

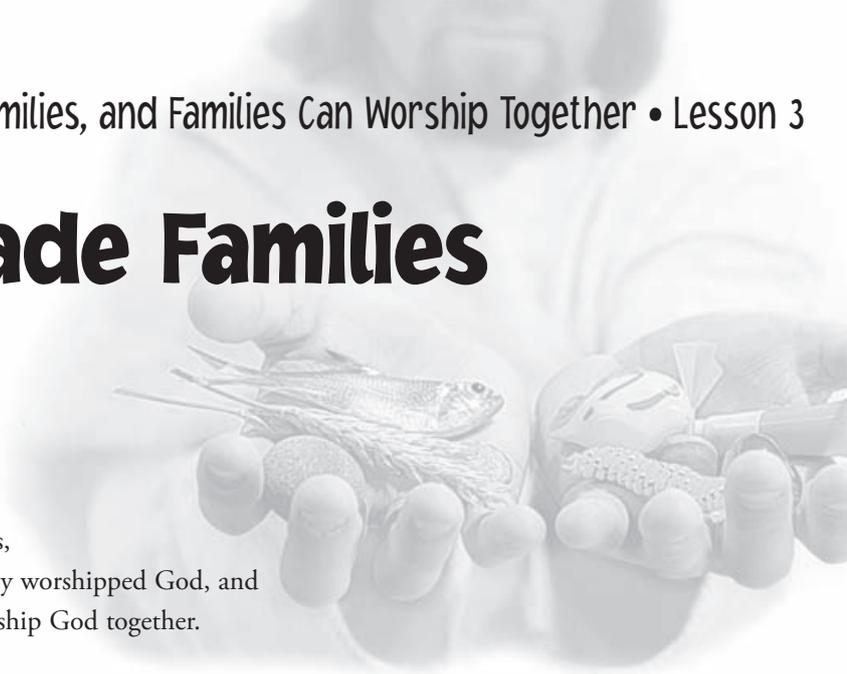
# God Made Families

## Bible Verse

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

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- realize that God made all families,
  - learn that Abraham and his family worshipped God, and
  - understand that families can worship God together.



## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

- **God made families, and families can worship together.**

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



Living by faith means trusting in God's promises even when earthly circumstances make things seem impossible. When Sarah got word of God's intention to give her a child in her old age, she laughed out loud. In her laughter and her cynical reply we hear the resignation of one who long ago accepted her fate as a barren woman. Often in life we resign ourselves to circumstances which we view as unchangeable. But God is supremely able to change unchangeable circumstances.

Sarah laughed yet again on the day her son was born. This time her laughter was that of joy, wonder, and worship rather than cynical resignation. No matter what circumstances we face each day, we can know that God is working all things for the good of those who love him. He is capable of mighty acts on our behalf. And the appropriate response to God's mighty acts is worship.

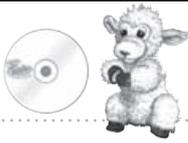
### Prayer

- Read Ephesians 3:20.
- Do you think of God as one who is able to do above and beyond what you think possible? When you worship God, does his awesome power to do all things readily come to mind?
- Have you ever experienced a time when God met your needs in an unexpected way? Are there circumstances in your life now which call for trust in his ability to do so again?
- Pray: Lord, you are so powerful. You can do far beyond what I am able to comprehend. Thank you that I can depend on you even when things seem impossible. Help the children I teach begin to see that nothing is impossible with you!

### 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
<b>Arrival Activities</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Welcome Time</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	<b>Option 1: Abraham's Tent</b> —Play in a pretend tent.	Bedsheet or blanket, Bible picture-books	
	<b>Option 2: Follow-Me Lambs</b> —Make fluffy lambs to follow them.	Paper cups, black construction paper, yarn, cotton balls, glue sticks, markers	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Bible Song</b> —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>God Made Families</b> —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.	Tape, scissors, box of cookies, yellow construction paper, tent from Option 1, large towel, doll blanket or scarf	
	<b>I Love My Family</b> —Sing an action song about families.	CD player	
<b>Bible Activities</b>	<b>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</b> —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Church pattern (p. 53), scissors, tape or pushpins, ribbon, lunch sack or shoe box, glue stick	
	<b>Sing It Out</b> —Sing an action song about families.	CD player	
	<b>Bible Craft</b> —Make an action picture, and "walk" the families to church.	Family pattern (p. 52), paper plates, glue stick, scissors, crayons	
	<b>Bible Game</b> —Pretend to be Abraham and take their lambs for a "walk."	Fluffy lambs from Option 2	
<b>Closing</b> 	<b>Rolled Up in Love</b> —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Flour tortillas, plastic knives, napkins, red jam, wet paper towels	

\*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.

## Option 1: Abraham’s Tent

**SUPPLIES:** bedsheet or blanket, Bible picture-books

Before children arrive, drape a bedsheet or blanket over a table or across chairs to create a “tent.” Scatter a few Bible picture-books inside the tent.

As toddlers arrive, invite them to crawl inside the tent. If there’s enough room, join children inside the tent and look at the pictures in the books. Remind children that ► God made families and that Abraham’s family lived in a tent. Tell children that Abraham and Sarah loved God and worshipped him.

Let children enjoy crawling in and out of the pretend tent. Leave the tent set up to use later.

## Option 2: Follow-Me Lambs

**SUPPLIES:** paper cups, black construction paper, yarn, cotton balls, glue sticks, markers

Before class, gather a paper cup and a 2-foot length of yarn for each child. Poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup, and thread the yarn through the hole. Knot the yarn so that the knot remains inside the cup.

Set out black construction paper, markers, glue sticks, and cotton balls. Invite children to make fluffy “lambs.” Have children glue cotton balls to the sides of the cups. Help children tear construction paper “ears” for their sheep and glue the ears near the bottoms of the cups. Use a marker to add eyes and smiling mouths. Be sure children’s names are written inside their cups.

As toddlers make their lambs, explain that Abraham took care of many sheep families. Remind children that ► God made families of people, and he also made families of sheep. When everyone has finished, encourage toddlers to pull their lambs around the room so that they “follow” the children.

Set the lambs aside until later.



**BIBLE POINT**



**teacher tips**

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.



**BIBLE POINT**



**teacher tips**

If not all the children choose to make fluffy lambs, have adult helpers make extras so each child has a lamb to use later.

## ■ 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:** tape, scissors, box of cookies, yellow construction paper, tent from Option 1, large towel, doll blanket or scarf



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.

Cut a large star from yellow construction paper for each child. Tape the stars around the room in plain sight. Also, remove the sheet of *blue cellophane* from the Learning Lab. Cut a construction paper frame to fit around the cellophane. Tape the frame around the cellophane to create a “window” using small pieces of tape that can be easily removed.



### Panel 1



Before you begin, be sure you’ve taped a big star within reach of each child somewhere in the room. Place a box of cookies beside the tent you made in Option 1. Have children wash their hands. Gather the children near the tent, and set tape, a towel, and the figure of baby Isaac behind you. Fold back the StoryBoard so children see only Panel 1.

In an “old” voice, say: **I have a beard, and I’m very old. I don’t have any children to hold. Who am I?** Hold the StoryBoard down so the children can point to Abraham. Encourage them to touch Abraham’s beard and headdress. Lead children in saying Abraham’s name. Then say: **Abraham was very old. All of his life, Abraham loved God. Put your hands over your hearts to show how much Abraham loved God.** Pause while children respond. **Abraham loved God, and Abraham loved his wife, Sarah. But Abraham didn’t have any little children to love. Abraham knew that ►*God made families*, so he prayed and asked God for a child. God told Abraham to count the stars in the sky. Let’s touch the pretend stars on the StoryBoard.** Allow toddlers to feel the stars on Panel 1.

**Let’s find pretend stars in our room. Use your “telescopes.”** Show children how to hold their hands like pretend telescopes. **Look all around, up and down. Find a star and bring it back to the StoryBoard.** Pause while children untape the stars and bring them back to the StoryBoard. **Look at all the stars you found! God told Abraham he’d have lots of children, just as you have lots of stars. Hold your stars in the air and say, ►*“God made families.”*** Lead children in repeating the Bible Point. Tape the stars to the children’s clothing. Then say: **Let’s see if Abraham will have a family. But first, we’ll tiptoe inside our tent and sit down.** Quietly lead the children to the tent you made in Option 1, and sit inside. Take the StoryBoard with you.



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.



## Panel 2



Say: **We're inside a tent that's like the tent where Abraham and Sarah lived.** Open the StoryBoard to Panel 2, which shows a tent. **We can peek inside Abraham's tent and see what it's like.** Let each child lift the tent flap on Panel 2 and peek inside.

Ask: • **Who did you see inside the tent?** (Sarah; a lady.)

Say: **Abraham and Sarah also worshipped God inside their tent. Abraham and Sarah told God how much they loved him. We can tell God how much we love him, too.** Have children say, "I love you, God," and then blow a kiss upward.

Point to Panel 2 and say: **Abraham had lots of animals. He took good care of them. Let's pat Abraham's sheep.** Let toddlers pat the lambs. Then ask:

• **How do sheep feel?** (Soft; fluffy.)

Say: **One day three special visitors came to see Abraham. Can you find the visitors?** Lead children in pointing to the three men on Panel 2. **Abraham and the visitors had dinner outside. We can have a treat outside our tent.** Lead children outside the tent, and hand each child a cookie to eat. Then say: **The visitors told Abraham exciting news! They said that God would give Abraham and Sarah a baby. Let's clap for Abraham and Sarah!** Clap with the children. **Now we'll see if Abraham and Sarah's baby is here.**

Unfold Panel 3, which shows Abraham and Sarah. Wrap the figure of baby Isaac in a doll blanket or scarf, then place the figure in Sarah's arms.

Whisper: **Oh! Who is Sarah holding? It's the baby God gave to Sarah and Abraham. The baby's name is Isaac. Would you like to hold him?** Hand the figure of baby Isaac to each child. Encourage children to say, "I love you" or "Hello, Isaac" to the baby.

## Panel 3



After everyone's had a turn holding the figure of Isaac, return it to the StoryBoard. Say: **Abraham and Sarah took good care of their little baby. See how they wrapped Isaac in a blanket? A blanket is like a hug. Let's have baby-blanket hugs!** Wrap the towel around each child and give him or her a hug.

**Abraham and Sarah were happy to have little baby Isaac. And I'm very happy to have you here in church today!**

Have the children sit in a circle with you on the floor. Show the children the framed cellophane window you made before class.

Say: **This is my pretend church window. Lots of churches have very pretty, colorful windows, just like this pretend window.** If your church has stained-glass windows, remind the children where they are located in the building. **Look what happens when I hold the pretend window to my face. You can see me, can't you? And I can see you, too!**

Say: **In our story, God made Abraham and Sarah's family. Abraham and Sarah loved and worshipped God. We can come to church with our families and worship God, too.**

Pass the framed cellophane around the circle. Encourage each child to peek through the "window" and see who he or she can see in church. The child may name a friend from class or a family member. After each child has had a turn, place the frame behind you.

Ask: • **Who brings you to church?** (My mommy; my grandma; my neighbor.)  
 • **What is your favorite thing about church?** (The singing; the snacks; my teacher.)

Say: ► ***God made families***, and God made my family and your family. God made Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac’s family, too. Our families can come to church and worship God, just as Abraham’s family worshipped God.





And one very special reason to worship God is because he sent Jesus to be our forever friend. When we believe in Jesus, we can become part of God’s family. That’s great news! Let’s give a cheer for God for sending Jesus! Lead children in a cheer for God.



**Important:** Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children. Save the *blue cellophane* for use in a later lesson.

Thanks for that cheer! Now let’s sing a song about families to show how happy we are that ► ***God made families***.



## ■ I Love My Family

SUPPLIES: CD player



track 6

Say: The Bible says in Genesis 1:26a that ► **God made families. Wiggle your fingers to make them 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.



**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.)*

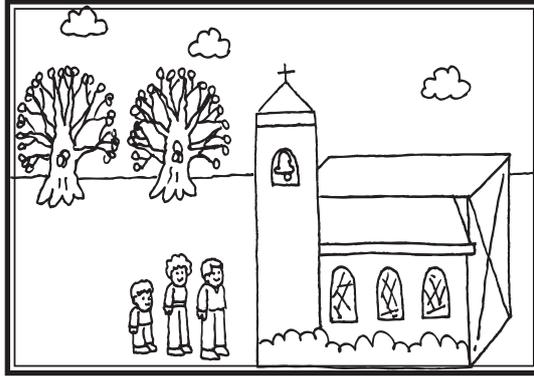
Say: Families are special. ► ***God made families***. And families can worship God just as Abraham and Sarah worshipped God. Let’s add a church to our bulletin board to show how families can worship God together.



# Bible Activities

## ■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

**SUPPLIES:** church pattern (p. 53), scissors, tape or pushpins, ribbon, lunch sack or shoe box, glue stick



members from the bulletin board. Tie a ribbon into a bow around Cuddles' neck.

Before class, photocopy the church pattern. Cut out the pattern. Glue the church pattern to the side of a lunch sack or shoe box, and then attach the church "building" to the bulletin board with removable tape or pushpins. Place the opening of the sack or box in such a way that children can put the family pictures from Lesson 1 inside.

Gently untape the family

*Bring out Cuddles the Lamb wearing a bow.*

**Teacher:** My, that's a pretty bow tie you're wearing, Cuddles! Is it new?

**Cuddles:** My mommy made it for me to wear to church today. She made one for my grandpa, too.

**Teacher:** That was very nice of her, Cuddles. It's fun to go to church with our families, isn't it?

**Cuddles:** Yes, and I 'specially like sitting with Grandpa 'cause he sings like this: *(in a silly singing voice)* Laaa laaa laaa...BAAA!

**Teacher:** *(Hands covering ears)* Oh, my! That *is* quite a song. We'll sing a little later, Cuddles. But right now, we've been learning that ► God made families and that families can worship God together. Would you like to help us with the bulletin board?

**Cuddles:** Yes, I like to help!

*Have Cuddles hand each child a picture of a family member. Let children slide the family members inside the church on the bulletin board. Each time someone places a family member in the church, lead toddlers in saying, "We love God."*

**Teacher:** It's fun to tell God we love him—especially when our whole family says it together. Let's all say, "We love God." Ready? We love God. Our classroom "family" can sing a song to worship God, too.

**Cuddles:** Can I sing, too?

**Teacher:** You can help us sing our family song, Cuddles!



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## ■ Sing It Out

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Have Cuddles lead children in singing “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) to the tune of “Frère Jacques.” Do the motions in parentheses for extra fun. When you’ve finished, set Cuddles out of sight.



**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: **We have a nice classroom family, and it’s fun singing together. Now let’s make a family that is going to church together.**

## ■ Bible Craft

**SUPPLIES:** family pattern (p. 52), paper plates, glue stick, scissors, crayons

Before class, photocopy the family pattern for each child. Cut out the pattern.

Set out the family pictures, crayons, and a glue stick. (You’ll need scissors to finish this craft—but keep them out of the children’s reach.) Hand each child a paper plate.

Help children glue the family picture to the center of their plates, and then let toddlers scribble-color the pictures. Use the scissors to poke holes through the dotted lines on the figure of the child. Invite toddlers to poke their fingers through the holes and make the child in the picture “walk.” As they play with their pictures, make comments such as “The family is walking to church” and “I’m glad that ► God made families and that families take walks together.”

Say: **We’ve had fun helping our families walk. Now let’s play another walking game.** Set the “walking pictures” aside for children to take home.



You may wish to help children modify the family patterns so they more closely represent their families.

## ■ Bible Game

*SUPPLIES: fluffy lambs from Option 2*

Have toddlers stand in a circle, and hand them the fluffy lambs they made in Option 2. Say: **Let's pretend to be shepherds like Abraham. We can take our lambs for a walk.** Have toddlers walk in a circle as they pull their lambs. After a few moments, say: **Look! Our lambs are following behind us! Let's say a fun rhyme as we walk with our lambs.** Say the following rhyme as you walk around the classroom.

**Abraham had a lamb,  
Its fleece was white as snow.  
And everywhere that Abraham went,  
The lamb was sure to go.**

Repeat the rhyme but use children's names instead of "Abraham." Continue until you've used everyone's name in the rhyme. Then say: **Now quietly lead your lambs to the snack table.**



## Closing

### ■ Rolled Up in Love

*SUPPLIES: flour tortillas, plastic knives, red jam, napkins, wet paper towels*

Say: **We've been learning that ► God made families. We've also learned that families can worship God just as Abraham did. Our class is like a family, and we can worship God together. Hold hands, and we'll pray. Pray: Dear God, thank you for making families. Thank you that we can come to church with our families. We love you, God. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Have children wash their hands. Hand each child half of a flour tortilla on a napkin. Help children spread red jam into the shape of a heart on their tortillas. Then demonstrate how to roll up the tortillas. Say: **This tortilla is like our family. There's lots of love inside our families. Now gobble up your treats and feel that love inside your hearts—and tummies!**

Have children throw their napkins in the wastebasket when they've finished. Use the wet paper towels for cleanup. Be sure children take home their fluffy lambs and walking pictures.





## 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.

### ■ Family Finger-Fun

Lead toddlers in repeating the finger rhyme they learned last week.

**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.*)

### ■ God Made My Family

Without using the CD, sing “God Made My Family” with the children to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.” Have older toddlers walk in a circle as they sing.



#### SING

**God made my family** (*point upward*)

**For giving love and care.** (*Hug yourself.*)

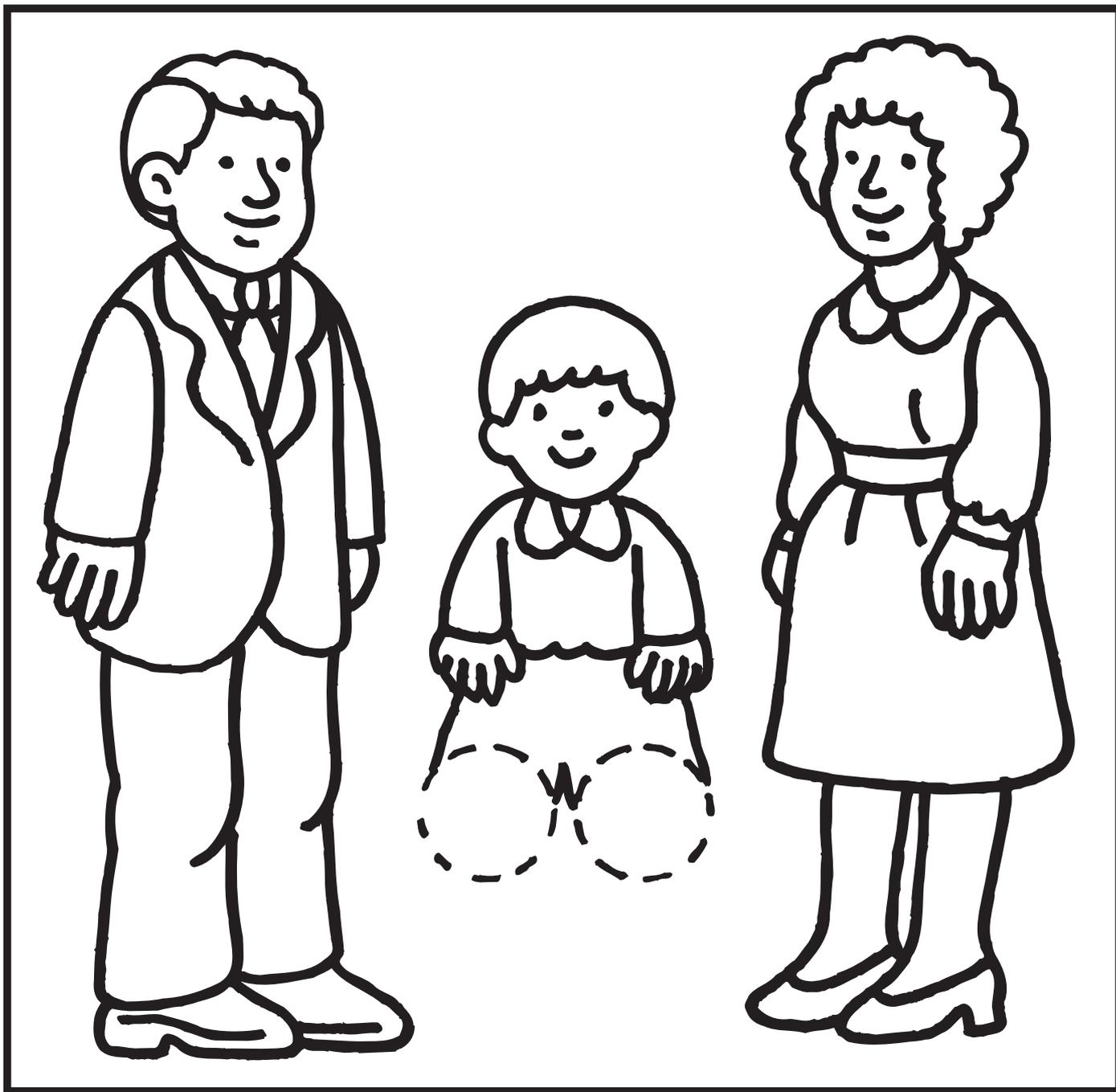
**God made my family** (*point upward*)

**To show me how to share.** (*Hold your hands palms up.*)

(Repeat.)

# Pattern

Cut around the square.



# Pattern

Cut around the pattern.

