



# EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN GOD'S FAMILY. HE TREASURES EACH PERSON.

## BIG IDEA

We are part of two important families – the one we were born into and the one we are part of when we say 'yes' to following Jesus.

### PREP *(Kids can help!)*

**Buy** a packet of jelly babies or mini gingerbread men (gummy bears will do!)

**Find** baby photos of everyone. Place each on a numbered (not according to birth order) A4 piece of paper. If you prefer, photocopy the baby photos and number them

**Find** paper and pencils

**Find** salt shaker or pepper mill

**Find** a birth certificate

**Photocopy** 'God's Family Certificate' from the appendix, one for each person

**Put everything into the Faith Box before you start**

### INTRO

**GIVE EVERYONE A TURN** holding the salt shaker or pepper mill and telling who they are. Each takes just a few words to identify themselves. (eg 'I am Ben and I am a \_\_\_\_\_'.)

**Put the numbered baby photos out on the table. Hand out paper and pencils and ask everyone to write down who the baby is in each photo.**

**The one that guesses the most gets a mini gingerbread man or your choice of treat.**



## QUESTIONS

What happens when a baby is welcomed into a family?

Do you know what happened when you were born?

Who came to see you in the hospital to welcome you into the world?

What did our family members notice when we were born?

They usually look to see if you have Mum's nose or Dad's eyes or ears and they are so proud of you because you are theirs. Did you know that God takes so much pleasure in making people and puts a special combination of DNA in each person? Usually they have some things that make them look or act like their parents. For instance you might have Mum's blue eyes or walk like Dad.

But when you become one of God's children and are adopted into his family, God puts his hereditary or his spiritual DNA in you. That means you may be only a baby in his family but, with God's help each day, you will grow to be like Jesus.

*Take out the birth certificate.*

## QUESTIONS

Who knows what this is?

What does it say? (It gives your official name and says who you are.)

Who knows what their name means?

Well God knows your name and he saw you even before you were born. In fact he made you and was really excited when you were born!

But there is one thing that makes God even more excited than the day you were born. That is when he adopts us into his huge family of people who love him. When we give up trying to live in our own strength and ask Jesus to be our saviour, then he forgives all our sins and writes our name in his book of life forever.

## READ

*Hand out the rest of the family treats to eat as you read:*

A family tree is generally a chart that visually represents family relationships, and is designed in a tree structure. A family tree is also called a genealogy chart and it tells us where we come from. The Bible tells us where we come from and what our inheritance from God is.

“But when the time arrived that was set by God the Father, God sent his Son ... so that he might redeem us ... Thus we have been set free to experience our rightful heritage. You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, “Papa! Father!” Doesn't that privilege of intimate conversation with God make it plain that you are not a slave, but a child? And if you are a child, you're also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance.”

*Galatians 4:4-6; The Message*

## EXPLORE

### QUESTIONS

Who is in your family?

Is it just the ones who live with you? What about aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents?

What does it mean to be adopted?

When we decide to follow Jesus, we are adopted into God's family.

Who else is in God's family?

*Take out the 'God's Family Certificates' and ask everyone to fill in their own name.*

Have you ever noticed that when you go and play at someone else's house they have some different rules and different ways of doing things? Can you think of any examples?

The family of God also has its own ways of doing things, its own rules and its own things that are important.

What are some of the things that are important in God's family?

Being in God's family is having a heavenly father who is proud of us, who is smiling at us and noticing

when we try to please him. He is always ready to listen to you and ready to help you out. He whispers encouragement in our ears and holds our hands when we are having a rough time. He picks us up and dusts us down if we fall over and he never ever leaves us.

Most of all God is bigger and stronger than anything else in the world and he promises he will always send his angels to protect us.

## PRAY

**Thank you God for the two special families that I belong to.**

## LIVE

Place your 'God's Family Certificates' somewhere on display this week as a reminder that we are all children of God.

Each night before you go to sleep this week, ask your child who they are. Remind them, "You are a 'Watson' and you are a child of God!"

One Maori grandfather said to his children every morning as they left for school, "Ko e wareware ko wai koe, no whea koe" which means "Remember who you are and where you come from."



## OTHER IDEAS

**1** Take time to look at your family tree – how far back does it go?

**2** Write a letter to a family member who lives far away.



## BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- Treats/biscuits
- Two candles
- A small mirror
- A map
- A torch



SESSION FIVE

GOD'S FAMILY CERTIFICATE



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

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LOVES JESUS AND HAS BEEN  
ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD