

Riverbend United Church Children's Ministry Lesson September 6, 2020

Good Morning boys and girls! Hope you had a fantastic summer with your families.

These past few months, we have spent so much time with our families. Today's lesson is about families and how important they are to us.

Let's start the morning off by answering a few questions.

- 1. How many people are in your family?**
- 2. Do you have brothers or sisters?**
- 3. You don't have to be related to be family! Do you live with any people to whom you are not related?**
- 4. Where does your family live?**
- 5. What does your family like to do together?**
- 6. What is your family's favorite holiday?**
- 7. Is there a special meal your family likes to eat?**
- 8. What language(s) does your family speak?**
- 9. What are some special customs and traditions that your family follows?**

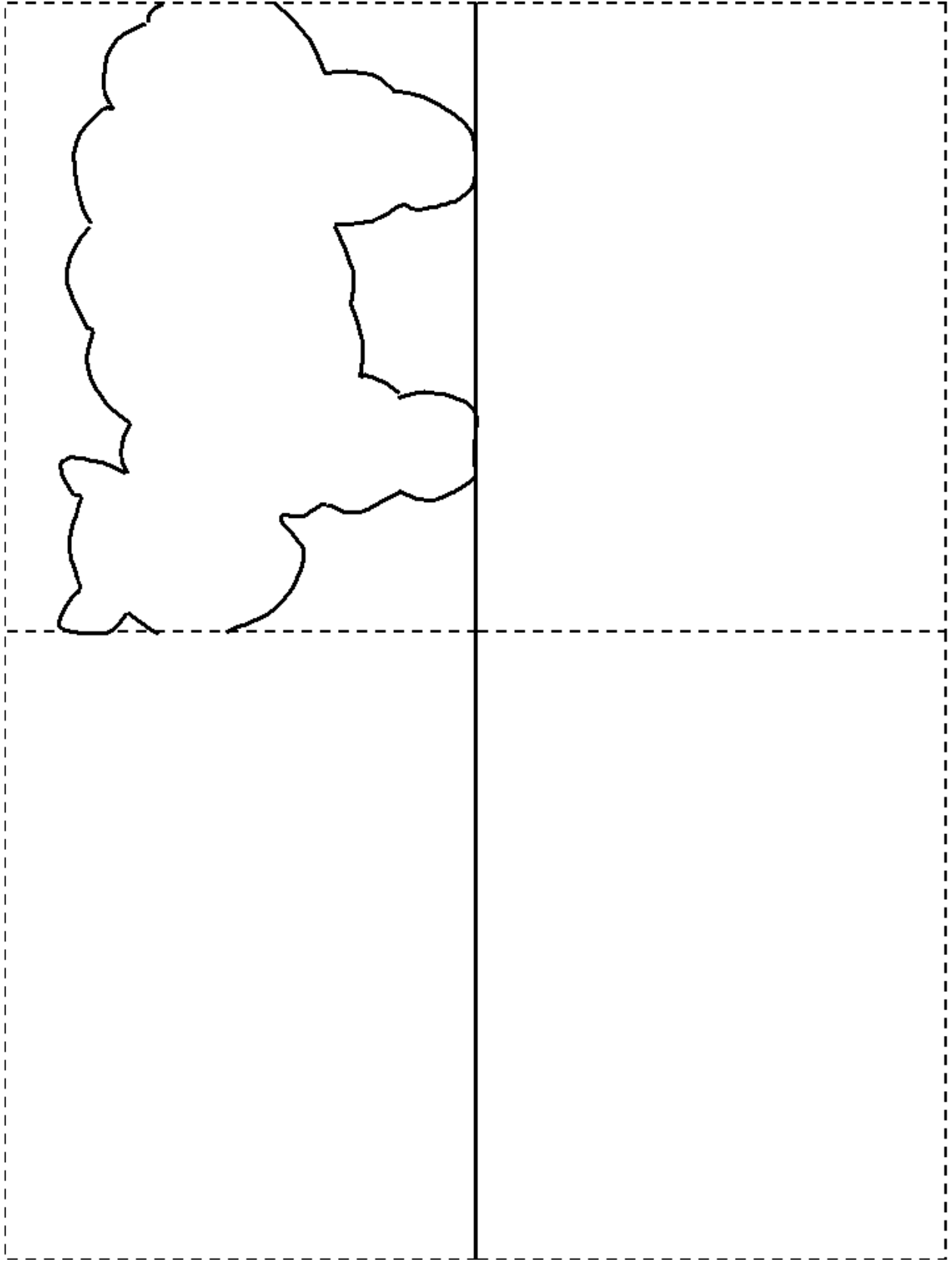
FAMILY

God made families. God loves everyone in our family.
God has given us families to support us, guide us in our choices and help us in times of trouble.

The Craft:

- print the template
- fold along the center dotted line
- put a second piece of folded paper inside the first
- cut along the solid line
- you'll now have 4 identical sheets of paper.

- tape the pages together end to end (with the sheep image at the edge)
- accordion fold the paper the width of the sheep
- cut out the sheep (do not cut the side of the ear, the side of the mouth or the tail or your paper chain won't stay together)



Bible Story:

Abram Makes Peace

Genesis 13:5-18

When Abram traveled to the land of Canaan, he took everything he owned. Abram was very rich.

He had lots of tents, lots of silver, lots of gold, and herds and herds of animals.

Abram's nephew traveled along with Abram. His name was Lot. And guess what? Lot had lots of animals, too.

Between Abram's sheep and Lot's sheep, there was hardly enough grass and water to go around.

(unfold the paper chain at this point to show the many sheep to the children)

Before too long, Abram and Lot realized that there just wasn't enough for everyone to stay in the same place. Abram was older and had the right to choose first, but he did not want to argue over land. Abram allowed Lot to choose where he wanted to keep his sheep.

Lot chose the beautiful valley with the city to the East, while Abram ended up with rugged hills and not much water. So it was decided that Abram would stay in Canaan while Lot would move near the city of Sodom.

Lot chose to live in the rich fertile plains near Sodom where the men were very wicked. Do you think Lot made a good choice?

Before too long a war broke out between the kings that lived near Lot. Lot and his family were taken prisoner and all of their possessions were stolen!

Abram heard the horrible news. Even though he now lived far away, he was still Lot's uncle! He organized his servants and set out to rescue Lot and his family. With God's help, Abram rescued his nephew, Lot's family and recovered their possessions.

Creating Family Timelines

For each family, you'll need:

- a 6-foot piece of butcher paper,
 - markers,
 - masking tape, and
 - a Bible.

In a large room, tape one piece of butcher paper to the wall your family. Work together to create a timeline of their journey with God using words, drawings, and Bible verses. Have families include marriages and birthdays as well as family milestones, such as when a child entered preschool or when the family moved. Then families can add fun memories and difficult times that affected everyone — illnesses or injuries, vacations, or changes in jobs or schools. Covid 19 may be one of them. Try not to focus on the negatives – and try and find positives in the situation.

After your family is finished with their timelines, discuss these questions:

- **What are your family's best memories? What are your future dreams for your family?**
- **How have you seen God moving in your family through the years?**
- **What difficult events have you overcome as a family? How did those events make you closer?**
- **How has your family experienced God's faithfulness?**

When You Were My Age...

Start by giving kids time to discuss their favorite things with their parents — such as TV shows, food, places to visit, people, and books. Ask kids to talk about what scares them and what they'd like to do when they're older. Have kids list or draw their responses on paper.

Then have kids interview their parents about the same things. However, each question for parents begins with, "When you were my age..."

Kids can write or draw their parents' responses next to their own and compare the two. Kids will learn a lot about their parents' lives as children by discussing similarities and differences in responses.

Encouragement Web

Have your family sit in a circle on the floor. Have one family member hold a ball of yarn and wrap a small portion of the yarn around his or her hand. Then the yarn holder can toss the yarn to another family member and say something encouraging, such as, "You're great at helping around the house" or "You're always honest with me."

That person then wraps yarn around his or her hand and tosses the yarn to someone else, until each person has had a turn.

Untangle the yarn web by tossing the ball backward, offering encouraging words to the same person who encouraged you. Save the ball of yarn to complete an encouragement web whenever someone needs to feel special.

Egg Carton Lamb Craft

These are very simple little lambs for young kids to make.

Materials:

- glue
- scissors
- cotton balls
- black construction paper
- styrofoam egg carton

Instructions:

- fold a small piece of black construction paper and cut out an ear shapes (basically just a U). The fact that you folded first will give you two matching ears
- cut out one of the cups from the styrofoam egg carton.
- glue two or three cotton balls onto the cup.

- glue on the black ears
- OPTIONAL: you can also cut out small black eyes and a triangle nose, but for really young kids, these pieces will be too fussy for them to work with.

My Family Tree

Fill in the apples (either with photos or with names) to build a family tree. The child (and their siblings) go on the top of the tree. The next row is mom and dad and the bottom row is the two sets of grandparents.

The apples are a separate template that you glue on, so different family structures can be represented.

Materials:

- printer
- paper
- scissors
- something to color with (if using the B&W template)
- glue
- marker
- OPTIONAL: photos of the family members

Instructions:

- print out the tree template and the apples template
- OPTIONAL: glue a photo to the center of each apple
- if you aren't using photos, write the name of each family member in the center of the apple
- Glue the apples onto the tree, starting with yourself (the child) at the top. Include siblings near the top as well.
- The next row should include parents and the final row, grandparents.

Name:

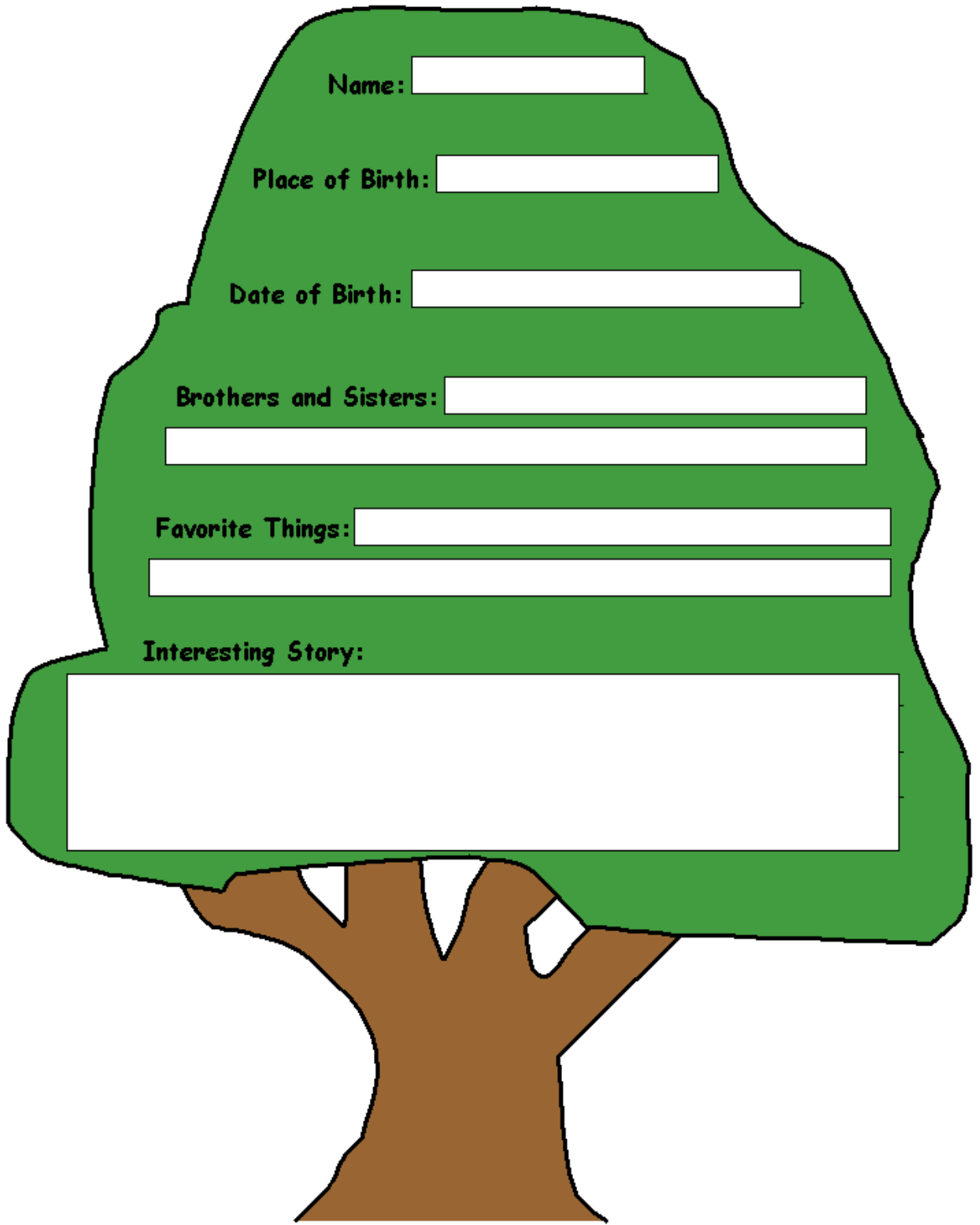
Place of Birth:

Date of Birth:

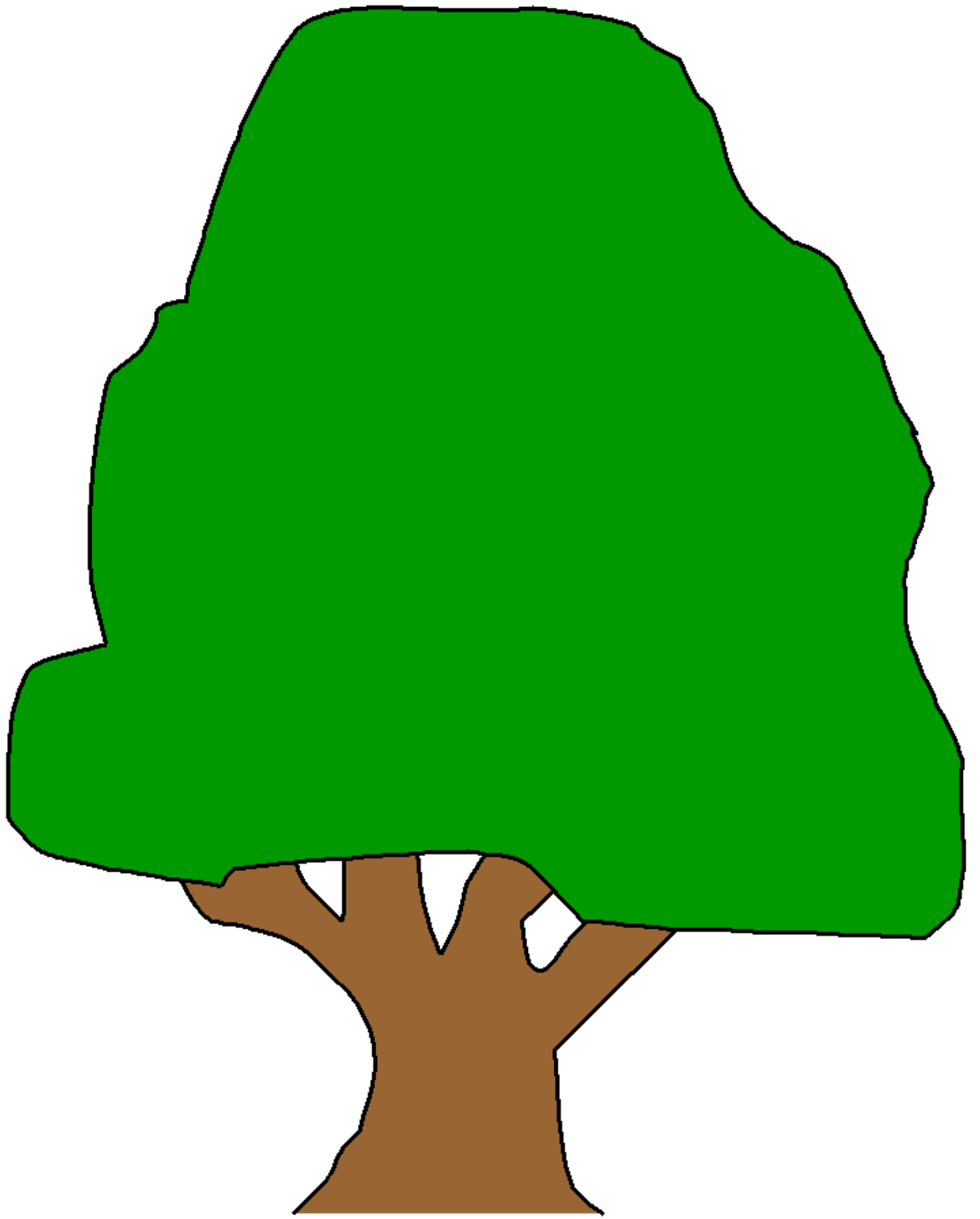
Brothers and Sisters:

Favorite Things:

Interesting Story:







Closing:

Depending on the time remaining, allow the children to brainstorm about some of the things God did to make members of the families special. (what makes grandmas special, grandpas, etc)

Allow the children to brainstorm about some of the things the times their family has helped them make choices or helped them when they had trouble (ex: doing homework, solve a disagreement with a sibling, learn to knit, plan a birthday party, etc).