



**At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:**

- \*identify the nasty consequences of divorce.
- \*understand the adoptees struggle with issues of self-worth, shame, control and identity.



**Read:**

My parents separated when I was 4 years old. The divorce was very nasty, and I saw my father only a few times before he decided to move out of the state to avoid paying child support.

It wasn't until I became a father myself that I had a desire to see my dad again. I then read a letter in the newspaper stating that the Salvation Army locates long lost relatives. I saved that column, but waited for about five years before I wrote to the Salvation Army about looking for my father.

To my great surprise, two months later the Salvation Army contacted me at my home, saying that they had found my dad and that he wanted to communicate with me! I was told that he was ill, so I hurriedly caught a plane and visited him in the hospital. I spent the weekend there, and we had a very nice time catching up on the 30-year gap in our relationship. Four days later, I received a call from the hospital, informing that my father had just passed away!

In retrospect, I suppose I should feel grateful for having had the chance to see my dad before he died. But in actuality, I agonized for a long time over the fact that I hadn't tried to find him sooner, I want to urge anyone who has a desire to locate a lost relative to do it today. Tomorrow may be too late.

## CHILD ADOPTION



### Let's Talk!

1. Do you think it is natural for adopted adults to want to find their natural parents?
2. If you were an adopted adult, would you search for your natural parents?
3. If you had adopted children who wanted to get in touch with their natural parents, what would you tell them?
4. Do you think people are usually upset if their adopted children want to search for their natural parents?
5. Do you think adoption records should remain sealed unless the birth parents and the adopted children alike agree to opening them?
6. What are the reasons some people give up their babies for adoption?
7. Do you think any reasons are acceptable? Defend your answer.