

[00:00:01.810] - Lisa Qualls

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[00:00:21.530] - Melissa Corkum

Inside The Village, we offer things like mom and dad only gatherings, workshops with guest experts, behavior Q&A's, Enneagram conversations, and continuing support for overcoming blocked care. As a valued podcast listener, we want to offer you a special code to get 50% off your first month. So go to theadoptionconnection.com/village and use the code PODCAST. You're pouring your heart out for your family, and we want to pour into you.

[00:00:55.710] - 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

[00:01:04.840] - Melissa Corkum

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

[00:01:13.090] - Lisa Qualls

Hi, friends. Welcome to episode 174. We are going to be talking today about Mother's Day.

[00:01:20.350] - Melissa Corkum

Mother's Day is complicated for so many things are in the adoption world. I feel like it just, adoption creates levels of complexity and so many things, especially around holidays, especially this holiday, and for so many reasons. This is a tricky day for adoptive moms. Perhaps because you've struggled with infertility, perhaps because your kids don't love it when the attention is not on them. Perhaps you have kids who are struggling with blocked trust and have kind of rejected you, and so being a mother is not the thing that you imagine. I mean, there's just so many reasons.

[00:01:59.050] - Lisa Qualls

So many reasons. Yes, it can be a complicated day, and then, you know, a lot of us, we have a mother ourselves that we want to honor, but we also want to be honored by our kids. And expectations can get us into some serious trouble on a day like Mother's Day. So we want to offer some encouragement to you today.

[00:02:17.650] - Melissa Corkum

So we have some really sweet words from members of our community. We wanted to pass on to you.

[00:02:28.970] - Speaker 1

To all the moms out there, your need for try-agains and redo's for yourself gives Grace to your family. Embrace them. You are welcoming the Grace of God into your home the undeserved, immeasurable, indescribable power and desire and love of our Creator. And you're modeling for them the healthy way, a life giving way. You are their mom for such a time as this, because ultimately, we're not meant to get this, all right. But to point them to the Savior who did.

[00:02:56.870] - Speaker 2

Hey, Mamas. Happy Mother's Day! I just wanted to tell you that you are seen and known and loved and you're doing a great job. If nobody knows to celebrate you or can celebrate you or it's too hard know that you are celebrated. We see you

[00:03:17.810] - Speaker 3

A big shout out to all the amazing moms out there, all the way from a sunny South Africa. Just wanted to say to all the foster, adoptive, and bio moms out there, thank you for the amazing work that you keep on doing. I know it's not easy each and every day. It definitely has its tough days and tough times. But to not ponder too long about that or on them, but to actually stay on your knees, keep on

praying. Because together with God and with us as a support for one another, we can keep on going on. So stay strong. Do know that whether you're in a tough season or in a sweet season, you are doing a great job. Those kids will one day appreciate it. They might not seem to be doing that now, but do know you're doing an amazing job raising either your own together with other children. But taking a deep breath, go for it today. Whether you are being celebrated or not, just know that we as the biggest support team are definitely appreciating one another.

[00:04:21.410] - Speaker 4

Don't grow weary in doing good. Tomorrow is a new day. These are the kids that you've been chosen to raise and someday they'll realize all you put in for them.

[00:04:35.090] - Greg Lombard Rea

I find you all to be phenomenally heroic. Your love led you to do such incredible, difficult work and you wanted to heal and save a child who was struggling. And then you discovered how difficult it was and you dug deep and you found the energy, you found the effort, you found the compassion, you found the love, and you got the skills. And day after day, you get up and you face the challenges with a fierce love. You are my heroes.

[00:05:14.610] - Speaker 5

One thing that's helped me to keep calm of myself is to use EFT tapping on a regular basis. A few times a week has helped.

[00:05:29.070] - Speaker 6

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms listening. The ones providing safe places for children to rest, who may not stay. The ones waiting to become moms. The ones grieving for a child who once lived in their home or in their heart. The ones learning to redefine success today, the ones who feel rejected and the ones who feel blessed, the ones in the midst of painful parenting and the ones who have graduated to a new season. You are each seen and you are each loved. Happy Mother's Day.

[00:06:07.510] - Lisa Qualls

Well, I don't know about you, but I feel encouraged. And I even feel a little better about Mother's Day. I hope you feel the same. So to close this episode, I am going to share something with you that I wrote a number of years ago on my blog way back in those blogging days. Anyhow, the title was Mother's Day for the Brokenhearted. I've given birth eight times. Call me crazy, but I birth my babies naturally and half of them at home. Each labor brought me to a moment of not knowing if I could make it through. It was unbelievably hard and sometimes I was scared. But every single time I went into labor, I set my mind on the purpose of the contractions. My baby. I focused on the joy that would come when that little one was in my arms. These years are like that. I'm laboring for my children who came to me from early trauma and hard places. There are days when I don't think I'll make it through, when the pain is too great and I'm scared. I cry out for an emotional epidural. Then I set my mind on my purpose of loving the children God gave me, of believing for their healing and of holding on to the knowledge that God is good and he placed them in our family. I waver, I fail, then the people who love me come alongside and help me see the truth, once again. I come to this Mother's Day with joy and sorrow entwined. My arms have been filled, my table is surrounded and I know I'm abundantly blessed. Yet loving the broken hearted has broken my heart. Loving the wounded has wounded me. And loving orphans in their distress has brought distress to me. This Sunday we'll see women who are suffering because they have not been able to become mothers and there is deep sorrow in their hearts. What we may not readily see are the women who have children in prison, those who are walking the long journey of mental illness or addiction by their children's sides and mothers in the midst of painful struggles with children who have rejected the family or forsaken the faith they once held dear. I don't have profound wisdom, only this. If your heart is hurting as Mother's Day approaches, you are not alone. There's no shame in acknowledging that being a mother can be very hard. God knows this and somehow he counts us worthy of this beautiful, broken, messy calling. The Lord tells us he will comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness. A planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. I pray today for glimpses of beauty and moments of praise in your heart on

this Mother's Day.

[00:08:55.570] - Melissa Corkum

Before you go, we'd love to connect with you on social media. Our new Instagram handle is @postadoptionresources. Or better yet, join our free Facebook community at theadoptionconnection.com/facebook.

[00:09:10.630] - Lisa Qualls

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

[00:09:18.850] - Melissa Corkum

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