

LESSON

4

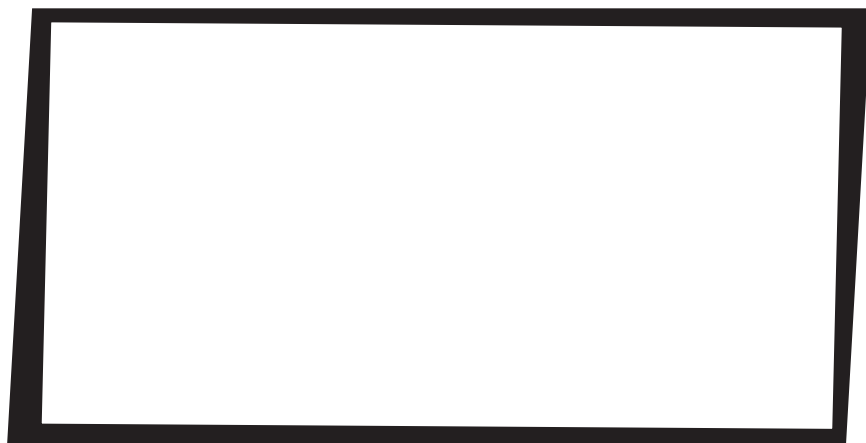
GROWING WITH GOD'S FAMILY

How Is Your Life With Jesus?

How is your new life with Jesus? Have you talked with him during this past week? Have you been learning about Jesus from God's Word? He loves you so much!

YOUR FAMILY

What is your own family like? Draw a picture of them here:

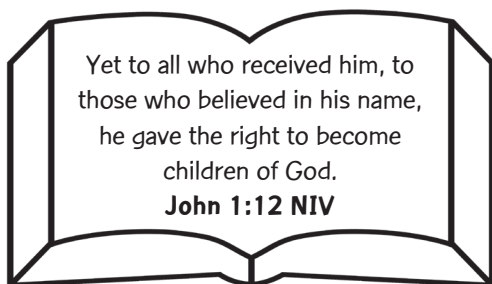


Since you believed in Christ to be your Savior, you are also part of God's forever family. This lesson will help you learn more about this new family and how it helps you grow in your life with Jesus.



GOD'S FAMILY IS BIG

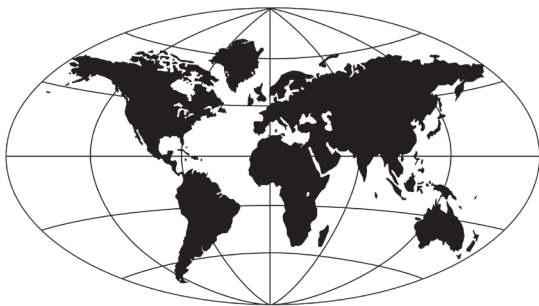
How do you know you are in God's family? God's Word tells us that this is what happened when you believed in Jesus.



So, How Big Is This Family?

It is huge. Nearly one-third of all the people who live on the earth are part of this family. They believe in Jesus as their Savior.

Where do you live? Can you find it on this map of the world?



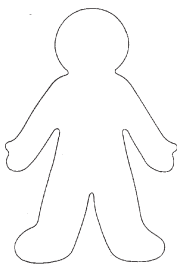
**THINK
ABOUT
THIS**

- ♦ Most people still do NOT know about Jesus.
- ♦ What does God want his family to do about this? Tell them!



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

The Bible uses many other words to describe God's family. All of them help us to realize we are not alone.



WE ARE LIKE A BODY:

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:4-5 NIV



WE ARE LIKE A BUILDING:

You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house ... And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

1 Peter 2:5 and Ephesians 2:22 NIV



In the verses above, circle or underline words that remind us that we are not alone, we belong together.

Most importantly, God's family are people who grow together in ...

... love for God.

... love for each other.

... love for others around us (near and far).

**What will you enjoy most about
God's family?**



WHAT DOES GOD'S FAMILY DO?

THEY MEET TOGETHER

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.

Hebrews 10:25 NIV

THEY LEARN TOGETHER

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42 NIV

THEY WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:19 NIV

THEY LOVE EACH OTHER

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:35 NIV

THEY SHINE JESUS TO THE WORLD

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 NIV

**Where can you find
and meet with
God's family?**

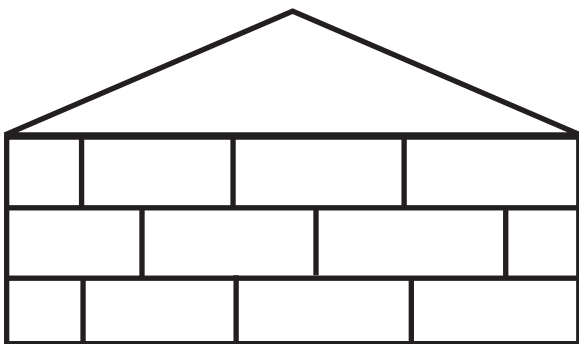


MANY PARTS, ONE JOB

When you trusted in Christ you became part of the Church (another name for God's family). Of course, you are not a stone or a piece of wood. Instead you are part of something much **BIGGER** than you.

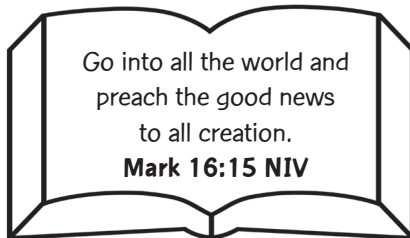


People who are up in heaven, like the Apostle Paul, are part of the Church. Write his name in a brick below. Add the names of some other New Testament Christians, too.



Now write **YOUR** name in one of these "bricks." Add names of a few Christian people you know.

Please leave some blank. Why? Because there are many who have yet to trust in Christ. The building is not complete yet. Who will tell them about him? This is what Jesus had to say about it:



Jesus wants his followers to tell people about him. What a great honor!



A BIBLE STORY

BELIEVERS PRAY FOR PETER

The book of Acts is full of stories about when the Church was new, just after Jesus had lived on earth. There was much persecution of Christians. But the believers helped each other. This is one story.

Acts 12:5-16 NIV

(The Bible book of Acts, chapter 12, verses 5 to 16)

⁵So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. ⁶The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. ⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

⁸Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. ⁹Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

¹¹Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating." ¹²When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.

¹³Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. ¹⁴When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!" ¹⁵"You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

¹⁶But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.



**THINK
ABOUT
THIS**

- ◆ What did God do for the believers as they prayed together?
- ◆ What do you learn about God's family?



LOVING ONE ANOTHER

One of the main jobs of God's family is to love one another. There are many Bible verses that teach us about this.



For each Bible verse below, fill in the blank with one or more words showing how God wants his people to treat each other.

_____ ONE ANOTHER

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. **Galatians 5:13 NIV**

_____ ONE ANOTHER

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 NIV

_____ ONE ANOTHER

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

_____ ONE ANOTHER

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. **1 Peter 1:22 NIV**

_____ ONE ANOTHER

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

James 5:16a NIV

Where and when will YOU meet with God's family to practice loving one another?



SOMETHING TO DO...

VISIT A CHURCH; WRITE IN YOUR JOURNAL

If you can, visit a church or children's meeting with other people who are following Jesus, like you. After your visit, write down or draw what you saw and learned there.

ASK YOUR QUESTIONS

Do you have more questions about your new life with Jesus or God's family? Write your questions here or in your journal. Ask another person in God's family to help you find answers.

?

?

TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Talk to God anywhere. Ask for his help to find a group of God's family to meet and grow with. Ask for his help to get good friends who will also help you grow strong in your life with Jesus. Pray for other people you know who are part of God's family.

A Bible Verse to Remember

A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:34-35 NIV