



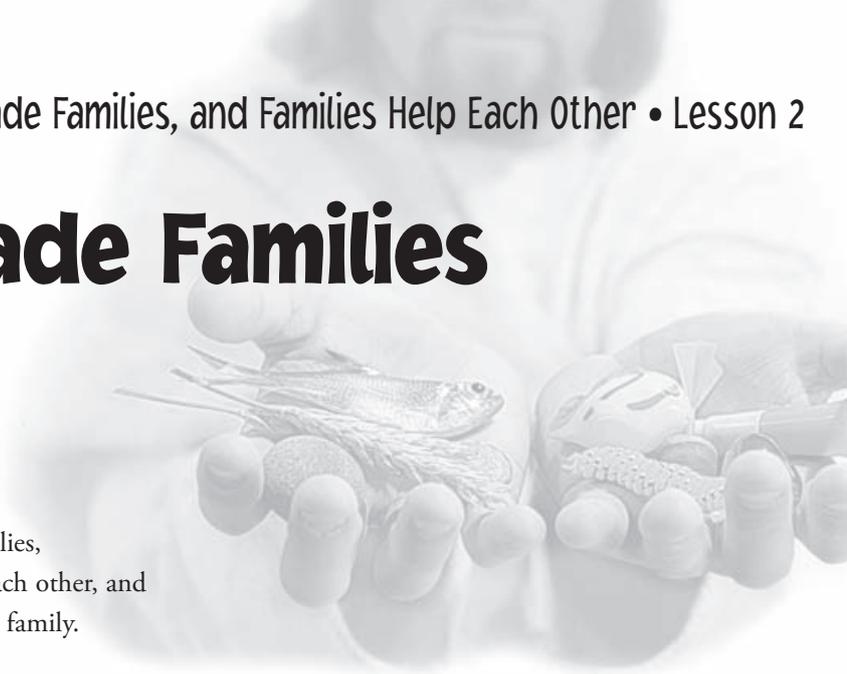
God Made Families

Bible Verse

God made families (adapted from Genesis 1:26a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- realize that only God makes families,
 - explore ways that families help each other, and
 - share chores with their classroom family.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- God made families, and families help each other.

Genesis
15:1-6;
18:1-14;
21:1-7



Barrenness is a recurring theme in the Bible. Wives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all suffered childlessness for years before God gave them children. In ancient culture, childlessness was often thought to be a curse. The childlessness we read about in the lives of the patriarchs had a special purpose. God used it to demonstrate in an unmistakable way that Israel was a nation brought into existence by God, not mere human procreation. Isaac was a double blessing to Abraham and Sarah. A son would grow to help his father govern the family affairs and inherit the family wealth—vitaly important in the ancient world. But Isaac would also be the beginning of spiritual legacy that would literally change the whole course of human history. It is important to help children understand just how precious they are in

their parents' eyes and in God's plan, big or small. Use these stories of the birth of Isaac to help them understand how special all children are.

Prayer

- Read Luke 1:25.
- Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, evidently struggled with barrenness before giving birth to John. Can you think of a time when God delivered you from a difficult situation? What was your response?
- Pray: Lord, thank you that you worked miraculously in the lives of the patriarchs to show them that you were working your plan according to your schedule. Thank you for the blessing that children are. Help the children I teach today feel valued and loved at home. Help them understand that you have a plan for each of their lives.

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	 
	Option 1: Dish Detail —Help each other set the table for a family feast.	Paper cups, plastic spoons, tablecloth, paper towels, table	
	Option 2: Abraham's Beard —Use beards to pretend to be Abraham.	Beard pattern (p. 38), tape, scissors, roll of quilt batting	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	God Made Families —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Abraham's family from Genesis 15:1-6; 18:1-14; 21:1-7.	Crackers, flashlight, CD player, beards from Option 2, tape	   
	I Love My Family —Sing an action song about families.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Helping-tools patterns (p. 39), scissors, tape, colored construction paper, crayons or markers	
	Sing It Out —Sing an action song about families.	CD player	
	Bible Craft —Decorate special "helping holders."	Paper plates, scissors, tape, markers, stickers	
	Bible Game —Play a game, and help pick up pretend leaves.	Helping holders from Bible Craft; orange, red, yellow, and brown construction paper	
 Closing	Family Feast —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Instant pudding mix; milk; large plastic jar and lid; plastic spoons, napkins, and paper cups from Option 1	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God made families.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.



Consider laminating the name tags so they’ll last all quarter.



Option 1: Dish Detail

SUPPLIES: table, tablecloth, paper cups, plastic spoons, paper towels

Set a small table in one corner of the room. As children arrive, invite them to help set the table. Let toddlers spread a tablecloth over the table and smooth out the wrinkles. Then have them set a place at the table for each person in class, using paper cups and plastic spoons. Show toddlers how to fold paper towels into triangles to use as “fancy napkins.” Lay a napkin under each spoon.

As toddlers work, circulate among them and make comments such as “I like the way you’re helping each other” and “Families like to help one another.” Remind children that ► God made families, and explain that in the Bible story, Sarah helped Abraham by cooking dinner for the special visitors. Tell children that later they’ll have a special treat, too.



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



Option 2: Abraham’s Beard

SUPPLIES: beard pattern (p. 38), tape, scissors, roll of quilt batting

Before class, photocopy the beard pattern for a cutting guide. Using the quilt batting and the beard pattern, cut a beard for each child.

As children arrive, invite them to grow a “beard” like Abraham’s. Gently tape the beards in place on the children’s faces. If some toddlers don’t like the mustache portion, simply trim it off.

Let children stroke their pretend beards. Tell children they’ll learn that ► God made families and that they’ll get to wear their beards to help tell the Bible story.

If some of the children choose not to do this option, ask adult helpers to make extra beards. You’ll use them later during the Bible Story.




teacher tips

For more Bible-times fun, provide bathrobes and towels for headaddresses. Invite children to dress like Abraham.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the *CD* and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”



**Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.**

**Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.**

**Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.**

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Say: **Who made families? ► *God made families.* How do we know that? The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let’s sing a song about the Bible.** Using the *CD*, lead children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”



**This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!**

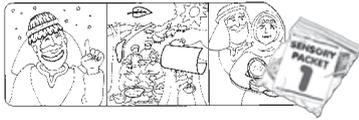
(Repeat.)

Bible!



■ Bible Story: God Made Families

SUPPLIES: crackers, flashlight, CD player, beards from Option 2, tape



Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Panel 1



Set a flashlight and the figure of baby Isaac behind you. Fold the StoryBoard back so children see only Panel 1. Say: ► ***God made families***, and today we'll learn about a special family. Point to the picture of Abraham. **This is Abraham. Let's say hello and pat Abraham's beard and headdress.** Let toddlers touch Abraham and lead them in saying, "Hello, Abraham!" Then ask:

- **How does Abraham's beard feel?** (Soft; scratchy.)

Say: **We can wear beards to look like Abraham.** Tape beards to children not wearing pretend beards from Option 2. **Look at all the "Abrahams" in our class! Pat your beards. Ooo, they're soft! Let's play a game. When I say "Abraham," pat your beards.** Alternate saying Abraham's name with other story words such as *Sarah, baby, sheep, stars*, and *family*. Lead toddlers in patting their beards each time you say "Abraham."

Then point to Panel 1. Say: **Abraham was sad because he didn't have any children in his family. Abraham had a nice wife named Sarah. But they didn't have a little boy or girl to love. Let's say a rhyme about Abraham and Sarah.** Repeat the following action rhyme twice.

Abraham and Sarah felt no joy (*make a sad face and shake your head*);
They had no little girl or boy. (*Hold your hands palms up and shake your head.*)

Say: **Abraham knew that ► *God made families*.** He prayed and asked God for a child. **God told Abraham to look up and try to count the stars.** Point to the stars on Panel 1. **God told Abraham that he would have as many children as there are stars in the sky. Let's make our StoryBoard stars really shine!**

Let toddlers take turns shining the flashlight on the StoryBoard stars. Then shine the flashlight behind the holes on Panel 1. Say: **Look at all the stars! Open and close your fingers like twinkling stars.** Pause. **We can sing a song about stars that twinkle and shine. Twinkle your finger-stars as we sing.** Without the *CD*, lead toddlers in singing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." **That was fun! There are lots of stars in the sky, and God promised Abraham lots of children. Let's see if Abraham and Sarah will have a baby to love.**

Panel 2



track 5

Help children wash their hands. Unfold Panel 2 of the StoryBoard and point to the tent. Say: **Here's the tent where Abraham and Sarah live. Let's peek inside to see if Sarah's home.** Let each child lift the tent flap and peek inside the tent. Encourage toddlers to say, "Hello, Sarah," as they peek inside the flap.



If you have very young children in your class, let them simply find and touch the StoryBoard pictures and sensory items. Repeat the Bible Point often, and reinforce learning with hugs and smiles.



Ask: • **What's Sarah doing?** (Cooking; making food.)

Say: **Sarah is making dinner. Rub your tummies to show how yummy dinner is. Mmmm!** Point to Abraham and the three men. **Abraham has three special visitors. They're going to eat dinner outside, just like a picnic. Let's pretend we're having a picnic, too.** Hand each child a cracker to eat.

Ask: • **How does our treat taste?** (Yummy; good.)

Point to the three visitors. Say: **The visitors told Abraham exciting news. They said that God would give Abraham and Sarah a baby. Isn't that wonderful? Jump up and say, "A baby! A baby!"** Pause while toddlers cheer. Then whisper: **Now quietly sit down, and let's see if the baby has come.**

Before revealing Panel 3, play track 5 of the *CD* and listen to the sounds of a baby crying.

Pause the *CD*. Say: **Is that a baby crying? Close your eyes and say, "Don't cry, little baby."** When children's eyes are closed, open the StoryBoard to reveal Panel 3, and place the figure of baby Isaac in Sarah's arms.

Panel 3



Say: **Open your eyes. What do you see? A baby! God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby named Isaac. Let's gently hold Isaac and say, "I love you."** Encourage toddlers to say, "I love you," as they hold and pass the figure of baby Isaac. Then return Isaac to Sarah's arms on Panel 3. Continue to play the *CD* (track 5) and listen to the sounds of a baby cooing. Then stop the *CD* player.

Baby Isaac sounds happy because you held him so nicely. Babies cry, babies smile, and babies sleep. Let's learn a rhyme about sleepy babies. Slowly say the following rhyme twice. Encourage children to do the actions with you.

Here is a cradle (*make a cradle with your arms*)—

Shh, don't make a peep! (*Put your finger to your lips.*)

The tiny baby (*cup your hands*)

Is fast asleep. (*Lay your head on your hands and close your eyes.*)

Whisper: **Families like to help each other, and we helped baby Isaac fall asleep. I'm glad that ►God made families. Let's sing a song about families.** Gently untape the toddlers' beards, and set them aside.

Remove the *fun foot* from the Learning Lab. Have the children sit in a circle on the floor with you.

Say: **Look at this foot I have here. We're going to play a game with this foot to remind us of today's lesson. First, we're going to pretend that we're all part of one family. We've been learning today that ►God made families to love and help each other. We're going to help each other in this game. Here's what we'll do.**

Instruct the children to use only their feet to pass the *fun foot* (textured side up) around the circle. The children can use both feet to pass the *fun foot* to the next person. Encourage the children not to let go of the *fun foot* until the next person has control of it.

Pass the *fun foot* around the circle. Then start the foot going around the circle in the opposite direction.



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: **Boy, our pretend family worked great together! We helped each other pass the foot around the circle. Families can do a lot of things to help each other. ► God made families to help each other.**

Let's pass the foot around the circle again, as fast as we can. When I say "stop," whoever has the foot will tell something you can do to help your family by using your feet. For example, you might say that you could help Mommy carry trash to the trash can. That's using your feet! Or you might say you could help feed the puppy. You'd use your feet for that, wouldn't you?

Pass the *fun foot* around the circle again, and periodically call "stop!" Encourage the children who end up with the foot to share ways they can help their families by using their feet.

Ask: • **What's your favorite way to help in your family?** (I give my mommy hugs; I pick up my toys.)

• **How can you help today when you get home from church?** (I'll do what my dad says; I'll take a nap when my mommy says to.)

Say: ► **God made families, and families like to help each other. Let's use our feet this week to help our families! But right now, let's use our fingers to sing a fun song about families!**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

■ ***I Love My Family***

SUPPLIES: CD player



Sit with the children on the floor. Say: **The Bible says in Genesis 1:26a that ► God made families. Hold up your fingers and wiggle them. Pause. Your fingers look like little people! We'll pretend our wiggly fingers are a family. Let's sing a song and let our finger families play and wiggle with**

joy. Using the CD, lead children in singing "God Made Families" (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) to the tune of "Frère Jacques." As you sing, do the motions in parentheses.



SING

God made families (*wiggle your fingers*),
God made families. (*Wiggle your fingers.*)
Yours and mine (*point to a friend and then to yourself*),
Yours and mine. (*Point to a friend and then to yourself.*)
I will love my family. (*Put your hands over your heart.*)
I will love my family (*put your hands over your heart*)
All the time (*wiggle your fingers*),
All the time. (*Wiggle your fingers.*)
(Repeat.)

Say: **Families are special. ► God made families to love and help each other. Let's have the families on our bulletin board help each other rake pretty leaves.**

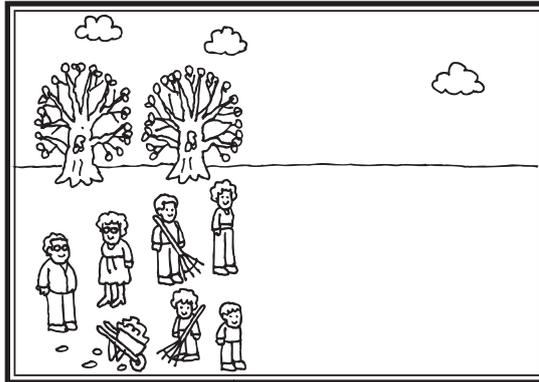


◀ **BIBLE POINT**

Bible Activities

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: helping-tools patterns (p. 39), scissors, tape, colored construction paper, crayons or markers



Before class, photocopy the helping-tools patterns. Cut out the pictures of the rakes, wheelbarrows, and trees. Be sure there's a picture for each child in the room. Color the trees, and then tape them to the bulletin board.

Tear a pile of colored construction paper "leaves" for Cuddles to hold. Make sure that there are enough leaves so that each child can have one.



Bring out Cuddles the Lamb holding the torn-paper leaves.

Cuddles: Hi, boys and girls! Look what I have...*(spills the leaves)* Oops! Oh dear, my leaves are everywhere!

Teacher: We'll help you pick up the leaves, won't we, children? *(Help children pick up the leaves and hand them to Cuddles. Have Cuddles thank each child and give him or her a warm hug.)*

Cuddles: Thank you all for helping me!

Teacher: We've been learning about families, Cuddles. And families like to help each other. You're part of our special church family. We know that ► God made families, and we're happy to help each other.

Cuddles: I'd like to help, too! May I? Please?

Teacher: Yes, Cuddles. You can help us add pictures to our bulletin board to show how families help each other.

Have Cuddles give each child a torn-paper leaf and a picture of a rake or wheelbarrow. Help children tape their pictures and leaves to the bulletin board. As each child tapes a picture or leaf in place, encourage him or her to say the Bible Point.

Teacher: I think the families in our picture are having fun helping each other rake leaves. ► *God made families*, and families have fun together. Let's have fun singing about families.

Place Cuddles out of sight of the children.

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) to the tune of “Frère Jacques.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



God made families (*wiggle your fingers*),
God made families. (*Wiggle your fingers.*)
Yours and mine (*point to a friend and then to yourself*),
Yours and mine. (*Point to a friend and then to yourself.*)
I will love my family. (*Put your hands over your heart.*)
I will love my family (*put your hands over your heart*)
All the time (*wiggle your fingers*),
All the time. (*Wiggle your fingers.*)
(Repeat.)



Say: **That song reminds us that families are special. The most special family of all is God's family! God sent Jesus to be our special friend forever. When we believe in Jesus, we can become part of God's family.**

I'm so happy that God sent Jesus and that ► *God made families.* Let's make something special for our families.



■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: paper plates, scissors, tape, markers, stickers

Before class, cut a paper plate in half for each child. Tape the two paper plate halves around their curved edges to create a cuplike holder.

Set out markers and stickers. Hand each child a paper plate holder. Invite toddlers to use markers and stickers to decorate their helping holders.

As toddlers work, ask questions such as “How do you help your family?” and “Who made families?” Be sure to write each child's name on his or her helping holder.



When everyone has finished decorating his or her helping holder, say: **Your helping holders are so pretty. Hold them up so everyone can see how pretty they are.** Pause for children to display their handiwork. **Let's play a game and help pick up leaves.**

■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: helping holders from Bible Craft; orange, red, yellow, and brown construction paper

Before this activity, tear orange, red, yellow, and brown construction paper “leaves.” Be sure to tear a leaf of each color for every child in class and one set for yourself.

Say: **Let's see if you know the colors of these pretty autumn leaves.** Hold up one torn-paper leaf of each color and identify its color. Keep one set of leaves, and toss the rest in the center of the floor. Have children hold their helping holders and stand at one end of the room. **I'll say a color, and you hop to the leaves and pick up a leaf of that color. Put the leaf in your helping holder, and hop back to your place.** Hold up each leaf as you say its color.

When all the leaves have been picked up, say: **It's fun to help our families. You can use your helping holders to pick up things at home. Now lay your helping holders on the floor, and tiptoe like falling leaves to the snack table.** Lead toddlers to the table they prepared in Option 1. If you didn't do Option 1, simply lead children to your snack table.

Closing

■ Family Feast

SUPPLIES: instant pudding mix; milk; large plastic jar and lid; plastic spoons, napkins, and paper cups from Option 1

Say: **We've been learning that ►God made families, and we've learned that families help each other. We're going to help each other make yummy snacks to enjoy.**

Following the package directions on a box of instant pudding, pour cold milk and the instant pudding mix into a large plastic jar. Fasten the lid securely. Help each child count to 5 as he or she takes a turn shaking the jar of pudding. Then set the jar on the table to thicken. As you wait, say: **Our class is like a family. We love each other, and we help each other, too. Let's say a prayer and thank God for making families. Fold your hands.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you for making families to love. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Have children wash their hands. Fill the toddlers' paper cups half full with pudding. After children have enjoyed their snacks, encourage them to throw their cups, napkins, and spoons in the wastebasket.

Let children carry their helping holders and wear their pretend beards home.

teacher tips

Toddlers love using rubber stamps and ink pads to decorate craft projects. Look for inexpensive rubber stamps, and store them in a special box for instant, no-mess decorating.





For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Twinkling Stars*

Without using the *CD*, sing a pretty little song called “Twinkling Stars” to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”



SING

**Twinkling stars way up above
Help us think about God’s love.
God gave Abraham a son;
Isaac was the special one.
Twinkling stars way up above
Help us think about God’s love.**

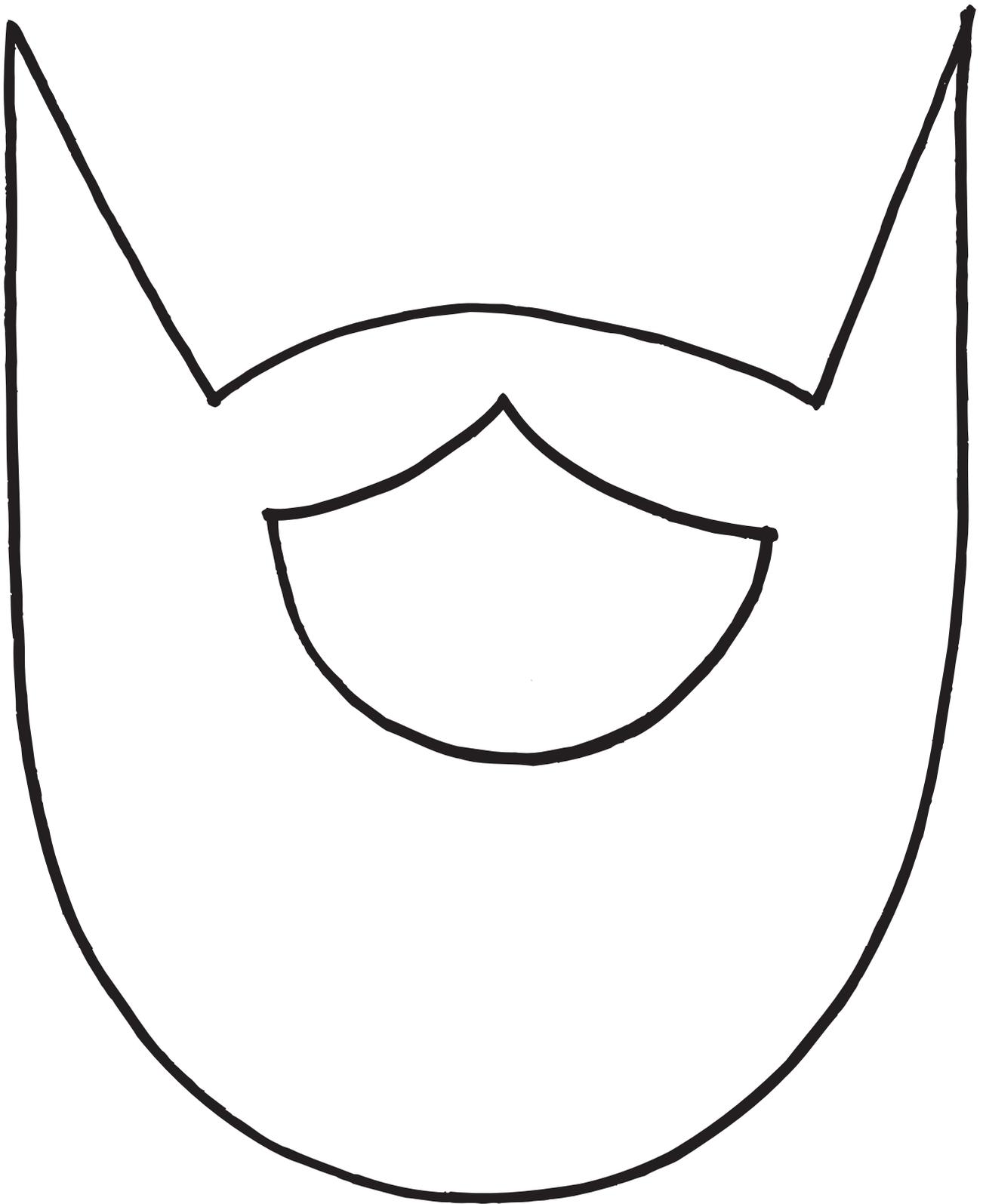
■ *Family Finger-Fun*

Lead children in a fun rhyme about people in families.

Here’s the father. (*Hold up your thumb.*)
Here’s the mother. (*Hold up your index finger.*)
Here’s the sister. (*Hold up your middle finger.*)
Here’s the brother. (*Hold up your ring finger.*)
And here’s the little baby. (*Hold up your little finger.*)
Thank you, God, for making families! (*Wiggle your fingers.*)

Pattern

Cut loosely around the pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outline.



Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

