Conspicuous Families: Race, Culture and Adoption

A Discussion Guide

1. Facing Society’s Racial Stereotypes
   a. What thought had you given to how society’s racial stereotypes will affect you and your adopted child?
   b. This lesson talks about the importance of not being “color blind” but “color aware.”
      i. What do you see as the difference between the two?
      ii. How do you think you will make your child “color aware” and not have her be hurt by negative cultural stereotypes?

2. Handling Intrusive Comments
   a. This lesson offers three different types of answers to intrusive questions: Informational; Humorous; and Privacy Guarding.
      i. What type of answer did you choose most often? Why?
   b. When you answer intrusive questions, it’s important to consider what your child hears.
      i. How do you plan to protect your child while still giving the kind of answer that feels most comfortable for you?

3. Becoming a Multiracial Family
   a. Prior to taking this lesson, what importance did you place on the diversity (or lack of it) in your everyday life?
   b. How do you plan to embrace your child’s racial/ethnic identity as well as your own?