we had this wonderful opportunity to invite you to join us at the adoption connection. And we did that because we see such a need for support for Dads. And Melissa and I are both moms, and we particularly wanted to provide support for Dads. You don't only work with dads, you with families as well. But do you want to talk about what you are doing now, what your vision is and what your hope is?

[00:28:16.420] - Greg Lombard Rea

It's exciting to get to work with Dads because I didn't have a lot of connections with the dads. As a matter of fact, we had this one support group where it was rare for a dad to show up, but we had this one mom, and she was always there, and her husband was always sitting off screen listening to everything. So it's just different, they kind of want to observe. But when I connected with that dad, in about a 20 minutes phone conversation, we connected because we understood each other and the struggle. So what I'm excited about partnering with you and Melissa on the adoption connection is getting to connect with dads. We've had two of the small support dad's only group. Man, it was amazing because all four of us show up with our lives a mess, our lives difficult, and that's understood. There's no pretense. Oh, man, I'm just really doing it, I'm nailing it, I'm successful in business, I'm successful. That doesn't matter, there's no flexing. It's, I'm in a really hard spot, and I can't believe that I get to hang out with four of the guys that we get to do this. And so we simply share the hard and we encourage one another were and it's not me just encouraging. Just a couple of nights ago, I just kept my mouth shut because two of the dads were talking to the third dad going, this is it and just encouraging them. I'm going, this is amazing. I don't even have to do all the work.

[00:30:03.770] - Lisa Qualls

Yeah. Sometimes we just get to witness the beauty of community, because if there's anything we've all learned, we can't do this alone, you know? And, you know, I've had a group community for Moms for over two years, and it is so rich and so beautiful. And now you are offering something similar for Dads. It is brand brand new. I mean, I want Dads to know a little bit about why you think community is so important.

[00:30:33.490] - Greg Lombard Rea

Up until May of 2017, I was alone. There was nobody, there was nobody in my world who understood the struggle, who had advice, who wanted to spend time with me, who had resources or suggestions for me.

[00:30:59.310] - Lisa Qualls

Useful ones, a lot of great ideas out there.

[00:31:03.710] - Greg Lombard Rea

That's right. The only support I had was those people who are willing to take my kids for a few hours to overnight so my wife and I could get some rest. And when they're little, that happened more often. So for me, I want to walk this journey. I feel called to walk this journey with other dads because I am a little bit further down the path than some dads. And so we could say, I'm kind of a scout. I have covered some of the areas that you are going through. And what I bring full on is the compassion of your soul and heart and crushed and grief and the frustration and the anger because this child is disrespecting your beloved. And man, that's just craziness and I got the compassion on that and I've got the connection. I actually can be a calm presence because I know that we can get through this. That life actually in my home right now has never been better with my son. My daughter is actually out on her own doing the College thing. We still have issues, but she's operating at a higher level than she ever had before. So there is hope. So I bring the compassion and I bring the connection that there's hope. And I'm one of those, I'm a curious person and so I have explored tons of resources and add resources. I said, well, let me tell you what I found. Here I heard about this resource, check this out. And whether it's links or videos or people or things like that. So I bring resources as well.

[00:33:01.280] - Lisa Qualls

I love it. We're at the very beginning of having you with the adoption connection. You started this wonderful group just for Dads. You also do private coaching.

[00:33:11.700] - Greg Lombard Rea

So during the pandemic, our team trained hundreds of adoptive foster families, professionals, child welfare workers, all sorts. And I just got in the groove of doing that. And then I would balance that with, I would get to have time on the phone when people called and just said, I'm in this situation, what do I do and what's the path? What's my path through this? And I'm able to do that. So I'm also doing private coaching because I guess one of the things I like to do is to hear about where the people are in their situation and, of course, have the compassion, the connection, and then to make some suggestions. Okay, here's another step. You've got three choices here of what you can do. What area do you work on? Although usually in the conversation, I've already identified their strength and I'm able to go, okay, you're already doing this, take it to this next step. Or are you interested in learning? Enneagram is a wonderful tool. That for me, it's for self awareness and self acceptance.

[00:34:18.100] - Lisa Qualls

And growth.

[00:34:24.340] - Greg Lombard Rea

Yeah, I had forgotten to say that, but with going to the self awareness and self acceptance, that was so important for me. Wait a minute. I am who I am, and I'm okay who I am. I'm not where I'm supposed to be yet, but that self validation, as an anagram type four, immersed in shame, you know, all of that stuff. I needed to know I am who I am, and that's okay. I am loved who I am, but I don't have to stay this way. And then Enneagram path has given me a path for growth. So that's one thing that I bring to the conversation. I was setting up a time with an actual couple that I'll do it at the same time. And we're going to work through Enneagram and their growth, and they want to do it together because they want to be united in this and hear what's being said and how they can help each other grow. So that's a coaching thing. I can coach for resources. I can coach for attachment. I also became a making sense of your worth facilitator and that was amazing because in trust based relational intervention, one of the components is do your attachment work. Well, Cindy Lee goes, what does that mean? So she created this ten, nine week, eight, nine week process of how to do your attachment. So I'm not sure if that completely answers your questions about coaching, but I haven't seen it all. I wish I could say I have, but I know there's things of actually things going on and homes that that I actually have no idea about. But I've seen a lot in my own home, and I've already walked with families who have seen really deeply big, challenging behaviors. And so I got some experience there.

[00:36:16.870] - Lisa Qualls

Yeah, Melissa and I now say, nothing will surprise us. Because we've seen enough that even if it's

something new, it's not going to surprise us. Well, I want to mention that to be part of the dad group and if you're interested in the Enneagram to be part of our Enneagram group called the Enneagram and Adoption Collective. Those are both available in our community called the Village, so we would love for you to consider joining the Village, so you can be part of those groups. We also have Webinars and there's a group just for Moms called the Hope Circle, so we will have information about that in the show notes, but I believe it's just theadoptionconnection.com/village. And then you can also, on our website, find information about private coaching, either with Greg or with Melissa or with me. We're really delighted to offer that as well. So, Greg, you are a gift to the Adoption Connection. I'm so excited to see how the Lord is going to use you to serve families and in particular dads. This is going to be a gift to so many people in the adoption community.

[00:37:22.420] - Greg Lombard Rea

Well, thank you. It's been extremely exciting and satisfying with the connections that I've already been honored to make.

[00:37:39.620] - Melissa Corkum

Lisa, I loved that conversation with Greg. It was really fun to hear parts of his story that I'd never heard before. And as I said at the beginning, just thrilled, thrilled to have him as part of our team. So excited for the Adoption Connection to be able to offer such a unique resource, a dad only resource, to our families.

[00:38:01.440] - Lisa Qualls

Yes, it's something we've really talked about for a period of time, just that need. And I'm just so pleased that Greg is stepping right into it and doing such a phenomenal job to serving the dads in our community. So we're really excited about the dad group. So just for listeners of the podcast, we want to invite Dads to join the village where the dad group lives for half off their first month using the code DAD in all caps when you register. So you can find more information or register at theadoptionconnection.com/village. You can also you can also find all this information in the show notes for today's episode, including information on how to connect with Greg. To find all of that at theadoptionconnection.com/146.

[00:38:50.500] - Melissa Corkum

Before you go, we'd love to connect with you on social media. You can find us on Instagram as [@theadoptionconnection](https://www.instagram.com/theadoptionconnection) or better yet, join our free Facebook community at [theadoptionconnection.com/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/theadoptionconnection.com/facebook).

[00:39:04.130] - Lisa Qualls

Thanks so much for listening, we love having you. And remember, you're a good parent, doing good work.

[00:39:12.620] - Melissa Corkum

The music for the podcast is called New Day and was created by Lee Rosevere.