**Chapter 4: Orphan Care and the Family - Supporting Materials**

Discussion Questions:

1. In McGrath's opening story, how has 'M'e Matau adapted to the changes in her life? What are the primary causes of these changes?
2. What did child care look like prior to the emergence of HIV in Lesotho? How did pre-existing care practices protect children during the AIDS crisis?
3. How did long term fieldwork impact Block's understanding of the relationships between grandmothers and grandchildren? What kinds of insights did she gain that she wouldn't have been able to if she had done a different kind of data collection such as survey or clinical research?
4. What makes a good caregiver in Lesotho? Given an example from the text of someone you think provided "good" care.
5. What are some of the challenges of caring for AIDS orphans? Did any of the stories stand out to you in this chapter as exemplifying these challenges?
6. What is the gap between cultural ideals and actual practice when it comes to orphan care?
7. What are some of the "rules" of patrilineal descent in Lesotho? How do these impact orphans and caregivers?
8. According to caregivers, how has the practice of paying bridewealth changed in Lesotho? What role does bridewealth play in negotiating for the care of orphaned children?
9. What argument does Block make about the tension between descent and care? Do you agree with her argument?

Activity:

**"Good" Care activity:**

Part 1: Brainstorm

With a partner/small group, brainstorm all the things that, in your opinion, make a good caregiver (this can be care of any sort, not just for a child). As a group, decide on the top 10 and place these in order of importance with 1 being most important, and 10 being least important. You will have to discuss with your group/partner to come to a consensus on the order. Try to convince your group members why you think some things should be on the list or go near the top.

Part 2: Interview a partner about someone in their life who they think is a good caregiver, and find out what kind of care they provide and what makes them good.

Part 3: Interview your partner about someone in their life who they think is a poor caregiver (the identity of this person does not have to be shared). Find out how they lack as a caregiver.

Part 4: Reconsider your 10 attributes of a good caregiver that you made in Part 1. Did your discussion about people you know change your assessment of this list? Would you add, remove, or reorder any of the items on your list? Explain.