



## REBECCA'S JOURNEY HOME

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*Mr. and Mrs. Stein and their two sons eagerly adopt a baby girl from Vietnam into their Jewish home.*

The pages of this book open the door to a world of exploration and family discussion. The subject of adoption can raise many questions for children; *Rebecca's Journey Home* can play a critical role in giving your children the all-important message that adoption brings together children with adults who yearn to permanently share their lives and their love.

### DISCUSS ADOPTION

All of our children need to hear that we not only love them but that we are able to care for them and will be together for a long, long time. After an initial conversation about adoption you might:

- Talk about your children's names -- English, Hebrew or any others. If you're able, explain the origin or meaning of these names.
- Discuss your children's background. Use a map to show your children the homeland(s) of their ancestors. Tell how you all came to live where you do today.
- Find out if family or friends with an adopted child would be comfortable sharing stories of their experiences.

### HAVING CHILDREN

Having children – whether biologically or through adoption -- is considered to be at the core of Jewish family life.

Whether or not this book reflects your family's story, it is an essential story to be told.

The Jewish people are woven from many varied and colorful threads, and Jewish roots of adoption are long-standing and honored. The Bible references many families in which children were raised by someone other than their birth parents. Our Biblical ancestor Abraham, considered to be the first Jew, adopted his servant, Eliezer; Moses had Pharaoh's daughter as his loving adoptive mother.

Regardless of the means by which a child comes into a family, the fathers and mothers who love and nurture a child, teaching and modeling values, imparting wisdom, and taking joy in that child's growth and accomplishments, are truly blessed.