

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES 2020: CELEBRATING FAMILY

PREPARATION

- Print out Appendix 1 or create your own template
- A jigsaw puzzle of choice
- A canvas and material to decorate or paper/card
- Colouring pens/pencils

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations International Day of Families is 15 May. This resource seeks to celebrate the diversity of family, based on Ephesians 4:16 (NLT): 'He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow.' There are a range of suggestions that can be easily adapted to your particular setting.

BIBLE THOUGHT

We celebrate many different days throughout the year. Can you think of any? (Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day, Grandparents Day, Burns Night, St David's Day, St George's Day...). However, sometimes these days can be painful for people, for different reasons, leaving us with a feeling of exclusion.

15 May is the United Nations International Day of Families. The beautiful thing about this day is that there are no exclusions. We all belong to the family of Christ, each of us a child of God, brought together through Jesus. We are the family of Christ, fearfully and wonderfully made, unique and equipped by God in so many different ways.

In Ephesians 4:16 we read: 'He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow' (NLT). Every limb and organ in the body is as important as each other and has its own job to do in order for the whole body to function.

So it is with us. We are each made and equipped by God to help the family of Christ to function, bringing together people from all walks of life, with different God-given gifts and talents, to work and walk with each other to empower and share the love of Christ with others.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Here are some ideas to help you think of family and the part you play while at home.

- **Family** Use the person outline (Appendix 1), or draw your own, to write down the names of the people who are part of your family, be that in your immediate family, church family, community family or neighbourhood. Who are the people you live with, work with, go to school with and walk alongside? Spend time this week praying over the names you have written down.
- **Jigsaw** Spend time on your own or as a family putting together a jigsaw puzzle. You could think and share with each other what the jigsaw could represent for you as an individual and/or group as the pieces come together to create a whole picture.
- **Photos** Look through the photos that are in your home, perhaps some that have been stored away for years. Share some time of reflecting, laughing and reminiscing about the things that you see in those pictures.
- **Home** Purchase a canvas or use a piece of paper or card to write the word 'Family'. Decorate it together and stick it up somewhere in the home as a reminder of something you have done together as a family.
- **Create** Make something crafty or bake something, thinking about what family looks like to you as an individual or group of people. Share it on the [Family Ministries Facebook Page](#) so that others can see what family means to you.
- **Communicate** Are there family members that you haven't spoken to for a while, want to encourage, share that you are praying for them or just want to say hello to? This week give them a ring or video call them to let them know they are in your thoughts.



SONG TIME

Spend time listening to, reflecting with, or singing along to...

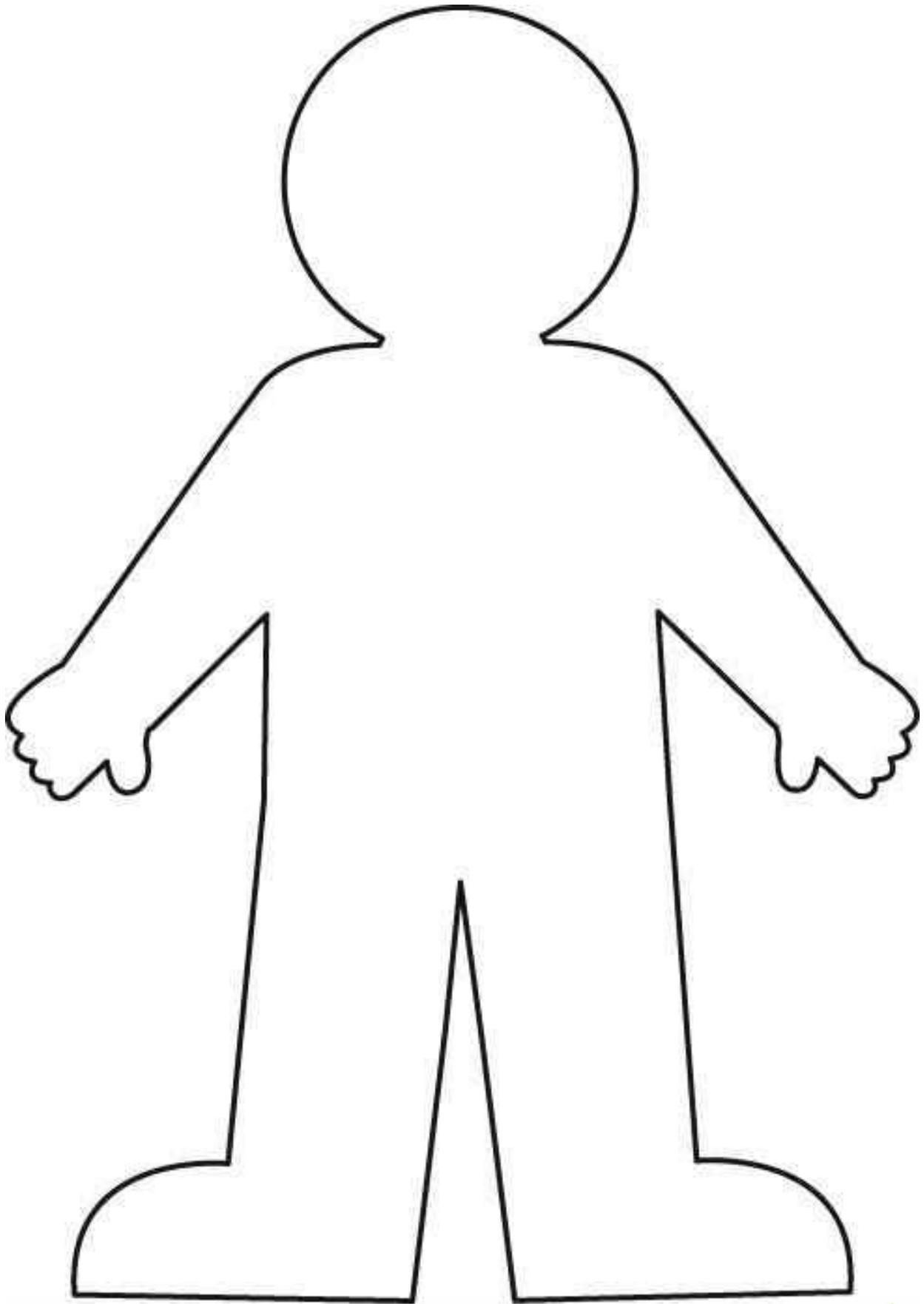
- *'Build your Kingdom here'* (Rend Collective)
- *'Bind us together, Lord'*
- *'Make us one'* (Twila Paris)
- *'Fearfully and wonderfully made'* (Jim Bailey)
- *'Touch a finger, touch a thumb'* (Doug Horley)
- *'Big family of God'* (Nick and Becky Drake)



**Family
Ministries**
Having faith in the family



APPENDIX 1 – Family



**Family
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Faith@Home
