

**Go and Equip**  
**Episode 214**  
**Living out Ahavah through Little Biscuits**

00;00;00;09 - 00;00;26;19

Zeke

This is the day after my surrender. This, right? And I was like, oh, my gosh, that's amazing. You know, my wife and I are just talking about adoption yesterday. I walked over to the little baby and again, you know, visions of having a son. And I'm looking at this little boy in the carrier, and I said this.

00;00;26;27 - 00;00;40;08

Zeke

He's he's beautiful. He's adorable. He said, Yeah, that's where we're fostering him right now or hoping that we can adopt him soon. I said, Oh, what's his name? He said, His name is Zeke.

00;00;41;22 - 00;00;44;04

Shanda

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. All right. Yeah.

00;00;44;12 - 00;01;18;15

Zeke

All I could do was just turn around. I didn't say a word. I just turned around. I walked back into the kitchen, and I just fell to my knees and texted Shanda and told her the story. And we're both just sitting there crying again. And for the next six weeks, I kid you not next six weeks. We had three days out of those six weeks that we didn't run into somebody that was either adopted, had adopted themselves, had a family member that had been adopted.

00;01;18;16 - 00;01;59;10

Zeke

I mean, it just surrounds us and we just had so much confirmation about what God was doing. And at that point, I really just decided that I said, okay, God, I'm old and you know, I'm not getting younger. So I know I just know that you've brought this to us. And so because of that, I don't want to get in your way of what you're doing in so God, I'm just going to lean in on you and this is going to be your thing.

00;01;59;10 - 00;02;17;12

Zeke

It's not going to be mine. It's not going to be chanties. It's going to be your thing. And there's going to be days where I'm going to feel just inadequate, but I'm going to remind myself that this is your thing. And so that was kind of my mantra the entire time was just lean in on God, just leaning on God.

00;02;18;00 - 00;02;26;22

Zeke

And I think God use that in my life because our whole lives are leaning in on God because we can't do anything really.

00;02;26;22 - 00;02;26;29

Chandalee

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Yeah.

00;02;29;23 - 00;02;40;15

Zeke

Without His his power, his support, his love, we can't do anything. And so this was this was learning time for me in my walk with Christ.

00;02;41;08 - 00;02;48;09

Chandalee

I love how personal the Lord is to each of us. And I mean, he he did that just for you, you know, he knew what you.

00;02;48;09 - 00;02;48;22

Shanda

Needed.

00;02;49;03 - 00;02;52;24

Chandalee

For confirmation, silently and peace. Yeah. And there's story.

00;02;52;29 - 00;03;08;07

Shanda

Story after story that that happening like. Yeah, I went in to give a form to my employer at the time I needed a letter for the agency and I handed it to the h.r. Lady, and I was like, hey, because when you get a chance, can you fill this out and put it in an envelope for me? I need to send it in.

00;03;08;08 - 00;03;18;29

Shanda

She's like, sure. She set it aside. And we were talking for a minute and I finally said, Did you get a chance to look at that paper? She goes, Yeah, I know what it is. She said, I'm adopted, so I'll take care of it.

00;03;19;24 - 00;03;21;28

Chandalee

And I was just like, Oh no.

00;03;22;11 - 00;03;27;18

Shanda

You know, it's just think one thing after another. It just continued to happen like that. And it's just been amazing.

00;03;28;04 - 00;03;28;11

Chandalee

Yes.

00;03;28;12 - 00;03;42;04

Zeke

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Yeah. So like Shanda said, we met with our agency in December and we actually got home like two days later. We pulled into our driveway and the agency called and said, Hey, we got a possible match. She'll go, Oh.

00;03;42;18 - 00;03;42;25

Chandalee  
Yeah.

00;03;43;06 - 00;03;52;14

Zeke

Like it was really real and we hadn't even started to fundraise at this time. When did we start doing the Nicklaus's? Was that in December?

00;03;53;02 - 00;03;55;07

Shanda

Yeah, I think it was. I think we went ahead and started.

00;03;55;10 - 00;03;56;00

Zeke

Just started to.

00;03;56;00 - 00;03;57;20

Shanda

Started to fundraise. Yeah.

00;03;58;04 - 00;04;41;00

Zeke

But we were nowhere near ready at that time. And you know, we had probably two or three phone calls from the agency at that time that that gave us an alert, you know, and each time it fell through, chose another family or for another reason or whatever. And I remember one time the agency called and said that if it was between us and another family and it's it's funny because I kind of started to grow an attachment like right there and then like, haven't even met the child, haven't even seen a sonogram.

00;04;41;00 - 00;05;03;08

Zeke

I haven't met the birth mother. I mean, it was just the idea had some again and I kind of just had gotten my heart out there and kind of attached myself to that. And then it turned out that she had chosen the other family because they couldn't have kids. We had already had kids. And that phone call I mean, during the phone calls, I.

00;05;03;08 - 00;05;05;29

Zeke

Okay, that's great. And then afterwards it like sunk in.

00;05;05;29 - 00;05;06;10

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Chandalee  
Like.

00;05;07;15 - 00;05;13;29

Zeke

Like heads headstone. Like it was it was weird because I, I don't know. For me, I kind of mourned it.

00;05;14;03 - 00;05;15;05

Shanda

Yeah. Yeah.

00;05;15;06 - 00;05;16;05

Zeke

Like a loss.

00;05;16;08 - 00;05;17;06

Shanda

A little bit. Yeah.

00;05;17;20 - 00;05;20;11

Zeke

So just little things like that.

00;05;20;11 - 00;05;57;23

Shanda

Just it's an emotional journey for sure. Anybody that goes through an adoption, you know, will tell you it was an emotional journey. It's a rollercoaster of emotions. You're you're up, you're down. And some days he's up and I'm down and vice versa as far as our emotions go. And you do you get attached to the idea. And so it is heartbreaking when if you know, that doesn't, you know, come about play out or you know so we kind of I think we kind of distanced ourselves a little bit at that time with the idea of every phone call, you know, every potential.

00;05;57;23 - 00;06;21;20

Shanda

We kind of were like, okay, we'll, you know, we'll be praying for them, but, you know, whatever. And so when we got the phone call from the agency in April about our son, he didn't even he didn't even tell me at first because we he he was he was afraid of, you know, that hurt again. Yeah. So it was like that wasn't done.

00;06;22;04 - 00;06;38;24

Shanda

It was a potential it was a situation. And the first phone call was just like, hey, just want you to be aware of the situation that's happening. And that was actually the day he was born. And we got a phone call that night and or know.

00;06;38;28 - 00;06;47;22

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Zeke

It was we got a phone call at 330 on that Monday that he was born. Yeah. But we got a text message. Yeah. Tuesday morning at 540.

00;06;47;22 - 00;07;08;26

Shanda

Four in Miami. Yeah. And, and he didn't tell me that phone call either and I finally said, Well, have you heard anything? And he said, It's a boy and he's healthy. And we were just so overcome with emotion. But we were, you know, we're still in that waiting phase of, you know, the decision being made. So I went on to work.

00;07;09;22 - 00;07;27;14

Shanda

We I went to work and I was in the middle of my day. And then all of a sudden my phone was ringing and the people were paging me overhead and I was like in the middle of something with a patient, and I couldn't leave. And I just I finally got away and I was like, okay, okay. And I came out and someone said, Hey, your husband's on the phone.

00;07;27;14 - 00;07;28;15

Shanda

I'm like, I know.

00;07;29;28 - 00;07;31;17

Chandalee

I'm trying to get there.

00;07;32;02 - 00;07;53;27

Shanda

So that was, you know, we we got that phone call of you have a son and you can come get him. And so we packed up and drove as fast as I could to Jacksonville, Florida. Legally, yeah. Say yeah. And then we got to meet him the next day and he's he's amazing. He's just he is truly amazing.

00;07;53;29 - 00;08;01;03

Chandalee

He is amazing. Well, tell us just a little bit, what is Little Biscuit and how did it come about? Okay.

00;08;01;10 - 00;08;27;08

Zeke

Yeah. So a little biscuit was actually God's idea. You know, we were in our process of fundraising. We were planning a Valentine's Eve dinner at the restaurant and I was actually making a delivery at the time. And I'm driving down Amoco Highway and just again, did testing, having to ask people for money and for help and really just kind of beat myself up about it.

00;08;27;08 - 00;08;44;27

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Zeke

And I just had this thought of, you know, if this were anybody else, I wouldn't be having such a hard time asking people for help. Right? Like, you know, if she only knew needed money, I'd be happy to go to her door. Hey, she needs money for this thing, whatever it is, you know? And I wouldn't have any problem with that because it's not for me.

00;08;46;00 - 00;09;11;01

Zeke

And then the thought kind of got a little deeper of and there's a lot of people out there that are having a difficult time actually fundraising for adoptions. And we kind of have this platform of the restaurant and we kind of have this platform of kind of going through our own adoption right now. What if what if we helped other people to raise money, to adopt now to be pretty cool?

00;09;11;01 - 00;09;48;25

Zeke

And then I started thinking a little bit deeper and really in about 15 minutes I had the name, I had my board of directors picked out and I called Chanda up and I said, Hey, this is what we're doing. You're like, okay. So that's kind of how it all started. And it has turned into an amazing organization with amazing people who have just been a blessing to so many, so little biscuit adoption fund is what we call a gospel focused organization, and our mission is to prayerfully support, educate and to financially assist families who are adopting.

00;09;49;21 - 00;10;25;13

Zeke

So that is who we are. How it became about and the result of that is been amazing. We have been so fortunate to have everybody who has either donated their their time, their finances or just shared our organization with folks or have just prayed over us. We've been blessed to have so many people pour into this. And the result of it has been we have helped 18 families so far to adopt and we've been able to grant out over \$60,000.

00;10;26;06 - 00;10;45;03

Zeke

And it's just I mean, the cards that we get with pictures, updates is priceless. It just you're speechless and you're just in all of God. And you just you worship in that moment of, wow, like you did this God.

00;10;45;07 - 00;10;45;20

Chandalee

Yeah.

00;10;46;00 - 00;11;16;03

Zeke

And but we, we still pray for these families because, you know, there are some families that we we have granted out money to them two years ago. And because

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of the pandemic, the country that they adopted from is still closed and they still have not been able to go get their child. And we just had a an update from one of those families, and it breaks your heart for them.

00;11;16;18 - 00;11;27;15

Zeke

But they they've been so great in telling us that, you know, this is a part of God's plan and you know, it. I have to continually remind myself, lean in to God.

00;11;27;15 - 00;11;50;26

Chandalee

Yeah, yeah. Amazing. We had the privilege this summer of helping with the fundraiser, the golf tournament fundraiser. It's like so much mischief part. They they released a golf cart to the two of us. I don't know what you're thinking. Not just any golf cart, but the drink card. The drink that was weighted down really heavy. So, yeah, we had fun.

00;11;50;26 - 00;12;01;14

Chandalee

We did have a great time and had a amazing response. The amount of money that you guys were able to raise, it's just phenomenal that God is just blessing and blessing and blessing. Yeah, it's huge.

00;12;01;18 - 00;12;15;03

Shanda

It's like we just get to go to work with God some days. I just love that. I love the idea of him saying, okay, you can come to work with me today. You get to be a part of this, you know, not because of anything I'm doing, but just because of God letting us be a part of it.

00;12;15;03 - 00;12;17;12

Shanda

It's just been outstanding.

00;12;17;19 - 00;12;21;21

Chandalee

I just love how God invites us to participate in his missions. Absolutely.

00;12;21;22 - 00;12;22;29

Shanda

How do you do anything?

00;12;23;00 - 00;12;29;07

Zeke

He doesn't need us. He doesn't have to do that. No, he's so loving and he allows it.

00;12;29;07 - 00;12;40;07

Chandalee

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Yeah, yeah. He is ahava. He has won the election and he invites us to participate in life with that condition with other people. It's just such a beautiful picture that he's allowed us into.

00;12;40;07 - 00;12;50;22

Shanda

Yeah, absolutely. And we wouldn't be here today with this story had it not been for God, just loving on us so much and blessing us. So we're just so thankful. So thankful.

00;12;51;21 - 00;13;11;26

Chandalee

Well, if someone wanted to partner with with you guys and with the Lord with a little biscuit and adoption, find, how would they get involved like that? We've talked a little bit just about the golf tournament that happens once a year, but what are there other ways that we could encourage people that are listening who would like to get involved?

00;13;11;26 - 00;13;34;14

Zeke

Absolutely. There there are so many different ways to get involved with adoption. It and it doesn't I want to be very clear. It doesn't have to be with a little biscuit. There are so many wonderful organizations out there. You know, if people are listening, are not in the Chattanooga area themselves, you know, find the find a local organization that that does the same thing there.

00;13;34;15 - 00;13;57;21

Zeke

There's so many resources out there, I encourage you to do that. But specifically for Little Biscuit, if you are in this area or just want to be involved in some way, shape or form, number one, we ask for prayer. That is, that's our number one thing, that God wants us to pray to him. He knows our thoughts. He knows what our desires are.

00;13;57;21 - 00;14;20;12

Zeke

He knows what we're going to say. If this is our connection to God and this is our way that we can hear him and listen to him and be led by him to do wonderful things. And so first, please pray. Pray for us. Pray for the families who are adopting. Please pray for the birth mothers, because there is there is a truth in adoption is that there has to be a crisis.

00;14;21;02 - 00;14;47;24

Zeke

In order for an adoption to take place, there has to be something that was not anticipated or that that did not go according to to our plan in order for an adoption to happen. And so because of that, there can be some crisis, there can be some stress when it comes to the birth parents. And so please pray for them as well.



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00;14;47;24 - 00;15;06;29

Zeke

That's number one. Number two, we would love for you to get involved through your time. Volunteering is I mean, you got like I said when I say that kind of jokingly, but we really couldn't have done the golf tournament without you guys on that golf cart with with the drinks and everything.

00;15;06;29 - 00;15;10;24

Shanda

It was a warm day and we needed it was we needed some cold drinks.

00;15;11;12 - 00;15;41;08

Zeke

And it may not have meant much to you, but it meant the world to the families who are adopting that, that you guys are participating in a way that creates a opportunity for them to be united with their child. So I tell people, you know, your time is so valuable when it comes to volunteering with us. Thirdly, you can always give financially.

00;15;42;21 - 00;16;16;13

Zeke

Money is wonderful because it's a tool that we can use to to bless families who are adopting. And it costs a lot of money. I mean, it can range anywhere from like 20 \$500 in the very low end to \$60,000 plus, depending on which country you go through international or domestic, whether or not you use an agency. There's a lot of different variables in there and finances are is always a necessity when it comes to that.

00;16;16;22 - 00;16;39;22

Zeke

You can give on on our website a little biscuit fund dot com. There's a link for people that you can donate. We also have our address, our P.O. Box on the bottom of the website there that you can mail a check. PayPal does take a fee out for that. So if you feel led to write us a check, the P.O. Box is at the bottom of the website there.

00;16;41;00 - 00;16;58;29

Zeke

Or if you're in the Chattanooga area, I will be more than happy to meet you wherever you're at. If you wanted to do it that way, whichever is easiest, most convenient, and wherever you feel led to do that, you can also become a monthly donor as well. We have a couple of monthly donors that it just comes automatically out of their bank account.

00;16;59;26 - 00;17;22;14

Zeke

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You know, they don't have to for that. And we have certain large donors that every year they make it a point to at the end of the year, be able to bless a family. And so we have several large donors that that bless us with anywhere between 1000 and \$5,000 towards the end of the year for their giving and things.

00;17;22;14 - 00;18;06;23

Zeke

So there's a lot of different ways that you can financially give. And then the very last way that we we love is please share our organization with others. If you know of a family who's adopting, that's having a hard time doing fundraising just to share our organization with them, because we'd love to partner with them. And also, if you know of a birthmother that maybe is on the fence of what to do in her situation, please let her know about our organization and the families who are wanting to adopt that can lead to a very good outcome in the middle of that crisis.

00;18;07;19 - 00;18;22;04

Chandalee

And again, I never tire of hearing your story and they never tire. And it's just such a blessing to hear God's armor for us, how you were living out God, to offer that to others. So thank you. It's so.

00;18;22;29 - 00;18;26;17

Shanda

Yes, absolutely.