



# Families

A project pack for infants (age 3-6)

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# Families Project Pack for Infants



This pack aims to provide a series of activities around the theme of families for infants. Children learn most from direct experience, and the activities in this pack should help them to talk about their own family relationships and be able to make a link between their family and families in the Bible and so gain a wider understanding of being part of God's family.

The pack is designed to cover 5 sessions of work, each lasting about 45 minutes. Many of the activities involve making things and talking about things as a group. The majority of activities are practical. If it helps to photocopy any of the pages for the children, they are freely copiable.

Please look through the material and choose carefully what is most appropriate for the age and abilities of your class and the time you have available. It may not be suitable to do all the activities suggested; and any of your own activity ideas are at least as good as the ones suggested here - in fact better if your ideas follow on from conversations you have with the children as you work with them.

The pack is divided into 5 areas. They can be used on successive weeks, or if you have a week's activity such as a Holiday Club, one each day.

## Unit 1 - Our Families

This activity uses family trees to encourage the children to identify who their family members are. A second family tree for a Bible family helps them to see that Bible families are similar to their own. Older children can be encouraged to sort family members chronologically to help them to see how genealogies work. Children can also decode a message to find out how important each family member is to God.

## Unit 2 - Mothers and Fathers

The first of these activities looks at the practical implications of the commandment to honour our parents. The second asks children to sort named Bible characters into families with a Mum, Dad and one child, while the third encourages older children to use their Bibles to identify the parents of Bible characters.

## Unit 3 - Brothers and sisters

The first activity asks children to identify their siblings and introduce the importance of forgiveness in family relationships; the second looks at the life of Joseph as an example of how to behave towards brothers and sisters. The game board will need enlarging on a photocopier for small children to see properly what they are doing. Children can also unscramble letters to find the names of Joseph's brothers.

## Unit 4 - Loving and Caring

These activities look at the way families love and look after each other and encourages the children to see that our heavenly father does the same for us.

## Unit 5 - God's family

The first of these activities introduces Jesus as God's son while the second and third look at the wider part the children can play in God's family, including the way we should all behave.

# Unit 1 - Our Families

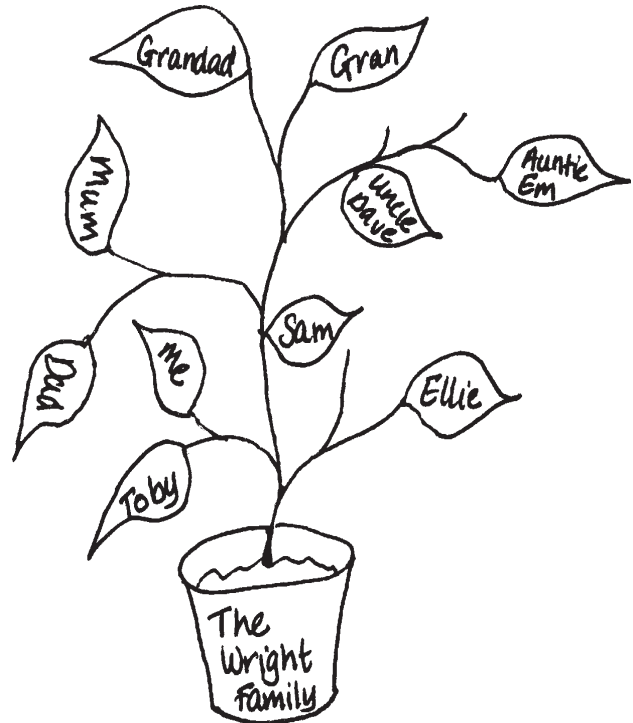


## Make a family tree!

Make a family tree like this to show the members of your family.

### You will need:

- a twig
- a plastic pot
- a lump of playdough
- some leaf shapes cut from green paper
- a felt pen
- scissors
- sellotape



### What to do:

1. Put playdough in the bottom of the pot.
2. Press the twig firmly into it so that it looks as if the twig is planted in the pot.
3. Write the names of each of your family members on a leaf and draw a picture of them on the back.
4. Fix the leaves to the branches with the sellotape.

### IMPORTANT:

Put the leaves with the oldest members of your family on the top branches.

Put the leaves with the youngest members of your family on the lowest branches.

### What to do next - A Bible Family Tree

1. Choose someone from Bible times, perhaps Noah or Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Ruth or Solomon.
2. List as many of their family members as you can. Ask for help if you get stuck.
3. Write their names on green leaves.
4. Arrange them on their own family tree, remembering to keep oldest people at the top and the youngest at the bottom of the tree.

# God knows You and Your Family!



You are a unique part of your family.  
No one else is like you because God  
had a hand in it!



a	
b	
c	
d	
e	
f	
g	
h	
i	
M	
n	
o	
p	
r	
s	
t	
u	
v	
w	
Y	

Use this table as a key to work out the message written by the creatures!

Use the table as a key to decipher the message written by the creatures. The message is written in a grid of lines, with small icons placed above or below the lines to indicate the corresponding letter.

Row 1:

Row 2: — — — — — — — — — —

Row 3:

Row 4: — — — — — — — — — —

Row 5:

Row 6: — — — — — — — — — —

## Unit 2 - Mothers and Fathers

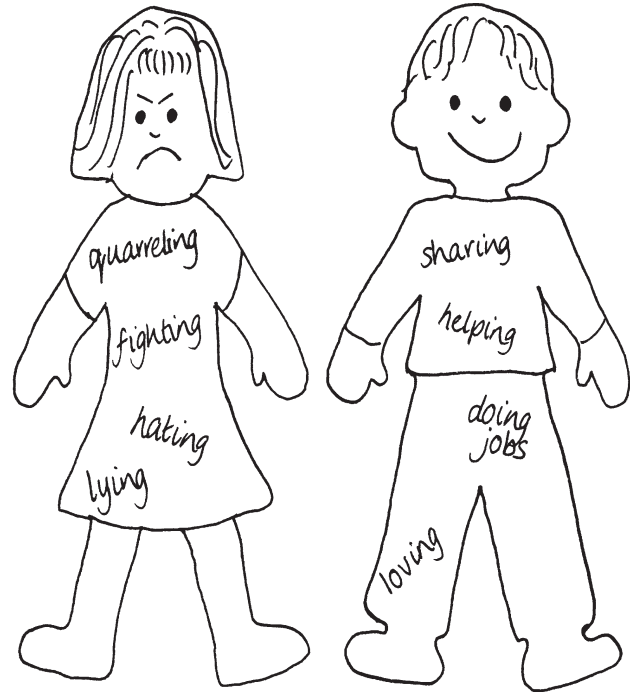
# “Honour your Father and Mother!”



In the Bible, God tells us that we should **honour** our mums and dads. By **loving and obeying** them, we are showing them **honour**.

### Group work

1. Talk about how you can show honour to your parents. What should you do or perhaps not do? Some things will make them happy and some will make them sad.
2. Working together with your friends, draw round a boy to make a dad and round a girl to make a mum. Give one a smiling face and the other a sad face.
3. Now draw pictures of things you do that you know will make them happy and stick them on the happy person.
4. Also draw pictures of things that would make them sad. Stick these on the sad person.
5. Which person is being shown honour?



We sometimes call God 'OUR FATHER'. So when we show our mums and dads respect, we are practising giving honour and respect to God!

### Individual Work

Now draw and write your own ideas of how you could show honour to God by honouring your parents. Keep it on your wall to remind yourself to do them.



### Extra

Why don't you make a special card for your Mum and Dad to show them how much you love them? Write them a poem or a story in the card and draw some pictures. Take time to make it really special for them.



# Bible Mums and Dads - 1

Can you pair up some Bible Mums and the Dads and then find their children?  
(You could shade in families in different colours or join names with arrows)

Abraham

Adam

David

John

Elizabeth

Joseph

Rebekah

Boaz

Hannah

Isaac

Elkanah

Isaac

Seth

Eve

Bathsheba

Ruth

Sarah

Jacob

Jesus

Samuel

Mary

Solomon

Zacharias

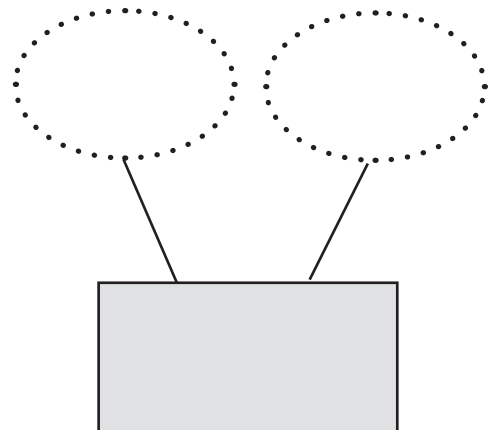
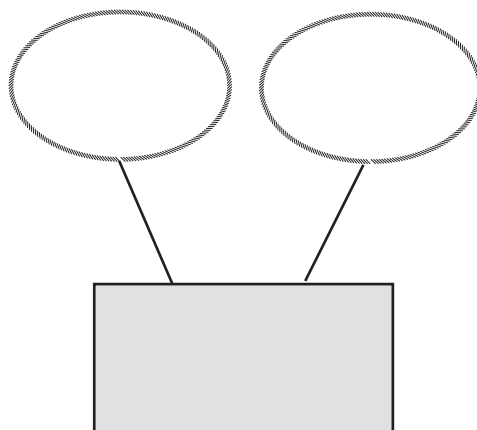
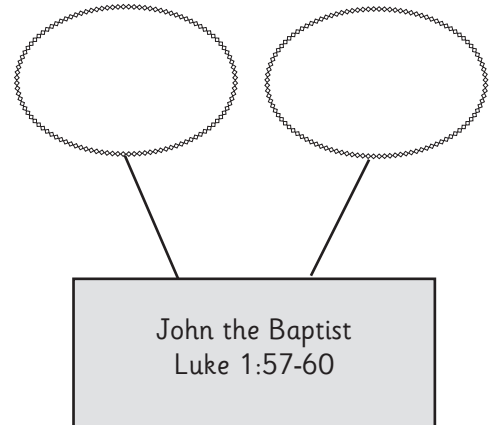
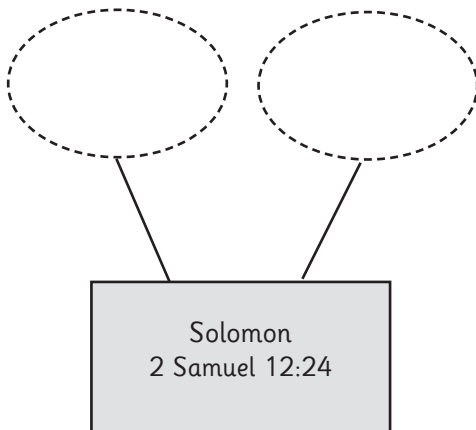
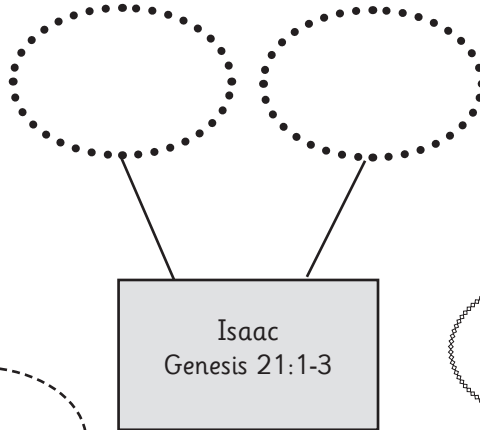
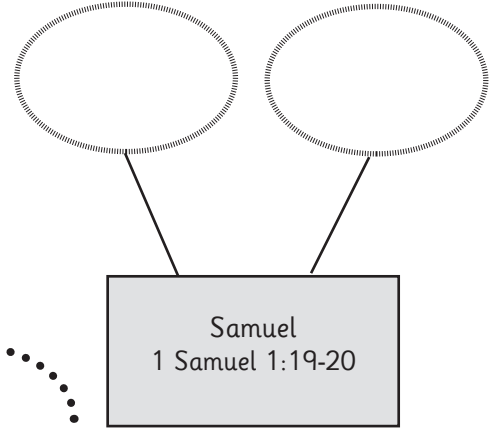
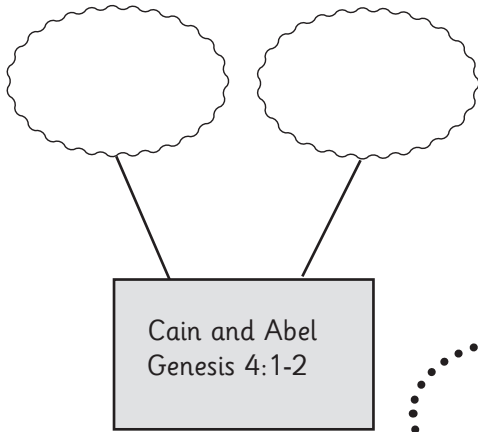
Obed

How many Bible families did you find altogether?



# Bible Mums and Dads - 2

Can you use your Bible to find out who the mums and dads of these people in the Bible were? Can you think of any more Bible mums, dads and children to fill in the empty boxes? You could add pictures for some of them too.

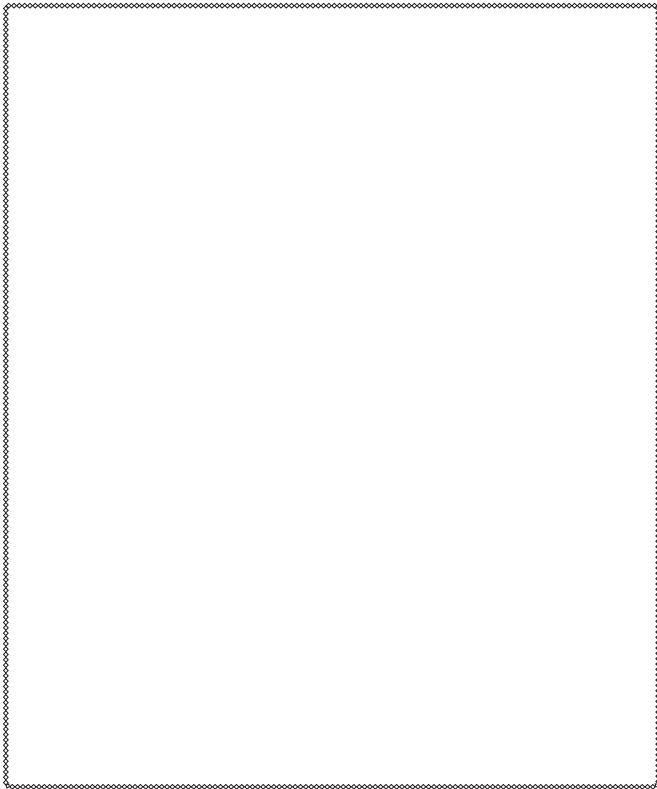


## Unit 3 - Brothers and Sisters

# Brothers and Sisters



Draw a picture of your brothers or sisters (or both) here. If you haven't got any, draw your best friend or even your cousin.



.....  
(name of person)

Jesus said we must be kind to our brothers and sisters and friends.

He also said we should forgive them even if they are sometimes nasty to us!

That's not always easy to do, is it?!

Make a badge like the one below for the person you have drawn. It will remind you to forgive each other when you need to.

**You will need:** cardboard  
pens  
safety pin  
sellotape  
scissors

**What to do:**

Cut out the badge from cardboard then colour it.

Stick a safety pin onto the back with sellotape.







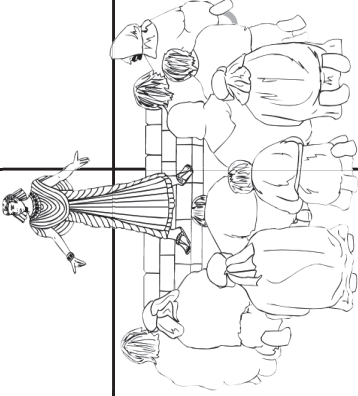


# Forgiving your Brother - Joseph

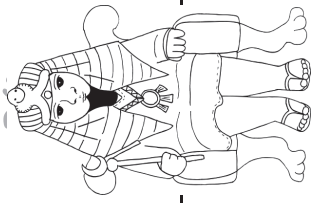

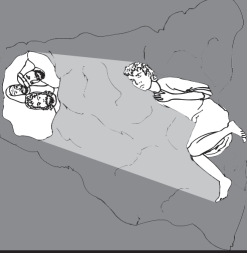
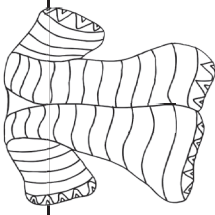
Joseph had 11 brothers. Can you unscramble the letters on Joseph's coloured coat to find their names?

Can you also find (a) The name of Joseph's father? (b) Where Joseph was sold as a slave? (c) The two people Joseph had to work for?



# Forgiving your Brother - Joseph

<p>Joseph's family live happily together in Egypt. The End</p>	<p>79</p>	<p>78</p>	<p>Joseph is very happy to see his father again. Go to the end</p>	<p>76</p>	<p>75</p>	<p>74</p>	<p>The brothers fetch Jacob and they come to live in Egypt.</p>
<p>65</p>	<p>66</p>	<p>Joseph tells his brothers who he is and they are all very happy. Go to 78</p>	<p>68</p>	<p>69</p>	<p>The brothers tell Joseph they are sorry. Go on 5</p>	<p>71</p>	<p>72</p>
<p>Joseph pretends his brothers are thieves and they are arrested. Go back 2</p>	<p>63</p>	<p>62</p>		<p>58</p>	<p>Joseph is so happy to see them all! Have another go</p>	<p>58</p>	<p>The brothers come to buy food again and bring Benjamin too.</p>
<p>49</p> 	<p>50</p>	<p>The brothers don't recognise Joseph. Go back 1</p>	<p>52</p>	<p>Joseph secretly gives money back. Go on 2</p>	<p>54</p>	<p>55</p> 	<p>56</p>
<p>48</p>	<p>Joseph's hungry brothers come to buy food.</p>	<p>46</p>	<p>45</p>	<p>There is a famine. Everyone is hungry.</p>	<p>43</p>	<p>42</p>	<p>41</p>

God tells Joseph what the dream means and Joseph tells Pharaoh.		Pharaoh makes Joseph his special helper.	36	37	38	Joseph helps Pharaoh to save lots of food.	40
32	Pharaoh has a dream which he doesn't understand.	30	39	28	27	26	Joseph doesn't forget about God in prison. Have another go
17	Joseph is a good worker for Potiphar. Go on 3	19	20	Potiphar's wife tells lies about Joseph.	22	23	24
The brothers lie to Jacob and say that Joseph is dead. Miss a turn		15	13	12	11		The brothers put Joseph in a pit. Go back 3
1	Joseph lives at home with his 11 brothers	3		The brothers are jealous of Joseph's new coat. Go back 1	6	7	8
							Joseph goes to visit his brothers.

You'll need a counter each and a die to play. How much of the story of Joseph can you remember? Is he a good or a bad example for you to follow?

# Unit 4 - Loving and Caring

## Ideas page for Teachers



Introduce the ways in which families love and care for each other with these games and activities.

### We can love and care

Talk about the ways the children can love or care for others. Ask the children to work in pairs or on their own to mime a situation where they are loving or caring for someone. Get the rest of the group to guess what they are doing. Talk about things they have already done which show love and care, and get the children to make their own targets for new things to do. Give the children

Post-It notes to write and illustrate their targets

- tell them to give them to their parents to stick on the fridge and then they can be removed as they reach each target.

### My parents care for me when...

This is a version of the traditional "I went shopping .." game. Begin with a statement like: My parents care for me when they cook my dinner. Go round the group, each child repeating the statement and then adding their own, eg My parents care for me when they cook my dinner and read me stories. Encourage the group to suggest ways that parents care.

When this has been exhausted, talk about the ways God cares for us. Play the game again, this time starting with the statement: God cares for me when ....

Help the children to identify the similarities and differences between the love and care parents give, and God's love and care.

### Saying Thank You

Have ready for each child some small bags, some sweets and some large sticky labels. Talk about whether or not it is nice to have people love and care for you, and ways in which we can say thank you. Give out the bags and sweets and help the children to make up a little bag of sweets to give as a thank you present to members of their family. Decorate the labels with appropriate messages and pictures for each bag.

Alternatively, older children could use icing pens to write on light coloured pre-iced biscuits a personal thank you message. Younger children could use sweets and icing to decorate biscuits or cakes to give as gifts.

Talk about whether we can give God presents to say 'thank you' for his care. Talk about the way prayer is our method of saying thank you and our behaviour is a way of giving God gifts. Make up a prayer which you all learn together - perhaps you could make a poster as a group to display in the room.



# The Good Samaritan

Luke 10 v 25-37

The two greatest commandments are about **love**. Jesus tells us we should love God and also that we should show love to the people we meet.

Read the story of the Good Samaritan and then try to find the words in the puzzle that are printed in **bold** letters below it.

y	r	r	o	s	d	d	a	f	w
a	b	t	s	e	i	r	p	o	d
i	d	f	g	a	e	a	u	r	l
r	s	g	p	c	s	n	p	e	o
a	u	h	i	s	d	h	v	i	h
m	s	g	e	s	o	i	e	g	c
a	a	d	d	l	t	h	n	n	i
s	m	j	o	e	t	r	q	e	r
m	e	f	o	o	d	e	u	r	e
b	y	n	g	s	f	t	r	v	j

A man travelling to **jericho** got **mugged** and left for dead. A **priest** saw him but **passed** by. So did a **levite**. But a **foreigner** from **samaria** felt **sorry** for the man and washed his **wounds** and took him to an **inn** for help. He even **paid** for the man's **food** and **shelter**. This Samaritan was being a **good** neighbour. We must **do the same**.

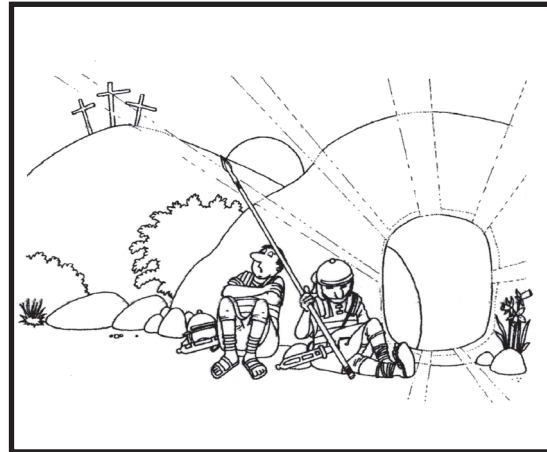
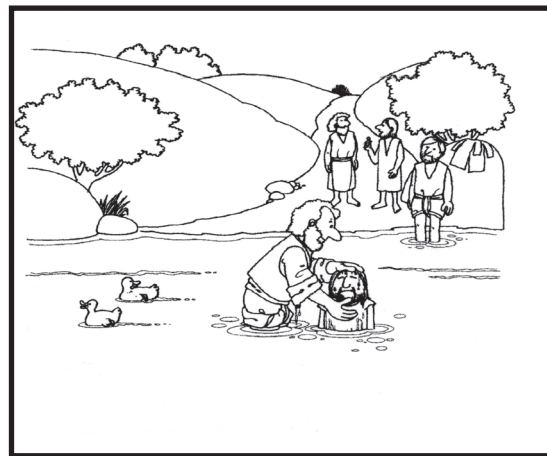
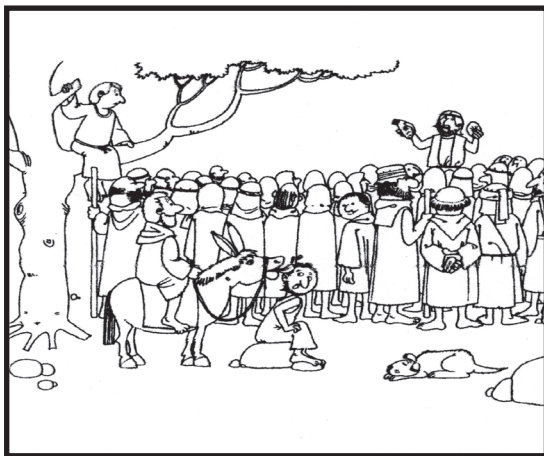
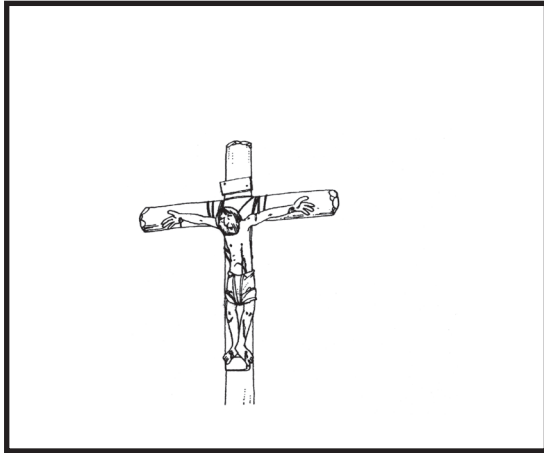
# Unit 5 - God's Family



## Does God have a Family?

**Do you know the name of God's son? It's Jesus!**

Cut out the pictures and words. Match the pictures on this page with the words on page 15 so they are in the right order. Stick them on the blank squares on page 16 and 17 so you can make your own little book.





## Does God have a Family? (continued)

Jesus told people  
about God.

God was pleased  
with Jesus.  
He told him so  
at his baptism.

God raised  
Jesus  
from the dead.

Jesus was even  
prepared to die  
in order to obey God.

Jesus went to  
the temple to learn  
how to obey God.

Jesus was born in  
Bethlehem. He was  
God's son.



# Does God have a Family? (continued)

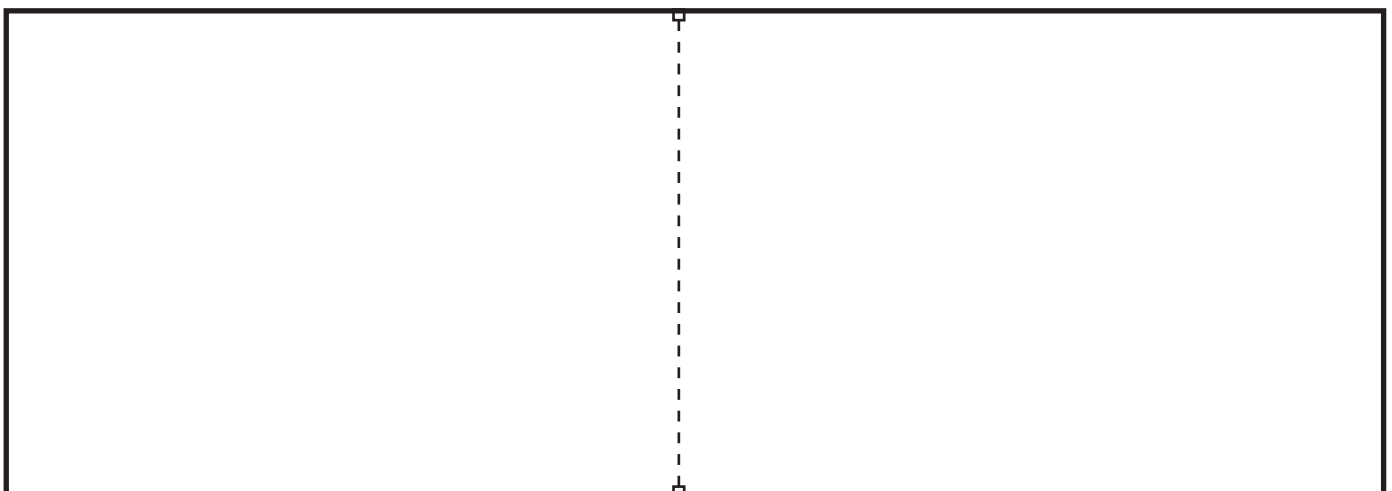
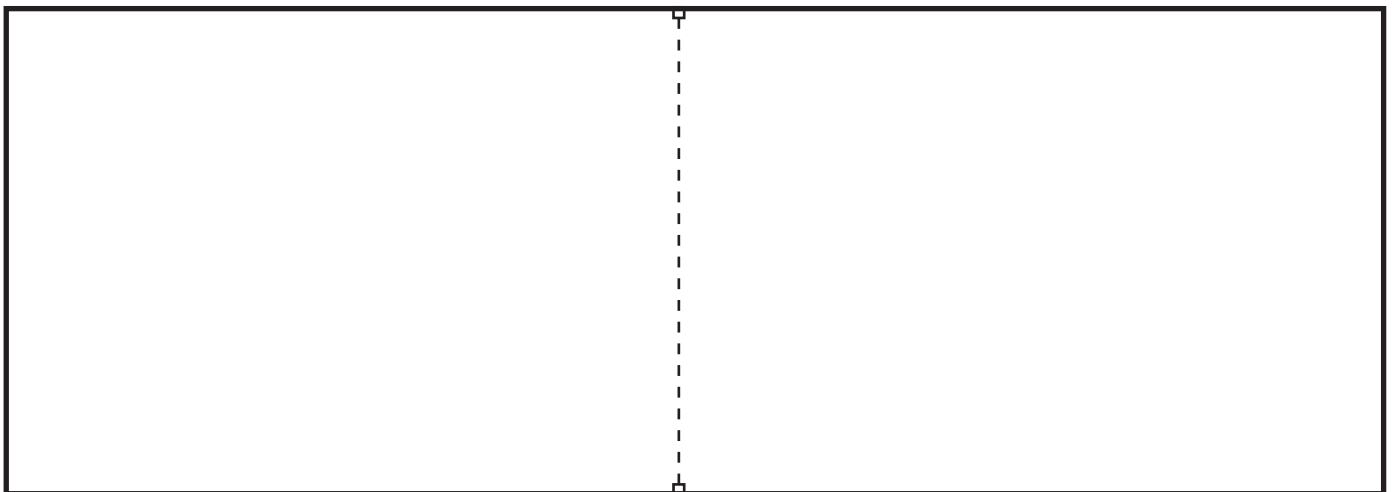
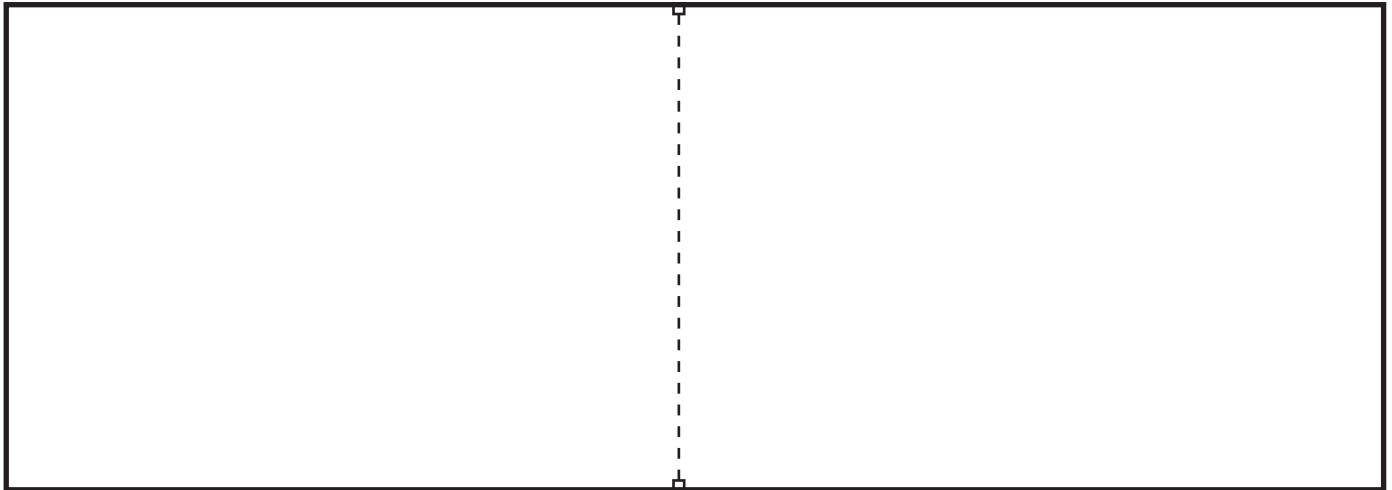
Use two pages like this one to make a book for your words and pictures.

Cut along the solid lines. Fold along the dotted lines.

Staple the pages together.

Stick the words and pictures on the pages so that they match.

Put the title **'God's Family'** on the front page.







# Does God have a Family? (continued)

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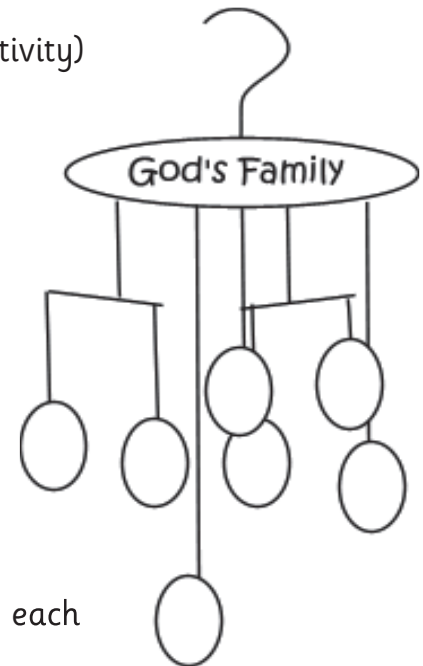
# You are in God's Family

God is like a father to us - he looks after us, loves us and gives us all the things we need. God has promised that if we love him and do what he says we can be part of his family, now and in the Kingdom. Talk about what you have to do to be part of God's family. Can you think of people from the Bible, from your family and from Sunday school who might be in God's family?

## 1. God's Family Mobile (individual or group activity)

### You will need:

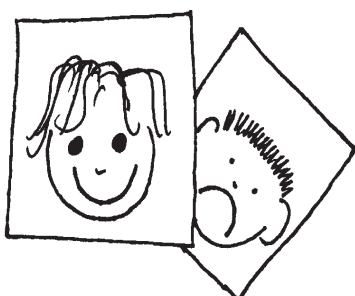
- card shapes (circles, ovals or stars)
- a wire coat hanger
- string or thread
- 2 kebab sticks
- hole punch
- felt tips
- scissors



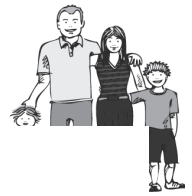
### What to do:

1. Draw and colour someone who is part of God's family on each card shape.
2. Write their name in big coloured letters on the back.
3. Tie a short length of string to each kebab stick and then to the hanger (see diagram)
4. Thread string of different lengths through the holes in each card shape. Tie in place.
5. Fix the strings to the hanger
6. Make a colourful label with the words "God's Family" on both sides of a piece of card
7. Hang it round the hook of the hanger by a short piece of string.
8. Find a good place to hang your mobile.

## 2. Happy or Sad? (group activity)



1. Everyone should make a card with a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other.
2. Take it in turns to act out different things you do during the day while the rest of the group turn their cards to show whether they think God would be sad or happy.



# God's Family should behave like this

A friend is someone ...



... who shares.



... who helps you out.



... who makes you feel good.



... who comforts.




... who says nice things about you when you're not around.



... who forgives.

Can you help Sheep to find his way across the maze? Shade in the squares which tell us how God's family should behave. Sheep can move up, down or across but NOT diagonally.

 <b>Start</b>	be kind	sneer at others	attack	laugh with others	share	be patient	be selfish
fib	thoughtful	help	be jealous	listen	tell tales	stick up for	tell lies
pinch	be bossy	forgive	laugh at others	find time for others	shout at friends	protect	generous
punch	hurt friends	care	be gentle	praise others	refuse to play	call names	play with others
careless	unhelpful	kick	play rough	thoughtless	uncaring	steal	lend to others
unforgiving	leave out others	cruel	say nasty things	dishonest	poke	bully	<b>Finish</b>

Don't forget to behave like this with YOUR friends and family!!



First edition: September 2004  
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