

THE Family OF GOD



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE.

USE THESE ICONS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THIS WEEK'S LESSON



EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO ACCEPTS JESUS' GIFT OF SALVATION BECOMES PART OF THE FAMILY OF GOD.

This family includes people of every age, language and country. God's family is the BIGGEST family ever, and it's filled with people who love and care for one another because of Jesus. Since God's family is so big, it would be impossible for us to know every single "brother" and "sister" we have in Christ, let alone care for each and every one of them!

That's why God places us in local churches. Our home church is the family of God that lives, works and plays in and around our community. This is where we learn

what it means to be part of God's family, how to follow Jesus and how to encourage one another to live out our faith. **Did you know the Bible talks about this? Let's read about it in Hebrews. Hebrews is in the New Testament, right after the book of Philemon. Let's read chapter 10, verses 24-25.**



TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Answers to kids' questions.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



AND LET US CONSIDER HOW TO STIR UP ONE ANOTHER TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS, NOT NEGLECTING TO MEET TOGETHER, AS IS THE HABIT OF SOME, BUT ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER, AND ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY DRAWING NEAR.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

Did you know God even gives us gifts to serve each other with? Think about Moses, who led the people of Israel out of Egypt, or Samson and the incredible strength God gave him to defeat the Philistines. Remember Deborah, judge and prophet of Israel? What about Queen Esther, whose courageous faith saved her people? These men and women, among many other Old Testament heroes, were given special abilities by the Holy Spirit with which to serve each other; they're almost like superheroes of the Bible!

Take a quick break to let the kids talk about their favorite superheroes. Point out the unique character trait or superhuman ability each superhero uses for other people's good. **Remind them that superheroes live in made-up stories, but God helps us serve people in real life!**

We were never meant to follow Jesus by ourselves, just like we were never meant to live life without a family. In fact, the Bible tells us in **1 Corinthians 12*** that the family of God is like a physical body. Each part of the body is special and connected to every other part and has a special, specific purpose. Your arm is connected to your shoulder and your elbow. Each part of your body has a special job, and when they work together they help your body work the right way. In the same way, God has placed every person in the church, connecting them to every other member so they can work within that family for good.



CONT. →

TALK
TOGETHERWEEK OF JUNE 26, 2022

God gives us gifts to **serve the local church***. It doesn't matter if you're a boy or a girl, young or old. **The Bible talks about this in the book of Galatians. Galatians is in the New Testament and is written by Paul. Can you help me find chapter 6 and verse 10?**

SO THEN, AS WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD TO EVERYONE, AND ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH.

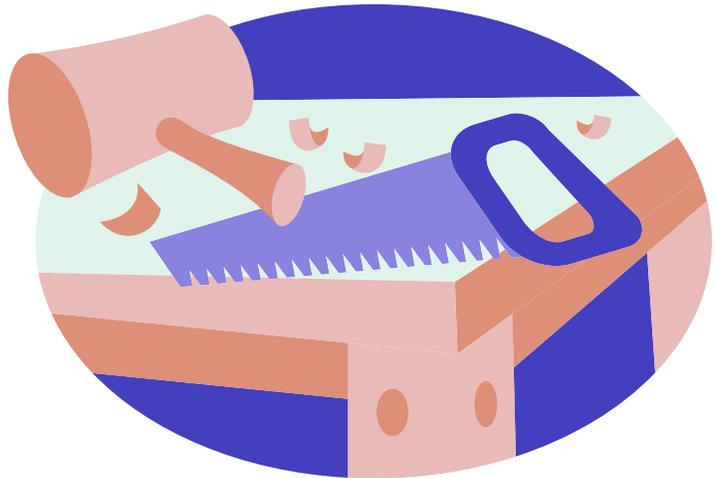
GALATIANS 6:10

It's not by accident that God placed our family in this specific church for this specific time. The gifts God has given to each one of us are needed there. When we don't use our gifts in love, our church isn't able to be the light God intended it to be in our community.

I wonder what God could do in this world if every single believer in every local church used their special gifts the way He intended. We certainly aren't superheroes; but if the true stories of the Bible are any indication, I think God could use us to do some pretty amazing things.

FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND, THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.

EPHESIANS 2:10



END OF TALK TOGETHER

TALK TOGETHER * MORE TO EXPLORE ★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET @ COLORING PAGE

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★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

WEEK OF JUNE 26, 2022

♥ MEMORIZE

SO THEN, AS WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY, **LET US DO GOOD TO EVERYONE, AND ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH.**

GALATIANS 6:10

Q: HOW DO I LOVE GOD'S FAMILY?

A: DO GOOD TO EVERYONE



PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR OUR CHURCH AND THE FAMILY YOU HAVE GIVEN US THERE. PLEASE SHOW US THE SPECIAL GIFTS YOU'VE GIVEN TO EACH OF US AND TEACH US HOW TO USE THEM TO DO YOUR GOOD WORK AND LOVE YOUR CHURCH. THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS BEING WITH US AND GUIDING US IN YOUR TRUTH. AMEN.

SHARE

If you know what your spiritual gifts are, share them with your kids. Describe for them a time when you used your gifts to serve the church.

BAKE

Bake a batch of cookies with your kids and include an encouraging handwritten note. Encourage someone at your church with this special treat.

ACT

Using 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 as your guide, create a simple "Reader's Theater" family experience. Determine who will play the characters of the NARRATOR, FOOT, EAR, EYE and HEAD to dramatically read this Scripture together.

READ

Read through 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4 and Romans 12. Together, make a list of all the spiritual gifts you find there. Think about which gift(s) each family member might have.



SCAN HERE TO LISTEN WHEREVER YOU ARE!

SING

Listen to this playlist throughout the series to praise God for The Family of God.

SERVE

Talk with your local pastor and come up with four to six different age-appropriate ways the members of your family could intentionally serve your church; commit to trying these ways over the next several weeks.

We provide links to external resources that we believe could be helpful in discipleship efforts. Directing to these external organizations, resources, and Web sites does not necessarily imply complete endorsement of these organizations by Awana. Please use discernment as you explore.

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MORE TO EXPLORE

HOW CAN I USE MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO SERVE IN MY CHURCH?

Start with the Word. 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4 and Romans 12 outline the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Read through these Scriptures, asking the Lord to highlight what you are naturally good at, what areas of ministry you love the most and what types of service brings you joy.

Try something new! Much can be discovered about your spiritual gifts through trial and error, and by taking a learning-by-doing approach to ministry in your local church.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT WE WORK TOGETHER IN THE FAMILY OF GOD??

1 Corinthians 12 hilariously compares the family of God to a physical body and considers how ridiculous it is to question the purpose or position of the parts God used to make that body work. A body cannot be made up of all ears or eyes and hope to function as God intended. So it is with the Church. God has placed each person in the local church with a specific purpose and function (1 Corinthians 12:18). When everyone does their part, the body works well and to God's glory in that community.

HOW DO I LOVE GOD'S FAMILY WHEN THEY HAVE HURT ME?

(This question and answer are primarily for the caregiver.)

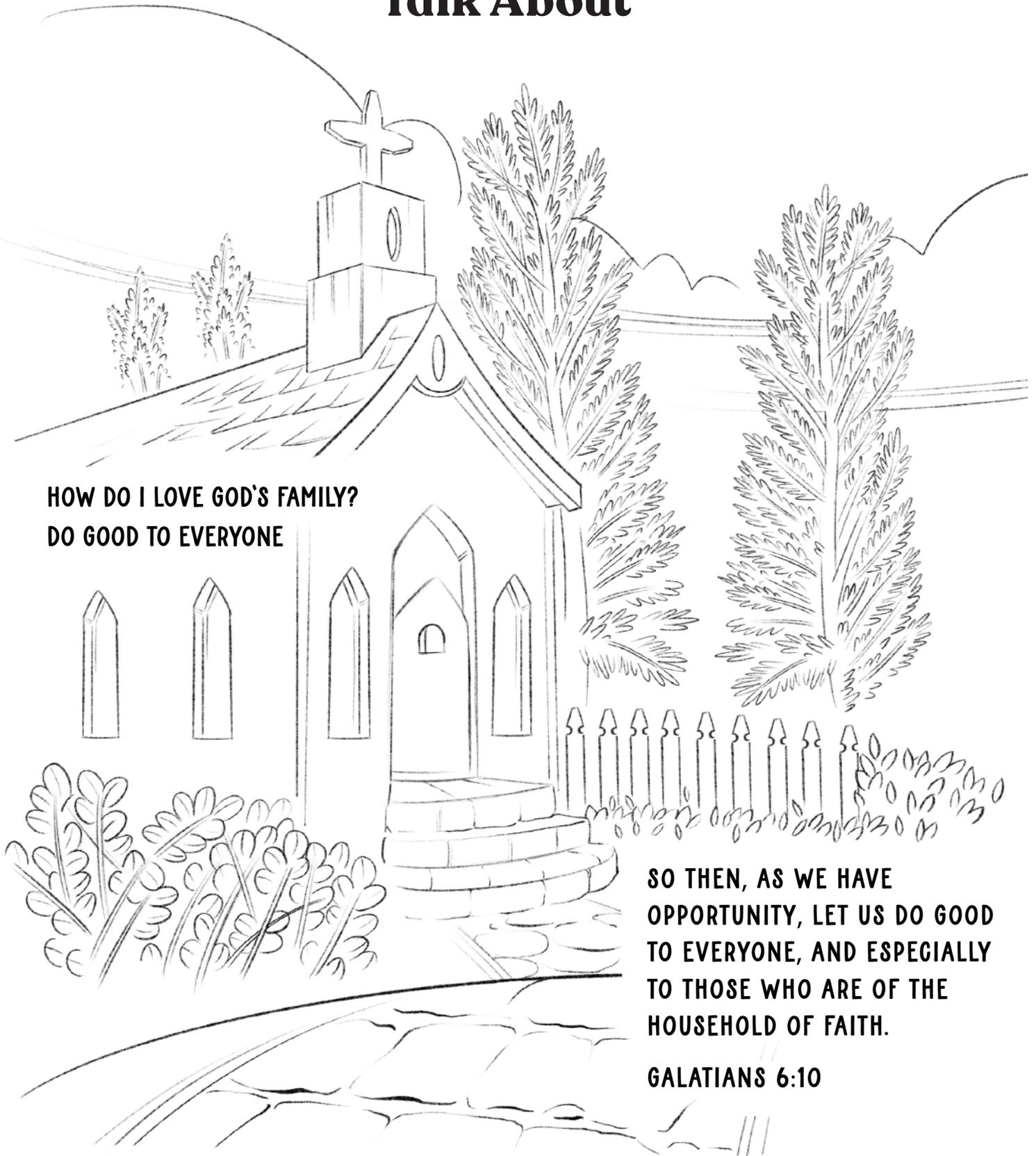
You may have been disappointed or let down by someone in your local church and need to navigate the pain of this disappointment. We all struggle with sin and don't always treat people the way we should, but reconciliation is possible with Jesus' help. Matthew 18:15-20 tells us what to do when we are hurt by one of our brothers or sisters in Christ. Every effort should be made to forgive (Matthew 6:14-15, 18:21-22), make the relationship right again, and move forward in unity and love. When others fail us we can remember Jesus never fails us or lets us down.

Note: In situations of danger or abuse, it is important to seek help to ensure the physical and emotional safety of each congregant, and bring responsible parties to appropriate accountability.

ADDITIONAL PASSAGES YOUR FAMILY CAN READ TOGETHER:

- **Galatians 3** gives an amazing explanation of how all believers become "family" through their faith in Christ and His redemptive work on the cross.
- **In John 14:15-17 and 16:7-15**, Jesus promises us the Holy Spirit in His absence, describing Him as an advocate, helper and forever presence in our lives.
- Read more about spiritual gifts in **1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Peter 4:7-11.**
- **In Ephesians 2:11-22** Paul explains how Jews and Gentiles are both brought into the family of God through Christ.

Talk About



**HOW DO I LOVE GOD'S FAMILY?
DO GOOD TO EVERYONE**

**SO THEN, AS WE HAVE
OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD
TO EVERYONE, AND ESPECIALLY
TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE
HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH.**

GALATIANS 6:10