

Our Family

The Church

Lesson 2

Lesson Objectives

- The children will meet and get to know a leader in their church.
- The children will relate their physical family to their spiritual family, the church.
- The children will practice listening to members of their spiritual family.

Lesson Text

Acts 2:44-47

Scripture Memory Verse

All the believers shared everything they had.

Acts 4:32

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: My Two Families

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Sasha's Story

Life Application: Meet a Leader

Craft: My Family Book

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.



Our Family

My Two Families

The children will create a picture of the members of both their physical and spiritual families.

Materials

For each child:

- crayons

For the teacher:

- glue stick
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 2 copies for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the pictures from the copies of Reproducible Page A.
2. Glue two of the copies back to back.
3. Label one side "Spiritual Family" and the other side "Physical Family."
4. Make a model for the children.

Instructions

1. Explain to the children that they all have two families: their physical family with their mother, father, brothers and sisters and their church family with their friends from Bible class, teachers and leaders. Show the children your model and explain who the people are.
2. Give each child the pictures that are glued together.
3. Have the children color each family member on the physical family side.
4. Have the children then color each family member on the spiritual family side.

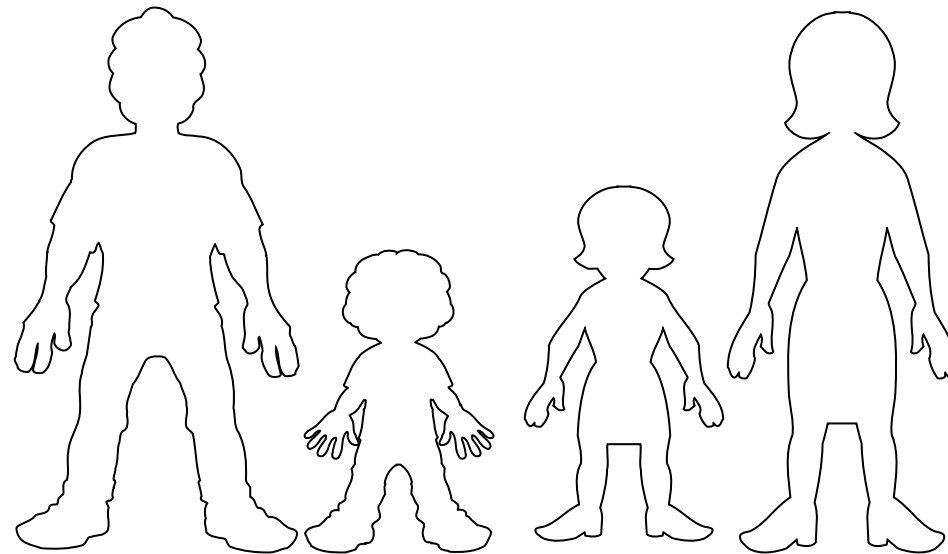
NOTE: After the center is over, give the pictures to the Life Application teacher.

Conclusion

Have the children explain who their members of their family are to each other as they color.

Teacher Tips

- Punch a hole in the top of the pictures and thread a piece of string through it so it can be hung up.



Our Family

Sasha's Story

This story will help the children to understand what it might have been like to live during the time of the first church.

Lesson Text

Acts 2:44-47

Materials

For the teacher:

- a shawl to wrap around your shoulders for female teachers
- a sheet to wrap around your body for male teachers
- a basket
- various articles of clothing to share (gloves, scarves, socks, etc.)

Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the story so you can tell it as if you were living during the time of the first church.

Sasha's Story

Open your Bible.

Hi, boys and girls. My name is Sasha. I lived in Jerusalem many, many years ago when God's church first started. You can read about it today in the book of Acts in the Bible. Hold up the Bible.

In those days a lot of people were becoming disciples. It was wonderful to see the church family grow bigger and bigger. Disciples in the church told other people about Jesus. People came every day to learn more about Jesus and to be baptized.

Many people came from faraway towns because they were so excited that God's church had started in Jerusalem. The town of Jerusalem got more and more crowded as people came to hear about Jesus. Many of the people who were baptized stayed in Jerusalem. They did not go back to their own towns because they wanted to stay with their new church families.

Everyone was so happy. We met in one another's homes. We shared our food and ate together. We prayed together. The apostles taught us about God.

There were so many people in the city that some of them did not have enough clothes to wear. Some of the children were cold and needed coats.

The Bible tells us that we should share, so all the disciples shared with each other. Distribute the clothing to the children in the group. We shared everything: clothes, food, blankets, even our houses. No one was in need. We all had everything that we needed.

One morning there was a knock on the door. Knock on the wall or table. I opened the door and one of the disciples was standing there. He had good news to share about a young man named Mark who had just been baptized early that morning. Mark is a friend of my family. I was so excited that he was baptized and was now a part of God's family too. When I heard the great news, I ran to my mother and father and told them. We all jumped for joy. Then we all gathered around to hear about Mark becoming a Christian.

How do you feel when someone gets baptized? Is it exciting? Let the children respond. It is really an exciting time when people study the Bible and become disciples, and become a part of our family! Once someone becomes a disciple, they join our spiritual family – the church.

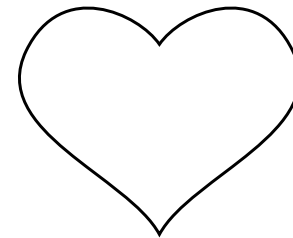
I had such a great time visiting with you today. It is wonderful to see God's family doing so well. Thank you for letting me share with you.

Conclusion

Ask the children if they have any questions. Talk with them about anyone who recently got baptized. Explain in simple terms what it means to be baptized, e.g., a teen or adult gets baptized when they decide they want to be like Jesus.

Teacher Tips

- Be sure to keep the questions focused on the Bible. The children may want to ask silly questions.





Meet a Leader

This activity will help the children to see that God gives us leaders to help us.

Scripture Memory Verse

All the believers shared everything they had.

Acts 4:32

Materials

For each child:

- "My Two Families" from the Preclass Activity

Preparation

Invite a church leader to visit as your guest this week. Explain to the leader that the class has been studying God's church, relating their physical family to their spiritual family, the church. Explain that the goal is for everyone to get to know one another.

Ask the leader to bring in pictures of their family.

Instructions

Introduce the leader to the group. Explain that this person is a leader in the church and that they are visiting to meet the children in the class.

Have the leader share their name with the children and explain, in simple terms, what they do for the church: help disciples learn how to study the Bible with their friends, help the church find buildings to meet in, etc.

Have the leader share about their family. Let the children share their picture from the Preclass Activity with the leader.

Scripture Memory Activity

Have a child volunteer to say the scripture memory verse. Ask the children if anyone can explain what the verse means.

Conclusion

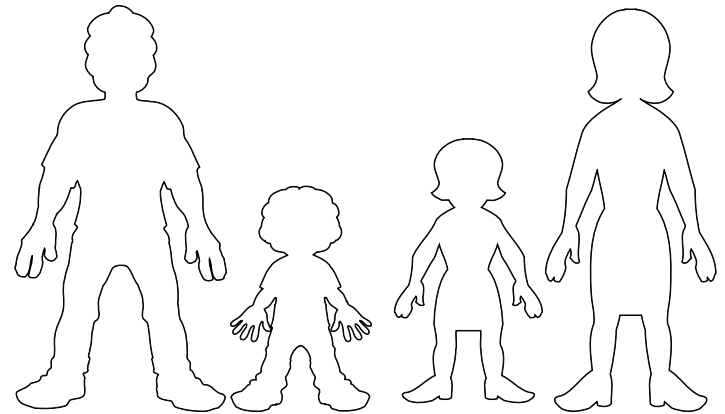
Pray with the children, thanking God for leaders, specifically for the leader that is visiting.

We are so lucky to have such great leaders in our church. They help us so much. Encourage the children to share with their friends about the person that they met today. *God provides us with so many great people who help us in our lives.*

Before the children leave, be sure they thank the person for visiting and for the hard work that he or she does.

Teacher Tips

- Try to select a leader who has had experience with children.
- Prepare the visiting leader for the class, building it up and making it exciting.
- Be prepared to introduce the leader to the group, share what great things he or she does for God.
- Help the children understand how hard the leaders work.



Our Family

All the believers shared
everything they had.

Acts 4:32



Our Family

My Family Book

This craft will help the children to share their love for their family and for God's family.

Materials

For each child:

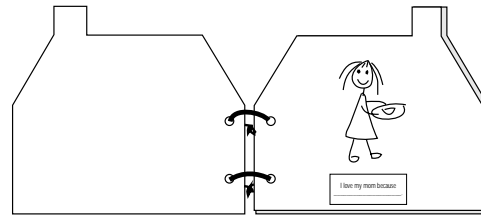
- 3 pieces of white paper
- 1 brightly colored piece of poster board, 8½" x 11"
- 1 large envelope (optional)
- glue stick
- crayons or markers

For the teacher:

- yarn
- hole punch
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page C, 1 copy for each child



Preparation

1. Cut out the house stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page B.
2. Make a book for each child as follows:
 - A. Trace and cut out two houses from poster board.
 - B. Write: "My Family Book" on one of the covers.
 - C. Trace and cut out three houses for each child from white paper.
 - D. Place the front cover, three houses and a back cover together and then punch two holes on the left side of each book. NOTE: Be sure to have the colored side of the back cover facing outward.
3. Cut out the text boxes from the copies of Reproducible Page C.
4. Cut two 6" pieces of yarn for each child.
5. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

1. Show the children your model of the craft. Explain each page to them, reading the answers that you wrote.
2. Give each child a book and two pieces of yarn. Help the children thread the yarn through the holes in the book, and then tie them at the ends. NOTE: Be sure not to tie the yarn too tight or the pages will be hard to turn.
3. Have the children complete their books, see Figure A, as follows:
 - A. Give each child the "mom text box." Have each child glue the text box to the first page inside the book.
 - B. Have the children draw a picture on the first page of how their mother helps them.
 - C. Give each child the "dad text box." Have each child glue the text box to the second page inside the book.
 - D. Have the children each draw a picture on the second page of how their dad loves them.
 - E. Give each child the "person text box." Have each child glue the text box to the third page inside the book.
 - F. Have the children each draw a picture on the third page of one person in the church for whom they are thankful.
4. As the children are drawing, talk with each child and write their responses on the blank spaces in the text boxes of their books.
5. If time allows, have the children decorate their book covers.

Conclusion

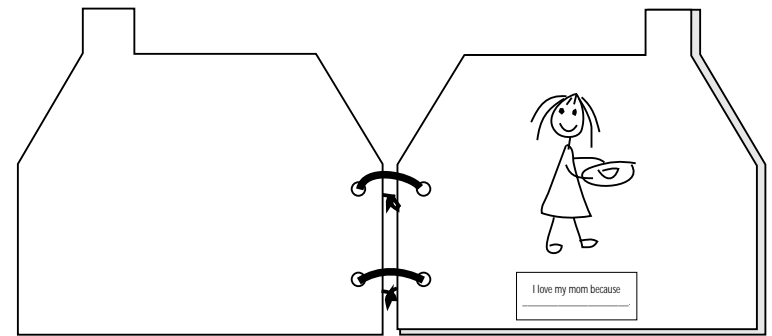
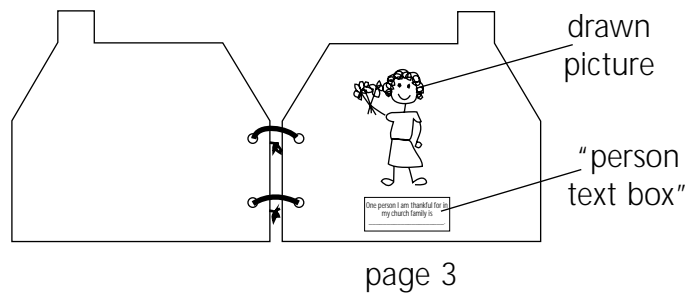
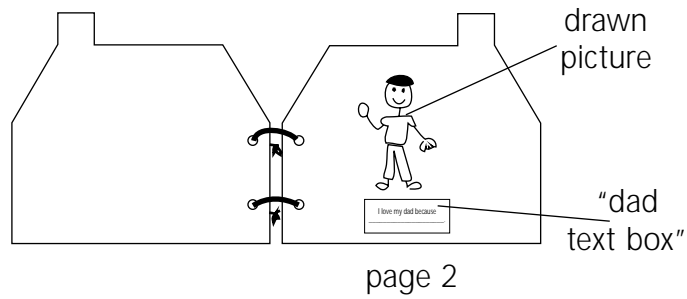
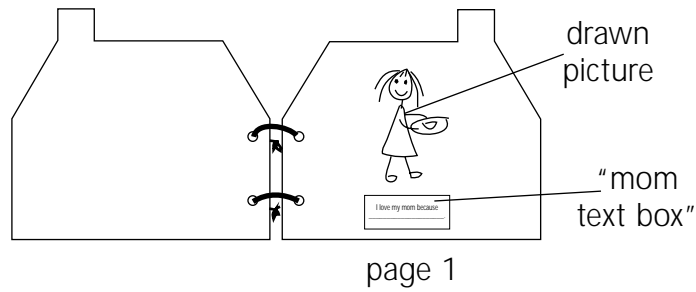
Encourage the children to share their books with each other. Ask them who they will share their books with at home.

Teacher Tips

- Some children may be from a single parent household. Be sensitive and creative by helping the children to think of teachers and friends they can list in their "family book."
- When you are finished preparing the materials for each child, place them into a large envelope.
- Use hole reinforcers on the pages of the books to make them sturdier.

CRAFT

Our Family



Finished Craft

Figure A





Pre class



Lesson Objectives

- The children will meet and get to know a leader in their church.
- The children will relate their physical family to their spiritual family, the church.
- The children will practice listening to members of their spiritual family.

Lesson Text

Acts 2:44-47

Scripture Memory Verse

All the believers shared everything they had.

Acts 4:32

God's Family

The children will make a chart showing that they are part of God's family.

Materials

For each child:

- markers
- crayons
- glue
- yarn for hair
- small fabric pieces
- assorted paper

For the teacher:

- 1 piece of poster board

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each child

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: God's Family

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Game: I Can Listen

Craft: Sharing Hearts

Life Application: Meet a Leader

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.

Preparation

1. Draw an outline of a house on the poster board.
2. Write "We are God's Family" at the top of the poster board.
3. Cut out the child shapes from the copies of Reproducible Page D.
4. Cut fabric pieces to fit onto the child shapes.
5. Cut the yarn into 2" and 4" pieces to be used as hair.

Instructions

1. Remind the children that the Bible story is about the first disciples. *All disciples are part of God's family.*

2. Give each child a child shape and have them color it and decorate it to look like themselves.
3. Have each child glue their child shape onto the poster board house.

Conclusion

As the children complete their child shapes, ask them what they love about the church. Talk about each person being important in the family of God.

Ask them who is absent, if anyone, from class. Talk about how much they miss their friends when they are absent.



I Can Listen

This game will help the children practice listening and learning about each other.

Materials

For the teacher:

- ball or bean bag



Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the game.



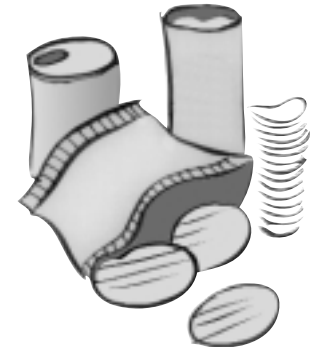
Instructions

1. Remind the children that they have been learning about the first disciples. *Disciples make up God's church—his family. In a family it is important to listen to one another, right? What happens if you don't listen to your sister when she asks you to pass the butter? Do you pass her the milk instead? Today we are going to play a game to practice listening to one another.*
2. Have the children sit in a circle.
3. Explain that each person will get a chance to hold the ball and say their name and one thing that they like. But first, they must repeat the name and thing that was said by the person who gave them the ball. For example: Person #1 says, "My name is Tim and I like ice cream." And he rolls the ball to person #2 who says, "Tim likes ice cream. My name is Sue and I like dogs." Sue rolls it to person #3 who says, "Sue likes dogs. My name is Greg and I like snow monkeys."



Teacher Tips

- Encourage older children to try to remember the two people that went before their turn.
- Encourage younger children to remember just the name by saying "thanks, Tim," before saying their own name and what they like.



Sharing Hearts

The children will make crafts to give to someone that they are thankful for in the church.

Materials

For each child:

- 2 pipe cleaners, 8"
- 1 lollipop
- 5" x 5" piece of red construction paper

For the teacher:

- 1 deck of cards for every 13 children
- scissors
- glue
- pushpin
- black marker

Reproducible Pages:

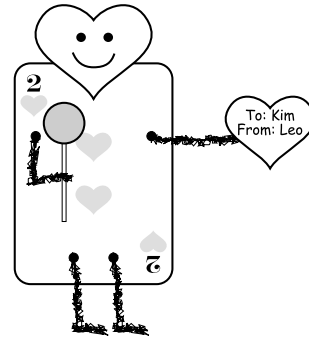
- Page E, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Separate the heart cards from the rest of the deck. Discard the remaining cards.
2. Punch four holes in each heart card, as shown in Figure A.
3. Prepare two paper hearts for each child as follows:
 - A. Cut out the heart stencils from the copy of Reproducible Page E.
 - B. Trace and cut one large and one small heart from red construction paper for each child.
 - C. On the small heart, write, "To:," and then underneath that write, "From:."
4. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

1. Show the children the model. *In our Bible story we are learning about the first disciples. They were people who loved to share. Do you remember some of the things that they shared? (food, clothing, houses) Today you get to share, too. You will be able to give this craft to someone that you are thankful for here at church.*



2. Have each child prepare the card "face," see Figure B, as follows:
 - A. Give each child a card and a large heart. Have the children draw a face on the large heart.
 - B. Have the children glue the large heart onto the top of the card.
3. Have each child prepare the card "arms" and "legs," see Figure C, as follows:
 - A. Give each child a pipe cleaner. Help the child to gently thread the pipe cleaner starting from the card's back through the side holes creating the arms.
 - B. Give each child another pipe cleaner. Help the child to gently thread the pipe cleaner starting from the card's back through the bottom holes creating the legs.
 - C. Have the children bend the end of the pipe cleaners making hands and feet.
4. Have each child finish the card, see Figure D, as follows:
 - A. Give each child a small heart, and then help them wrap a pipe cleaner hand around the heart to hold it in place.
 - B. Give each child a lollipop and have them wrap the other pipe cleaner hand around it.
 - C. As the children work, ask them to whom they plan to give their craft. Write the appropriate responses in the "To" and "From" areas on their hearts.

Conclusion

Have the children share with the group about whom they are going to give their Sharing Hearts to.

Teacher Tips

- Use wiggle eyes on the large hearts.
- Encourage the children to give their Sharing Hearts to people other than their friends in the Bible class.
- Smaller lollipops will be lighter and easier to work with.

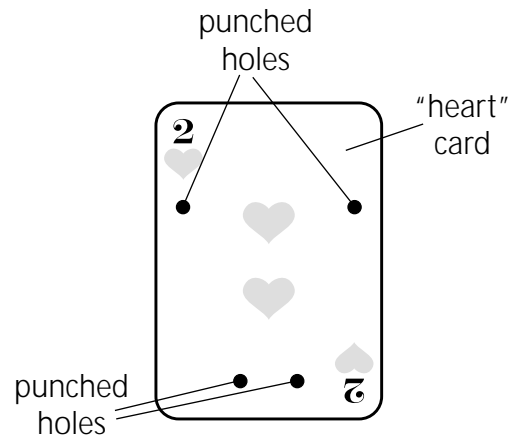


Figure A

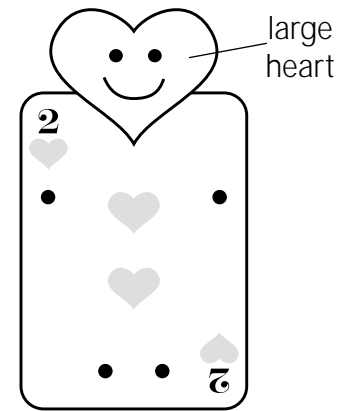


Figure B

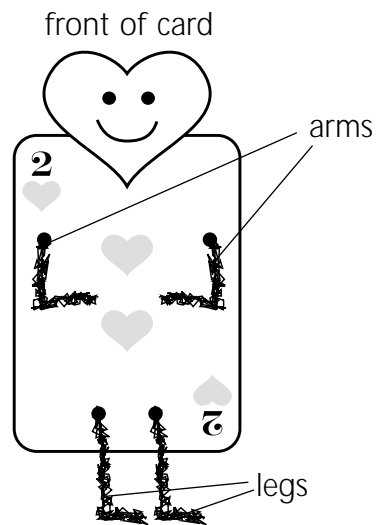
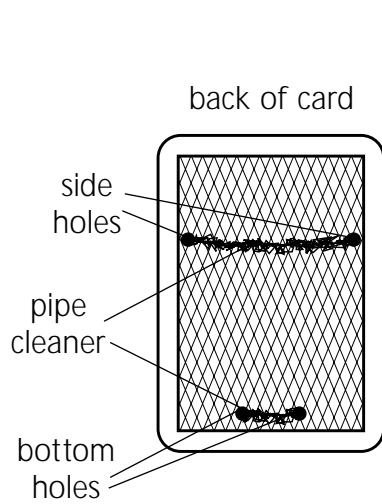


Figure C

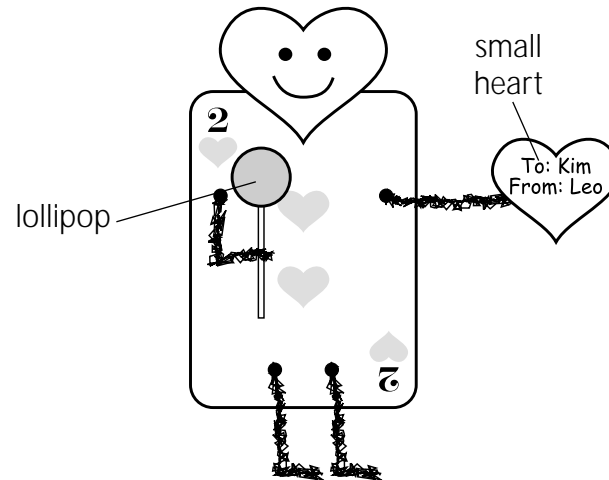


Figure D



Meet a Leader

This activity will help the children to see that God gives us leaders to help us.

Scripture Memory Verse

All the believers shared everything they had.
Acts 4:32

Materials

For each child:

- "My Two Families" from the Preclass Activity

Preparation

Invite a church leader to visit as your guest this week. Explain to the leader that the class has been studying God's church, relating their physical family to their spiritual family, the church. Explain that the goal is for everyone to get to know one another.

Ask the leader to bring in pictures of their family.

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Scripture Memory Activity

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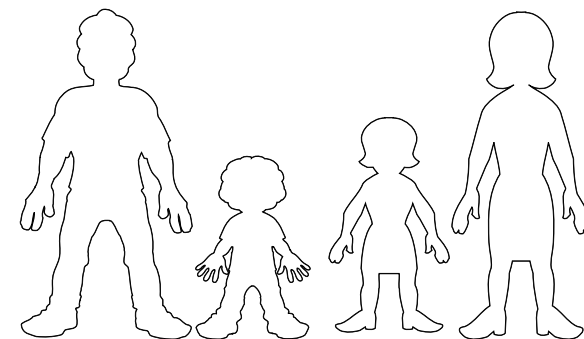
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Teacher Tips

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- Be prepared to introduce the leader to the group, share what great things he or she does for God.
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All the believers shared
everything they had.

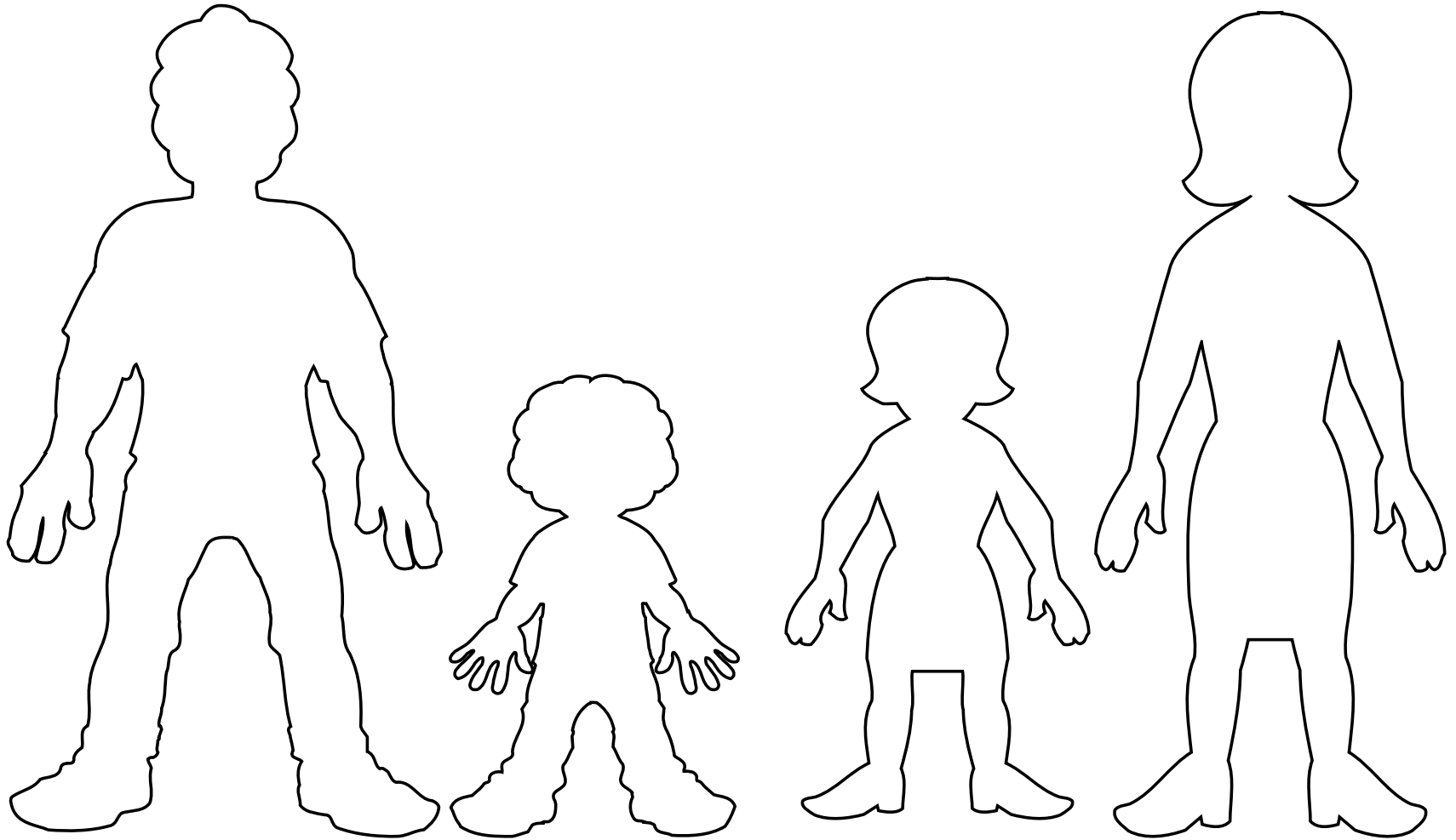
Acts 4:32



Core/Preclass Activity
2 copies for each child

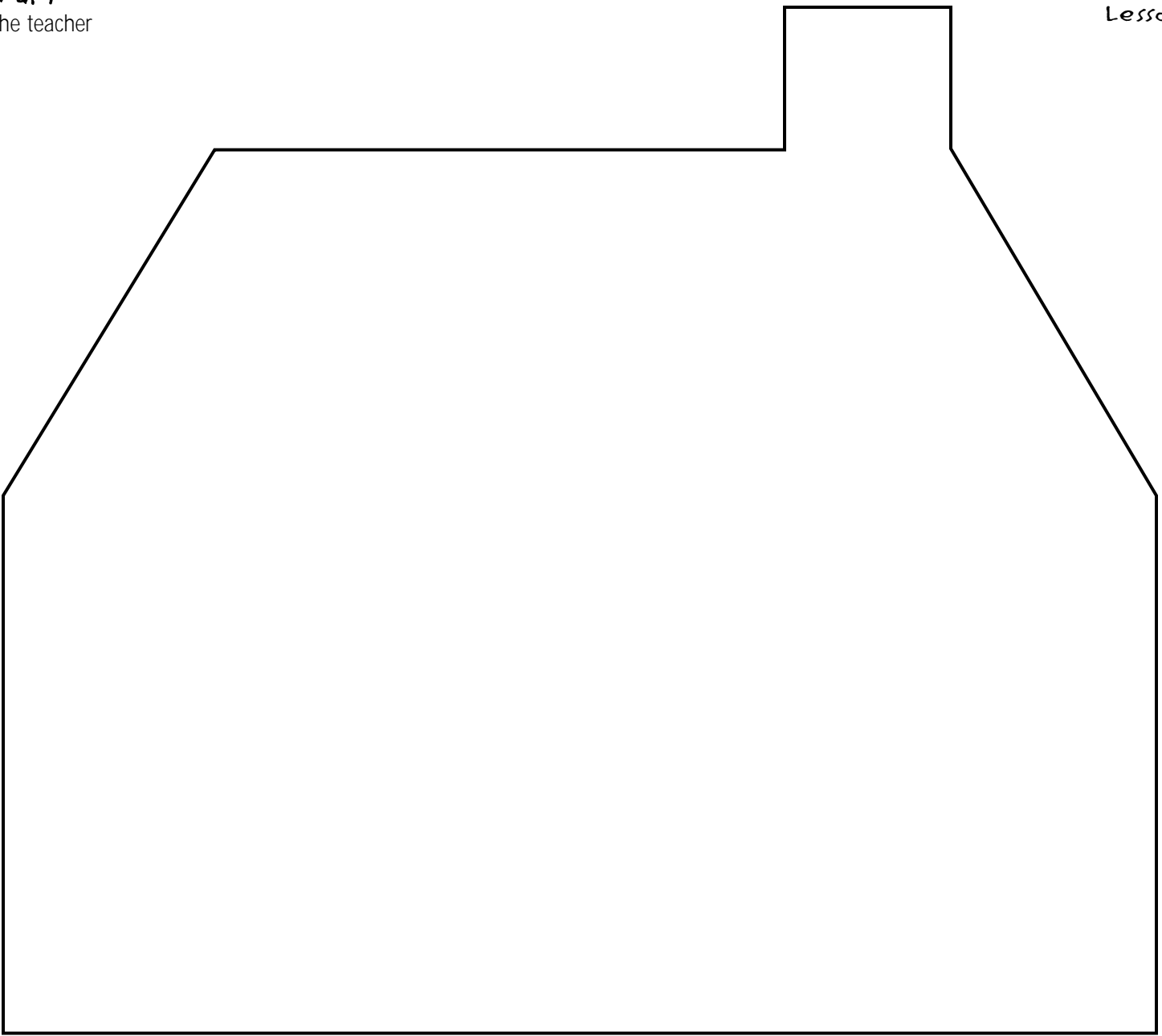
The Church

Lesson 2



Core/Craft
1 copy for the teacher

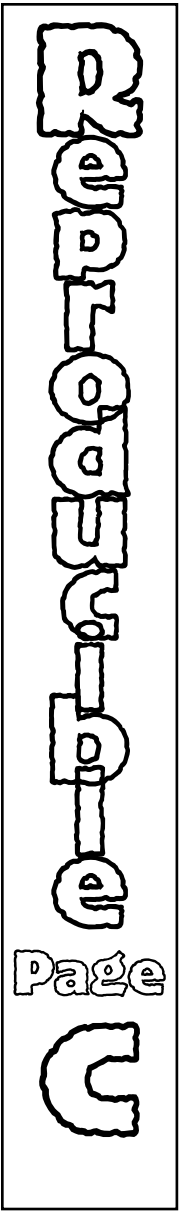
REPRODUCTION
Page
B



house stencil



Core/Craft
1 copy for each child



I love my mom because
_____.

mom text box

I love my dad because
_____.

dad text box

One person I am thankful for
in my church family is
_____.

person text box



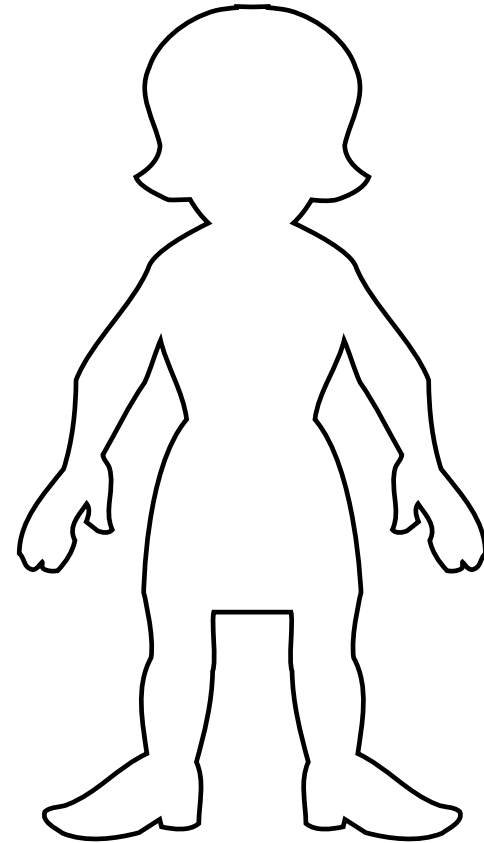
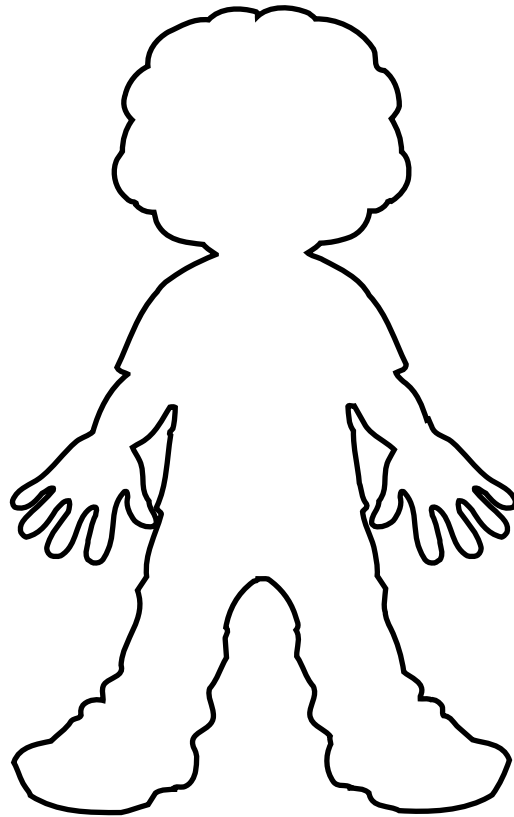
Supplement/Preclass Activity

1 copy for each child

Discipleship Publications

Page


D




child shapes

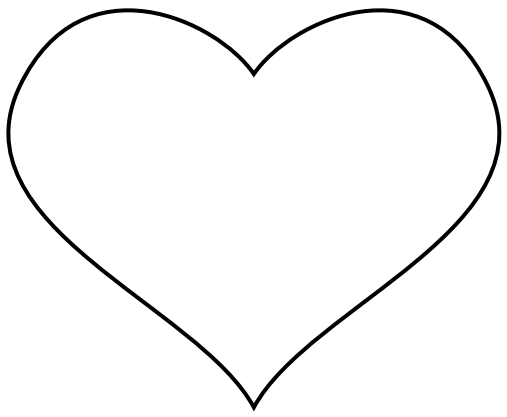


Supplement/Craft
1 copy for the teacher

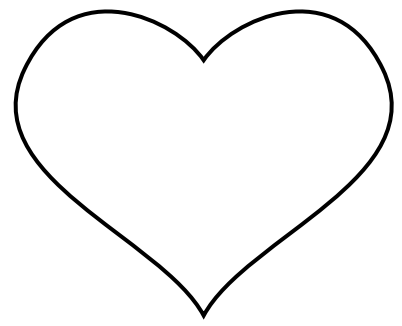


 Page





"large heart"
stencil



"small heart"
stencil

