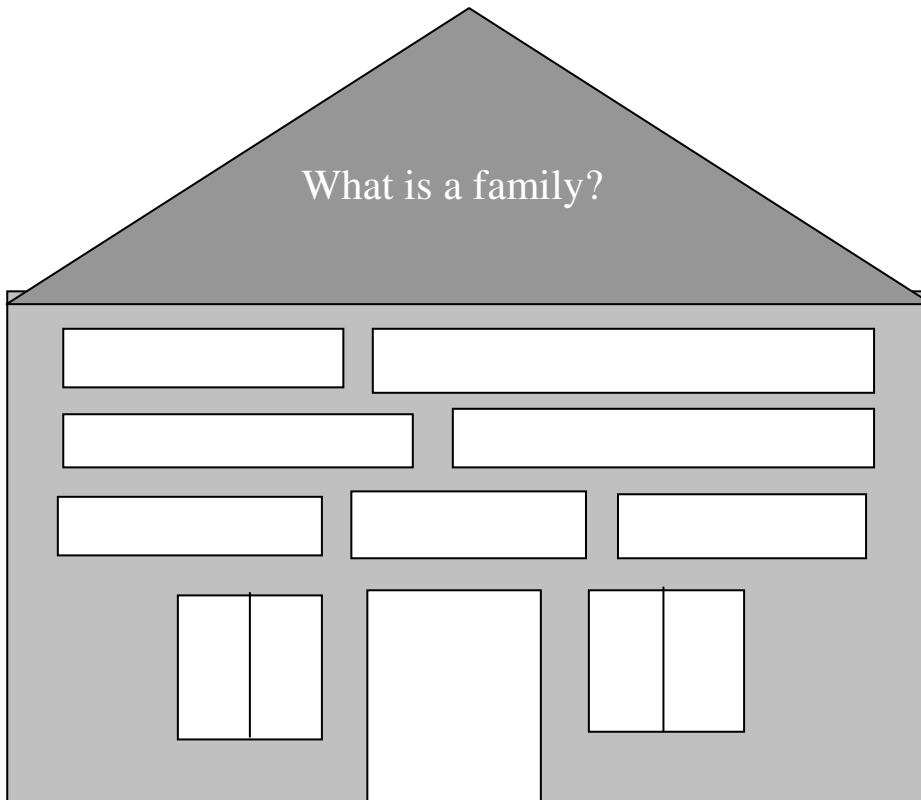


## The Family 1

### God places us in families

Draw the shape of a house. Draw bricks inside of various lengths. In the roof of the house, write: *What is a family*. Inside the bricks on the walls of the house, write all the things that a family could provide. *Examples:*

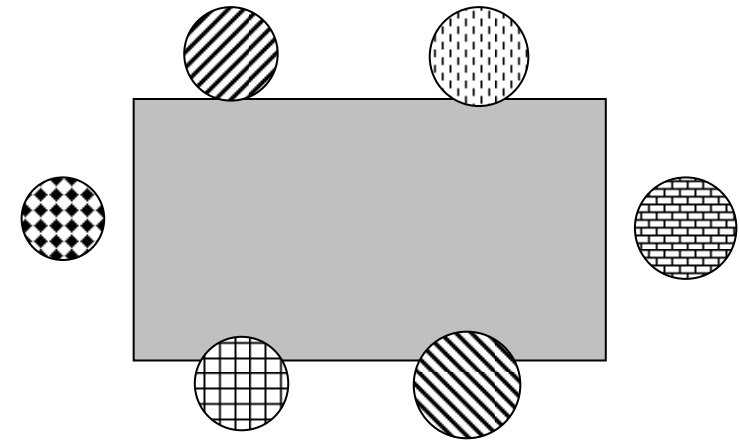
- shelter from storms and heat
- protection from evil
- love
- good memories
- friendship to others
- fun
- good food
- knowing God's ways



## The Family 2

### My family table

On a sheet of paper draw a picture of your family table. Choose a colour for each family member. Your drawing could look something like this:



Colour can remind us of feelings. Yellow may make you feel happy. Red may be for someone who is loud most of the time. Pink may be for kindness. Blue may be for a calm feeling. Green may be for someone who is neat and tidy. Write a sentence for each family member. Write their name and explain why you chose that colour.

#### EXAMPLE

Mum =

Sister 1 =

Dad =

Sister 2 =

Brother =

## The Family 3

### God planned for us to live in families

1. Why has God planned that we live in a family?  
a) Take a sheet of paper and write a sentence about each of these. Think about who provides these things.

- food
- shelter
- love
- care
- protection
- happiness

b) Which of those things provide for the needs of our body?  
c) Which things are special to the way we feel?

2. Here are some different types of families:

- old
- young
- families with one parent
- families with one child
- families with many children

a) Which type of family do you live in?  
b) Choose one type of family to draw. Write a sentence under your drawing explaining how this type of family is different from your own.

3. Getting on together

a) Write a sentence about why it is important to get on well with the members of your family.

- Think about all the things you do together
- Think about the amount of time you spend together

## The Family 4

### Respect

Here are some important things that every family should have.

**Respect** means treating people as if they are important. It means taking notice of the things they say. Another word for *respect* is *honour*. *Respect* is listening to what God has to say about the way family members treat one another. God has written some rules for families. Here they are:

- Honour you father and your mother. (Exodus 20)  
This is one of the 10 commandments. It means that children must listen to what their parents tell them, and obey cheerfully. It also means to be helpful to our parents.
- Children, obey your parents, for this is right.
- Sons, listen to your father's instructions. (Proverbs)
- Be faithful to your husband or wife.  
This one is for parents. It is also one of the 10 commandments.
- Love one another. 1 John 7:9  
This one is for everyone!

- a) Why is it important for children to respect their parents?  
c) Why do you think it is important for children to obey their parents?
- d) Why do parents sometimes have to discipline their children?
- e) Do parents still love us when they discipline them?  
f) What are some things our parents do to help us obey?

## The Family 5

### Loyalty

Loyalty means 'not choosing the opposite side'. Another word for *loyalty* is *faithfulness*. Faithfulness is one of the fruits of the Spirit.

- a) When did you stick up for someone in your family?
- b) Would you have changed sides if everyone else had been on the opposite side?
- c) Find out about two people in the Bible who were not loyal to Jesus. Write a sentence about each:
  - Matthew 26:14-16
  - John 18:25-27
- d) The Bible says in Malachi 3:6 "*I, the Lord change not.*" Does God still love us when we do wrong? Will God *always* care for us?
- e) How do parents show faithfulness to their children?
- f) How can children be faithful to their parents?
- g) How can you be faithful to your brothers or sisters?



## The Family 6

### Trust

We can *trust* someone who is faithful. We trust them because we know them very well. We have usually known them for a long time. When we trust someone, we feel sure that they will be good to us. We feel sure that they won't do anything bad to us.

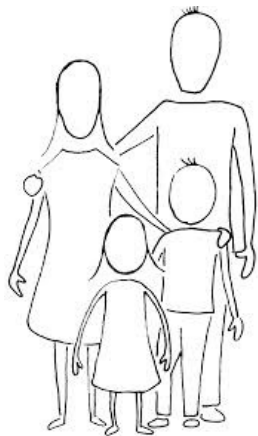
- a) Why can children trust their parents?
- b) Why can we trust God?
- c) Write a list of all the people you trust.
- d) Name a baby animal that trusts its mother.
- e) How can we make an animal trust a human?
- f) What would cause an animal to distrust a human?
- g) Draw a picture of an animal that shows trust towards a human.



## The Family 7

### Love

- a) How do you show love to members of your family?
- b) How do they show love to you?
- c) Fill the gap, from Proverbs 18:24. There is a friend who sticks closer than a \_\_\_\_\_. Who is this friend?
- d) The love we have for the members of our family is very special. Why is it different to the love you may have for a friend?
- e) Roman 12:9-10 tells us about brotherly love. What is special about brotherly love?
- f) What is the greatest love that can ever be shown? John 15:13.
- g) How does Jesus want us to love? John 13:34.
- h) Fill the gap, from 1 John 4:20-21 - If we hate our brother we cannot say that we \_\_\_\_\_.



## The Family 8

### Forgiveness

Family members often have quarrels. This doesn't mean that they don't love one another. When we know someone very well, we sometimes say the things we are really feeling. Maybe these things upset family members. When we are at home, we sometimes forget to be as kind, or as polite as when we are at another person's house.

If we do not forgive one another, then the quarrel can go on for a long time. Sometimes people don't talk to one another. Sometimes people continue being angry with one another.

- a) What should we do when we have a quarrel with a family member?
- b) How soon should we forgive each other?
- c) What would you do if you wanted to say sorry, but the other person was still angry with you?
- d) There is a story in the Bible where there was trouble between brothers - one was Jacob and Esau. The story had a happy ending. Why?
- e) Read about a Father who forgave his son in Luke 15:11-32. What does this story tell us about God our Heavenly Father?



## The Family 9

### Support

A table has support. Its legs are its support. The table top cannot stay up by itself. It needs the legs to help. It's a bit like that with families. Families need to work together and stay together to help one another.

- Choose someone in your family. How can you be a support to that person?
- Write a sentence about a time when you showed support to someone in your family.
- Draw a picture of a family situation where the children are showing support to Mum or Dad. Here are some examples:
  - Mum is having visitors to tea and the washing machine has just over-flowed. How can the children help?*
  - Dad has to gather up the papers for recycling, and the garbage collection is due in 5 minutes. How can the children help?*



## The Family 10

### Cooperation

It is important for family members to cooperate with each other.

- Write a sentence to explain what 'cooperate' means.
- Draw a picture or cartoon strip to show how family members cooperate with each other. Here are some examples:
  - Dan has a difficult project and he can't understand all the instructions. How can Dad help?*
  - Susan can't do up her shoe laces but her older brother can. The family is late in getting ready for school*
- Now write a list of family rules that would be important for cooperation in *your* family.. Examples:
  - Children go to bed at 8.30 p.m.
  - Children ask permission before watching T.V.
  - All family members clean up after themselves.
  - No one is to make unnecessary work for others.
  - All family members speak and act kindly towards one another.

Make a work chart to show how you and your brothers or sisters cooperate with Mum and Dad to get things done. Put the date at the top of the chart. Each person can put a tick next to their name when they've done the job.

Family Work Chart		Week ending:
Name	Job to be done	When?
Ben	Putting the bin out	Tuesday

## The Family 11

### The fruit of the Spirit

There are nine fruits of the Spirit. Do you know them? So far we have looked at the fruits of love and faithfulness, but there are seven more. The fruits of the Spirit are very important for every family.

- a) Look up Galatians 6:22-23. Write out these verses.
- b) Think of ways of showing the fruits of the Spirit in your family. Example:

**LOVE... hugging my Mum**

**JOY ... making Mum a special present..**

**PEACE...not fighting with my little brother**

**PATIENCE...**

**KINDNESS...**

**GOODNESS...**

**GENTLENESS...**

**FAITHFULNESS...**

**SELF-CONTROL...**

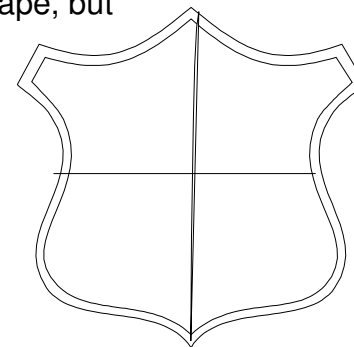
Draw a picture of each member of your family. Write a describing word underneath each person. Include your pets too if you like. Use some of the fruits of the Spirit to describe them.

## The Family 12

### Taking a look at families

#### 1. My family

- a) Draw a picture of your family. Put them in order of size from the tallest to the smallest. Name each person.
- b) List the approximate ages of the members of your family.
- c) Write next to each name something that person is good at. Write something about their character that is special.
- d) Make a family shield. Copy this shape, but larger. In each section draw something that is special to your family, e.g. pets, house, sports, music.



#### 2. The family of God

- a) What is the family of God?
- b) How is it like a real family?

#### 3. Looking at families

- a) Sometimes we can tell that a family is a family simply by looking at them together. We are usually like one of our parents more than the other. Think about your family. Who is alike among your brothers and sisters? Who is like Mum? Who is like Dad?
- c) Family members can also be alike because of the way they speak or act. Write some sentences about your family. Who acts more like Dad? Who acts more like Mum?
- d) Draw two family members who look alike.

## The Family 13

### Heredity

Children look like their parents because of heredity. This means that similar traits are passed on from parent to child.

- Write the meaning of heredity from your dictionary.
- What kind of physical traits can be passed on?
- What personality traits could be passed on?

Family likenesses are passed on by genes. Genes are in our cells and are very tiny. Twenty thousand genes laid end to end would not even measure a millimetre. There are different kinds of genes. Each kind controls a particular feature. For example, there are pairs of genes for hair colour and eye colour, for skin colour and for height. Genes are made up of a special chemical called DNA. Why is it special? Because it can copy itself! Genes are like a set of instructions for how we are made. We have two genes for everything. One is from Mum and one is from Dad. These genes make us look a bit like Mum and a bit like Dad.

The first person to discover the idea of genes, was an Austrian monk called Gregor Mendel, back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He worked with pea plants. He studied the way the shape of peas, and the colour of the flowers, was passed on to the next generation. He worked out that there must be two copies of each gene in the pea. In each pair of genes, one is stronger than the other. We call the stronger gene the **dominant** gene.

### Hair Colour

For hair colour, black is dominant over blonde hair. What hair colour do these genes make?

- black and black
- black and blonde
- red and red

## The Family 14

### God created us to be like Him

God is our Heavenly Father, and we are His children. He has given to us aspects of his character.

- Write out the Bible verse, Genesis 1:27.
- God created us to be like Him in these ways:

***loving kind forgiving***

Can you think of some others?

- Not everyone lives as God wants them to live. This means that not everyone shows the character of God in their lives. Think of ways in which we can show more of the character of God in their lives.
- God is the perfect father. Not all fathers are perfect, but here are some similarities between human fathers and our Heavenly Father:
  - Provider
  - Protector
  - Creator
  - Someone who disciplines
  - Someone who loves
  - Someone who is in charge
  - Someone who forgives

Explain how God is the perfect Father.

*God is the perfect Father because He .....*

## The Family 15

### Adoption

Adoption means *taking up and treating as one's own*.

Some families adopt children. This means that a child from another family comes to live with a new family. Often the adopted children are babies when they come to live with the new family. Adoption may happen for a number of reasons. Perhaps the child's parents have died. Perhaps the parents can not look after the child for some reason.

Sometimes children from other countries are adopted because of poor conditions in that country. Sometimes people who have plenty, in countries like ours, give money to support children in poorer countries. They have a *foster* child. The child doesn't come to live with that family, but instead, money is sent each month to provide food and clothing for the child, who continues to live with his or her own family.

In the Old Testament we are told about a baby who was adopted by an Egyptian princess. His name was Moses.

1. Why did God allow this baby to be adopted? (Think about how God used Moses to help God's people.)

*Did you know... that God adopted us?*

Because of Adam and Eve's sin, humans are separated from God. However, because of Jesus' death on the cross He made it possible for all of us to become His children.

2. Write out these verses: John 1: 11 and 12

3. Read Romans 8:14 and 2 Corinthians 6:17-18. Who are the sons of God?

4. Read Galatians 3:23-26. How are we made children of God?

## The Family 16

### Family trees

We can divide family members into two groups:

***immediate and extended***

#### 1. Make a list of your Immediate family

Your Dad, Mum, sisters and brothers

#### 2. Make a list of your extended family

Your grandparents, aunties, uncles and cousins

#### 3. Family trees in the Bible

In the Bible we can learn about family trees from the *genealogies*. Find out what these are.

Here are the first three generations of the family of Jesus, starting from Abraham. (A generation is the distance in time between parents and children.)

a) Abraham's son was Isaac

b) Isaac's sons were Jacob and Esau...

c) Find out which son - Jacob or Esau - carried on the family tree.

Abraham was a very important person because God chose Him to be the father of many generations. God planned that Jesus would come from Abraham's family.

d) What was the promise given to Abraham? (Genesis 12:2)

e) What was the promise given to Sarah? (Genesis 17:15-16)

f) What did Abraham have to do to inherit the promise? (Genesis 12:1)

g) What was the great nation that came from Abraham?

#### 4. Draw your family tree