



HEROES OF THE FAITH

Large Group

LESSON 1: LARGE GROUP

My Life at Home

MAIN IDEA:

Children can develop a relationship with God, who will be their perfect Father. Even if their own homes have challenges or difficulties, they can find comfort and peace in the love of their heavenly Father.

BIBLE PASSAGES:

- 1 John 3:1-3

MEMORY VERSE:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”

Hebrews 12:1, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS:

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- Posterboard with the memory verse written on it (Hebrews 12:1)
- Printout 1, 1 per child
- Pens or pencils, 1 per child
- Sheet of blank posterboard
- Marker
- (Optional) Picture of your parents

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome the students to Crossroads and tell them you are glad they came this week. Consider doing the “Who is Jesus” call and response.

(Optional) As a group, say the memory verse for this week.

Pray with the students.

Say: Welcome to the first week of our new series called Heroes of the Faith! Over the next several weeks, we’re going to dive into the stories of some incredible heroes found in the Bible. Each of these heroes has an origin story—just like your favorite characters in movies and comic books. Their stories tell us where they came from, what challenges they faced, and how they learned to trust God in amazing ways.

These heroes weren’t perfect, and they didn’t have superpowers. What made them special was their faith in God and their willingness to follow Him, even when it was difficult. We’ll learn how their lives were transformed when they trusted God, and we’ll see that you can be like them too!

Just like these heroes of the Bible, you have your own story. You have the chance to trust God and live with courage and faith, right where you are. Who knows? Your story could inspire others just like these heroes inspire us!

Distribute one copy of Printout 1 (“Find Someone Who”) and a pen or pencil to each student. Give the students five minutes to complete this activity page per the instructions on the page.

Encourage leaders to participate.

When they are finished, have the students re-group in the regular Large Group meeting spot.

Say: We all have things in common with others and things that are unique to us. We are similar and different, but God loves us all. When we put our faith in Jesus as our Savior and ask him to forgive us from our sins (all the wrong things we have done, said, and thought), then we are adopted into God’s family. We have a perfect Father, and we get new brothers and sisters.

Talk about your own parents, and show a picture of them.

Say: The Bible says to honor our parents, so we should always speak respectfully about them.

Then share some of the ways in which they were good parents to you. Also, share any disappointments you had as a child with the way your parents treated you (if these are appropriate to share). This should help the children realize that even parents sin and mess up.

On a piece of poster board, draw two columns. The first column should be labeled “Joys”. The second should be labeled “Disappointments”.



“Who is Jesus”
Call and Response

Say: **I have told you a little about my parents and the joys and disappointments I experienced growing up in my family. Now, we are going to make a list of all the things that are joys in your relationships with your parents (i.e., playing games together, crafts or cooking projects, watching movies or shows together).**

List these items on the poster board, and talk about each one.

Next, ask: **What are some of your disappointments?**

List these and talk about them (i.e., not listening or obeying, lying, breaking family rules, fighting with siblings, making poor decisions).

God is a perfect Father, and he always cares for us perfectly. But in order to be in God's family, we need to come to him through Jesus. Our sin separates us from God, and we need to have our sin problem dealt with.

Jesus died as a substitute to take care of our sin problem so that we could be God's children.

Consider doing the Gospel Hand together with motions.



WRAP IT UP

Say: **Even if we have struggles and disappointments in our earthly families, God wants us to remember that he cares for his children.**

Wrap up with prayer and dismiss to Small Group.

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

LARGE GROUP GAME: SAY CATCH

Materials: A ball or a Frisbee

Object of game: To be the last player left in the circle

How to play: Have all the students stand in a circle. Decide on a topic to be used during the game (for example, the topic could be animals). Then, toss the ball to any student in the circle. The student must say something in the chosen topic before catching the ball (in the animal example, students could say "Elephant!"). If the student does not say something before catching the ball or does not catch it, they are out.

LARGE GROUP GAME: FROGS AND ANTS

Materials: Four or five hula hoops

Object of game: To be the last person tagged by a frog

How to play: Before the game begins, spread out four or five hula hoops around the playing area. The hula hoops will be lily pads. Choose two students to be frogs, and all the rest of the students will be ants. The frogs will chase the ants and try to tag them. If an ant is tagged, she must lie down on her back with arms and legs extended into the air. When an ant is in this "injured" position, four other healthy ants may rescue her. Each of the healthy ants will grab an arm or a leg and drag the injured ant to a lily pad. As soon as four healthy ants grab onto the injured ant, all five ants are safe from being tagged by the frogs. Once the five ants arrive at the lily pad, the injured ant is healed, and all five ants may stay safely on the lily pad for no longer than five seconds. The game ends when all the ants have been tagged by frogs. At this point, choose two new frogs and play again.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Ball or frisbee
- 4-5 hula hoops
- Chairs

LARGE GROUP GAME: FRUIT SALAD

Materials: Chairs

How to play: Arrange the group in a circle seated on chairs and facing inward. Go around the circle and assign each student with a fruit (i.e. Apple, strawberry, watermelon...) There must be multiple students with the same fruit so consider limiting the number of fruit to three or four. Then select someone to be "it" in the middle. Remove their chair. The person in the middle will say a fruit and anyone seated in the circle to whom the statement applies must get up and find an open chair. The person in the middle will be trying to find an open seat while people are moving. Whoever is left without a seat will become "it." The person in the middle may also call, "Fruit salad!" at which point everyone needs to get up and find a new chair.

Alternative: The person in the middle will say things that apply to more than one person, such as: "Anyone who has a sister," or "Anyone wearing blue," or "Anyone who has visited the ocean." Anyone seated in the circle to whom the statement applies must get up and find an open chair. The person in the middle will be trying to find an open seat while people are moving. Whoever is left without a seat will become "it." The person in the middle may also call, "Fruit salad!" at which point everyone needs to get up and find a new chair.



HEROES OF THE FAITH

PRIMARY
Small Group

LESSON 1: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

My Life at Home

MAIN IDEA:

Children can develop a relationship with God, who will be their perfect Father. Even if their own homes have challenges or difficulties, they can find comfort and peace in the love of their heavenly Father.

BIBLE PASSAGES:

- 1 John 3:1-3

MEMORY VERSE:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”

Hebrews 12:1, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS:

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of the club over the next few weeks?
- Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- Name tags
- Snacks, 1 per child
- Printouts 2, 3, 4; 1 per child
- (Optional) Printouts 5-6
- Crayons or markers, 1 box per small group
- Pens or pencils, 1 per student
- Memory Verse Cards, 1 per child

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER:

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- Extra questions: What did you do over Christmas break? What traditions does your family do over the holidays?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION:

Pass out one copy of Printout 2 to each student. Make sure their names are written on the front, and then allow them to draw the picture of their family portrait of the people and pets that live with them.

As the students work on their portraits, discuss the pictures as a group. Leaders could also draw a picture of their family.

Some questions you can ask:

- **Can you tell me who is in your family?**
- **Do you have any brothers or sisters? What are their names, and how old are they?**
- **What do your parents do for work?**
- **Do you have any grandparents? Do they live nearby or far away?**
- **Do you have any aunts, uncles, or cousins? Do you get to see them often?**
- **What's a fun or special memory you have with your family?**
- **Does your family like to travel or go on vacations? Where do you usually go?**

Give the students time to ask you about your family and how you grew up. Leaders, consider sharing your own story about your family.

HELPFUL HINT

Consider asking each question and go around the circle to each student for every question or asking one question per student and move on to the next question for the next student depending on how much time you have for small groups. You may also choose to limit the number of questions asked.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

HELPFUL HINT

Distribute pens to the students, and invite them to complete “All About Me” (Printout 3).

Spend some time going through the students’ answers to the questions about them and their family.

Ask:

- **Do you think God cares about you and your family?**
- **Do you think that God wants to know you more and allow you to know him better?**

Leaders, consider taking a picture of these images and save them in an album on your phone to refer back to later on. Send home paper copies to parents.

Read 1 John 3:1-3, or ask a student to read out loud.

Ask:

- **What is this passage trying to tell us about God?**
- **What does this passage call God?** (Our Father)
- **Who is called God’s children?** (Those who believe in Jesus for salvation)

This is a good opportunity to use the Gospel Hand to walk through the Gospel with your students.



Gospel Hand

ACTIVITY: GOD'S FAMILY TREE

Say: **I am glad you are here, and you are important, both to me and to God.**

We become God's children by believing in Jesus. God's life in us enables us to love our fellow family members. How we treat others shows who our Father is. Live as a faithful, loving family member. Remember whose children you are.

Just like we have families here on Earth, we also belong to a special family called the family of God. In this family, everyone who believes in Jesus is connected like branches on a tree.

Give each child a piece of green paper and ask them to cut out a leaf shape. If the kids are too young to cut out their own shapes, you can have leaves pre-cut.

Have the kids write their names on the leaf. Then, ask them to think of other people they know who are part of God's family (like friends, parents, church leaders, or even Bible characters) and write those names on additional leaves.

Once the leaves are ready, start attaching them to the branches of the tree. As you add each leaf, talk about how that person is connected to everyone else through their faith in Jesus.

Say: **Being part of the family of God means we're never alone. We support, pray for, and help each other grow in faith, just like how a tree's branches are connected and rely on the trunk for strength.**

We can thank God for the big family he has given us and ask him to help us love and support each other.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP:

Recap with the students.

Say: **You can begin a relationship with God, and he will be your perfect heavenly Father. He loves you and wants you to be part of his family. You can know the love of a heavenly Father by believing in God's son Jesus for salvation.**

If you haven't already taken prayer requests, then take the student's prayer requests and pray with them. If time permits, review the memory verse with the students.

Bible Memory Verse Games

RESPONSE & REFLECTION:

Print and cut out the memory verse cards. Practice the memory verse for this unit (Hebrews 12:1).

Consider printing and introducing the example of a salvation prayer (Printout 5). Read it one time out loud and suggest that they put it somewhere special at home. When they feel God leading them to believe and follow Jesus, then they will have it available to them and their parents as a guide for how to pray for salvation. Encourage them to let you know if they do so you can rejoice with them and welcome them into God's family.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



HEROES OF THE FAITH

INTERMEDIATE
Small Group

LESSON 1: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

My Life at Home

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Hebrews 12:1, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

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QUESTIONS:

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- Extra questions: What did you do over Christmas break? What traditions does your family do over the holidays?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Collect prayer requests from the students. Have the group sit in a circle. Explain that you'll take turns praying out loud for the person to their right. Encourage each student to focus on one specific request or need for the person next to them, keeping the prayer simple and sincere.

INTRODUCTION:

Say: Welcome to the first week of our new series called Heroes of the Faith! We'll be exploring the stories of heroes from the Bible and discovering what made them special. These heroes weren't perfect or superhuman—they simply trusted God and followed Him, even when it was tough.

As we learn about their stories, we'll see how you can be like them, trusting God and living with courage and faith in your own life. Your story could inspire others just like these heroes inspire us!

Pass out one copy of Printout 2 to each student. Make sure they write their name on the front, and then allow them to draw the picture of their family portrait of the people and pets that live with them.

As the students work on their portraits, discuss the pictures as a group. This is a good Small Group Activity!

Some questions you can ask:

- **Can you tell me who is in your family?**
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Give the students time to ask you about your family and how you grew up. Leaders, consider sharing your own story about your family.

**HELPFUL HINT**

Consider asking each question and go around the circle to each student for every question or asking one question per student and move on to the next question for the next student depending on how much time you have for small groups. You may also choose to limit the number of questions asked.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

Distribute pens to the students, and invite them to complete “All About Me” (Printout 6). See which student is able to get Bingo by marking all the listed things that apply to them. Be prepared with a prize for the winner(s). Tickets or candy could be easy prizes to give to the winner(s).

Option 1: If students aren’t able to get Bingo on their own, have them ask other students to help fill out their cards. The first to get Bingo wins.

Option 2: Allow the students with the most items marked off from the Bingo list at the end of a designated time to win the prize.

Spend some time going through the students’ answers to the questions about them and their family.

Ask:

- **Do you think God cares about you and your family?**
- **How does your relationship with God look like your family here on Earth?**
- **How is it different?**
- **Do you think that God wants to know you more and allow you to know him better?**

Leaders, consider taking a picture of these images and save them in an album on your phone to refer back to later on. Send home paper copies to parents.

Read 1 John 3:1-3, or ask a student to read out loud.

Ask:

- **What is this passage trying to tell us about God?**
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HELPFUL HINT



Gospel Hand

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Have the kids write their names on the leaf. Then, ask them to think of other people they know who are part of God's family (like friends, parents, church leaders, or even Bible characters) and write those names on additional leaves.

Once the leaves are ready, using printout 4, start attaching them to the branches of the tree. As you add each leaf, talk about how that person is connected to everyone else through their faith in Jesus.

Say: **Being part of the family of God means we're never alone. We support, pray for, and help each other grow in faith, just like how a tree's branches are connected and rely on the trunk for strength.**

We can thank God for the big family he has given us and ask him to help us love and support each other.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP:

Recap with the students.

What did you learn today?

Say: **You can begin a relationship with God, and he will be your perfect heavenly Father. He loves you and wants you to be part of his family. You can know the love of a heavenly Father by believing in God's son Jesus for salvation.**

If you haven't already taken prayer requests, then take the student's prayer requests and pray with them. If time permits, review the memory verse with the students.

Bible Memory Verse Games

RESPONSE & REFLECTION:

Print and cut out the memory verse cards. Practice the memory verse for this unit (Hebrews 12:1).

Consider printing and introducing the example of a salvation prayer (Printout 5). Read it one time out loud and suggest that they put it somewhere special at home. When they feel God leading them to believe and follow Jesus, then they will have it available to them and their parents as a guide for how to pray for salvation. Encourage them to let you know if they do so you can rejoice with them and welcome them into God's family.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games

Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”

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Printout 1

FIND SOMEONE WHO ...

Have this person write his or her name on the line next to the appropriate statement. You may use the same person for no more than two of these items.



Has a birthday the same month as you

.....



Has had a broken bone

.....



Has a sister

.....



Has a brother

.....



Is the oldest in their family

.....



Is the youngest in their family

.....



Has pets

.....



Has grandparents living with them

.....



Has both parents working

.....



Came to America from another country

.....



Speaks another language

.....

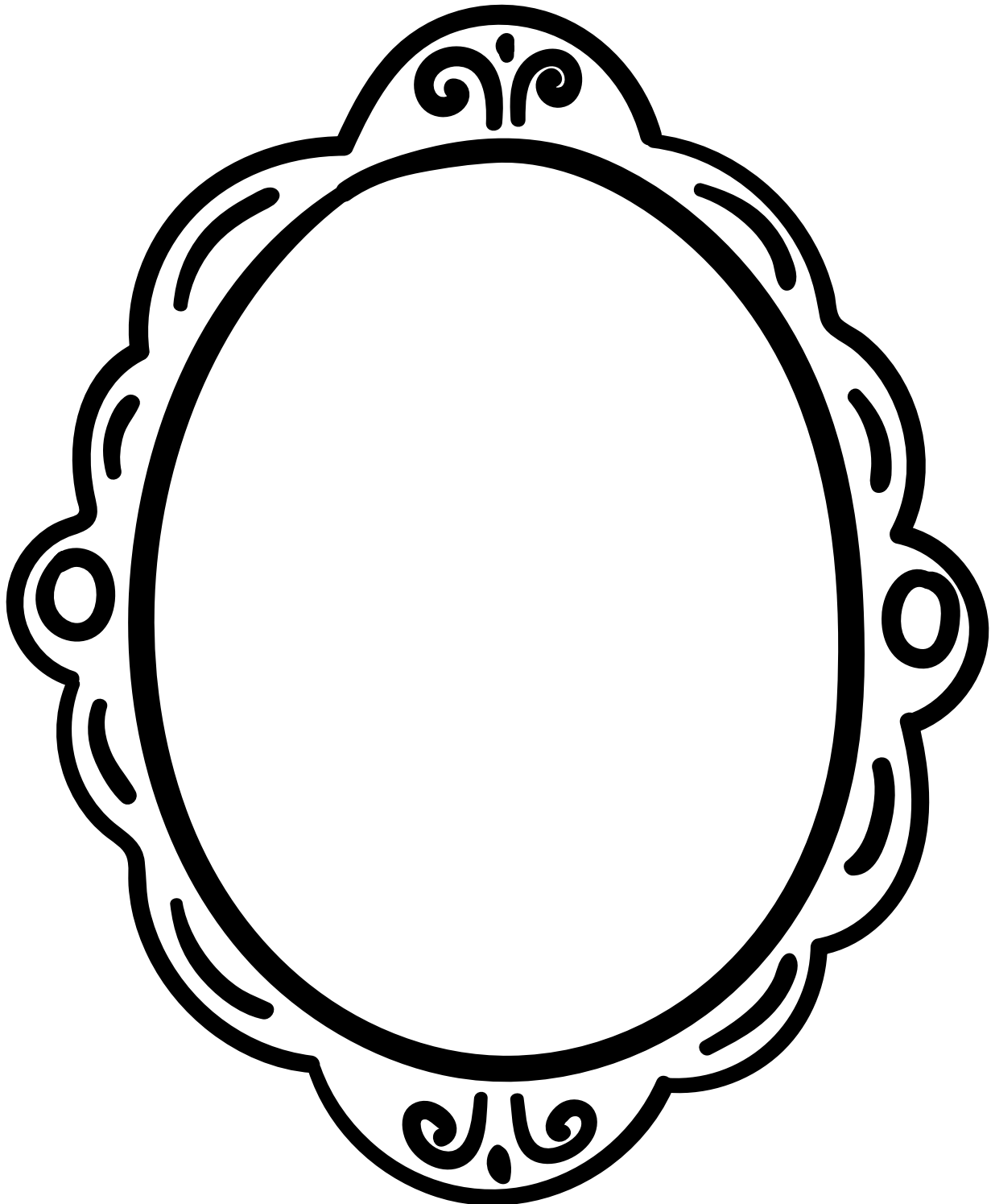


Who has moved at least once in their life

.....

Printout 2

Draw a family portrait of the people and pets that live with you.



Printout 3

ALL ABOUT ME BINGO

I play a sport.

I like to draw.

I wear glasses.

I have a pet.

My favorite subject is math.

I speak more than one language.

My favorite season is summer.

I have a birthday in summer.

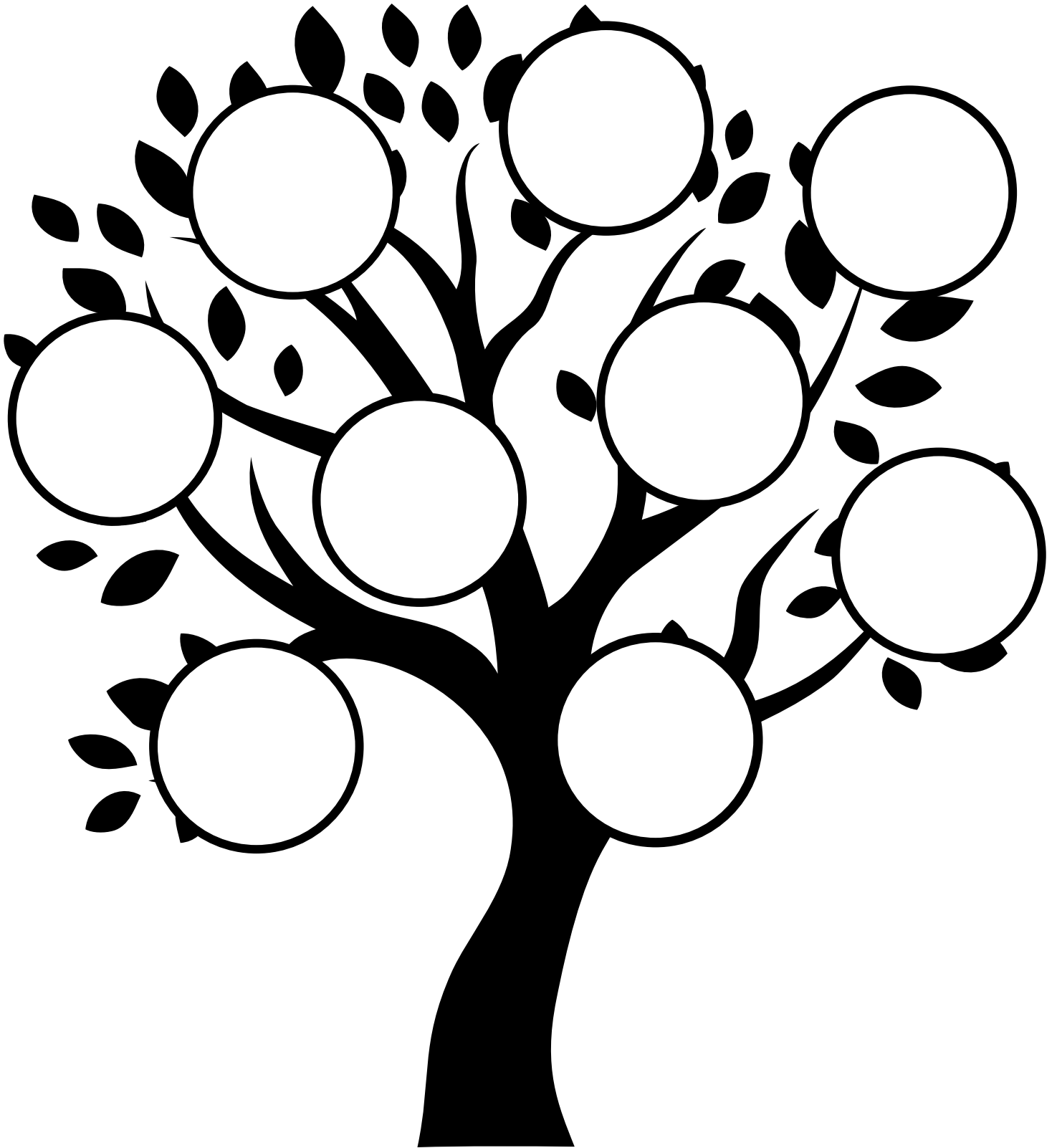
I have a sister.

I have a brother.

I like to sing.

I like to dance.

Printout 4



Printout 5

SALVATION PRAYER:

Faith in Jesus is what saves someone. It is not about saying the right words in a prayer. Believing that Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead to take the punishment for your sins is how you are saved. (Romans 10:9)

**“Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned against you.
I turn from my sin right now.
I believe that you died on the cross to pay the punishment for my sins.
I receive you as the Lord and Savior of my life. I give my life to you.
In Jesus’ name, amen.”**

God loves you! Believing in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is about more than avoiding Hell, it’s about being able to spend eternity with the God who loves you and wants to know you personally. (John 3:16)

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I turn from my sin right now.
I believe that you died on the cross to pay the punishment for my sins.
I receive you as the Lord and Savior of my life. I give my life to you.
In Jesus’ name, amen.”**

God loves you! Believing in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is about more than avoiding Hell, it’s about being able to spend eternity with the God who loves you and wants to know you personally. (John 3:16)

Printout 6

ALL ABOUT ME!

Have this person write his or her name on the line next to the appropriate statement. You may use the same person for no more than two of these items.

Name: Age:

Parents' names:

Who lives with you?

Siblings' names and ages:

Does your family eat dinner together? How often?

Do you have chores around the house? What are they?

Do you get an allowance?

Do you have pets? Do you help take care of them?

Who do you spend most of your time with?

Do you have any hobbies? What are they?

FAVORITES:

Music: TV Show:

Movie: Video Game:

Vegetable: Dessert:

Food: Color: