



Elevation Family
Ministries
November 2023

Part of the Family



At Elevation, many of our students come from broken families, which is why our family environment is pertinent to their acceptance of their belovedness. When students join Elevation, not only do they become a part of the Elevation family, but they come to understand that they are a part of the family of God.



By this
everyone will
know that you
are my
disciples, if you
love one
another

John 13:35

Youth who have been exposed to multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences, often struggle to understand what love really looks like, and they struggle to understand God as a loving God. This month, we will be exploring what God says about love and how that is demonstrated in the family of God.



As students struggle to come to terms with their own family dynamics, we aim to help them understand that their families do not need to be perfect for God to use them. Not only that, but they can be ministers of reconciliation and healing for their families as they grow in Christ.



At Elevation, we do not just serve students, we serve families. Each family may look a little different, but our goal is to come alongside them to break cycles of generational brokenness and offer hope and healing through Christ that will last for generations to come.





Phoenix

God's Beloved



BELOVED



How do we explain to Phoenix that she is beloved even though she has been living with scars of sexual assault from the age of four? How do we explain that she is beloved by her heavenly Father, even though she has been abandoned by her earthly father? How do we convince Phoenix of God's love while she feels rejected by the very world He created. Nouwen (1995) writes, "Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the 'Beloved'. Being the Beloved expresses the core truth of our existence." For Phoenix, self-rejection has resulted in anger, low self-esteem, social dysfunction, and suicidality. Phoenix, like so many children who have experienced multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences, is skilled at masking pain. Often, the pain is simply labeled as misbehavior or ADHD. Such labeling is usually the most expedient way for our broken world to diagnose spiritual brokenness. Often, traumatized youth turn to substance abuse and other negative coping strategies because they lack a sense of purpose and fulfillment. As Phoenix learns to claim her belovedness, she will recognize that she is chosen to play her unique and precious role in God's story.



Until moving here, Phoenix spent her life in Florida. This is her first time ever seeing snow!



Funding the Journey

Our goal is for financial constraints to not be a barrier to finding hope and healing in Christ.

With your financial support, we can do just that.

You may donate online at elevationfamilyministries.org or by sending a check in the enclosed envelope.