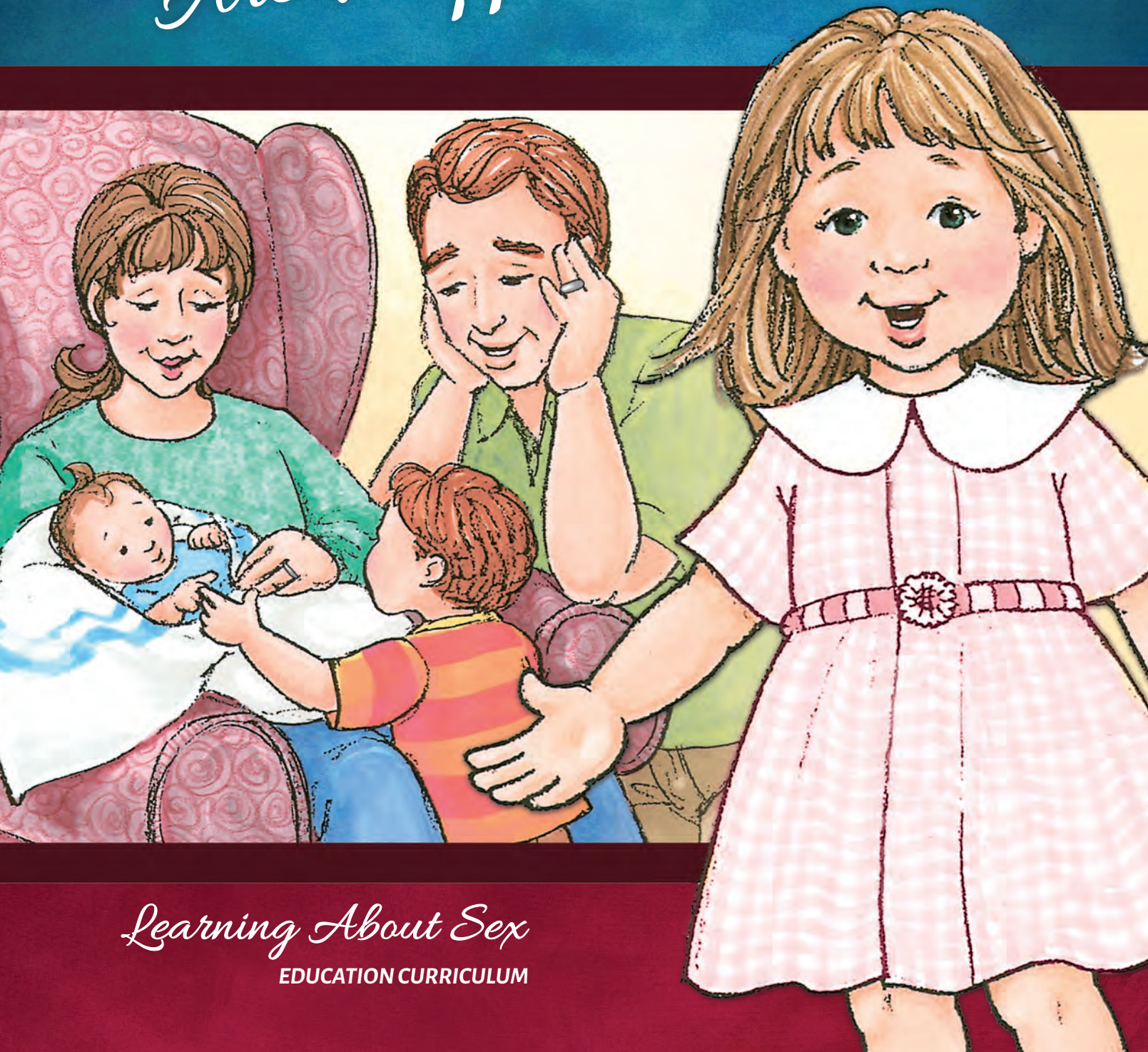


Why Boys and Girls Are Different

For boys ages 3–5

For girls ages 3–5



Learning About Sex
EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Ages 3–5

Lesson 1: Identity and Calling

God Loves Me!

Lesson Focus

God made every person on this earth. While we are the same in some ways, each person is unique and specially made by Him. Every person has worth and is loved by God.

Materials Needed

- One index card for each child with the child's name written on it
- Book: *Why Boys and Girls Are Different*, boy or girl version

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for creating me and each child in my classroom. Guide me as I share the truth of Your Word with these little ones. Help them to know and believe that they are loved, special, and worthy—not because of anything they have done or need to do but simply because You made them and have called them to be Your children. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Learner Goals With prompting and support,

- the learner can tell how God created him or her to be a boy or a girl. He or she is God's special child and is loved by Him.
- the learner can relate that God made every person in the world. People are the same in some ways and different in other ways. God made each person special.
- the learner can explain that God wants us to love and serve Him and others.

Teacher Insights

- The Bible, God's Word, tells us who we are: we are God's precious children, created and known by Him. We are forgiven, and we are His. God declares our worth as His children: "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are" (1 John 3:1).
- Every person has value and worth because every person has been created by God. There is nothing we can or need to do to earn God's love. His love for all people is so great that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to this earth to die on the cross, taking the punishment for our sins on Himself so that all who believe in Him would be saved.
- God wants all people to know Him and love Him. He has given every person talents and abilities. He wants us to use these to serve others and give glory to Him in whatever we do. "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).
- We can feel secure in our identity—in who we are. We are loved and forgiven children of God. God created every person just the way he or she was meant to be. When we know this, we are free to live out our lives as God intended—in service to Him and to others.
- Children can feel happy and confident about being a boy or a girl, knowing that God made them that way. While there are some roles that are specific to males and females, such as being a mother or father, there are many things that both boys and girls can do in this world.

Opening

PRAY Begin with an echo prayer. Ask children to repeat each phrase after you.

Dear Jesus, / thank You / for making me / Your precious child. / Amen.

SING “I Am Loved.” A recording is in the Digital Access Links in your cph.org account.

*I am loved by my Creator;
He made me from head to toe.
There is nothing that is greater,
Nothing more I need to know:
That He loves me! Yes, He loves me!
He created me just right,
And He loves me! Yes, He loves me!
I am perfect in His sight.*

Option: Sing the following song to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus.”

*God made me; He loves me so, loves me so, loves me so.
God made me; He loves me so. I'm His little child.*

Introductory Activity

Write the name of each child in your classroom on separate index cards. Tell the children that each one of them was created by God and is loved by Him. Show the cards one at a time, saying each child's name aloud. As you say each name, have the class repeat the name together and say, “[Name] is a child of God!”

Reading

Read from the book *Why Boys and Girls Are Different*. You can read from either the girl version or the boy version of the book. Read from the beginning of the book through the pages that describe what jobs people can do. The page ends with the text “. . . and the person flying that plane. God blesses them with much that they can do.”

Note: You will likely want to tape a piece of paper over the picture of the naked boy and girl and skip the text on that page. The discussion about private parts is best done by parents with their children at home.

Points to emphasize as you read:

- God made you a boy or a girl. Every person is valuable and is loved by God.
- Boys and men are *males*; girls and women are *females*. (Help children understand how and when we use each of these words.)
- We are the same in some ways and different in other ways. There is only one you!
- God made us so that both boys and girls can do many things!
- God works through us to help and care for others.
- Even small children can love and serve others as they honor their parents, help with chores, show kindness to friends and siblings, begin their education, and develop their talents.

Discussion

- **Who made you? (God) There is only one of you in the whole wide world! You are unique and special!**

Ask each child what is special about him or her. You can give suggestions: I have curly hair, I like to sing, I can kick a ball a long way, I take care of my baby brother, and so forth.

- **Who does God love?**

Encourage children to name people they know (family, friends, classmates) as well as people they don't know (the president, the grocery clerk, firefighters). **That's right! God created every person and loves every person in the world.**

- **What are some things you like? What are some things you like to do?**

Let children share some likes and dislikes. God made us similar in some ways and different in other ways. Remind children that God loves us just as we are.

- **God wants us to love and help others. What are some ways you can be a helper?**

Give suggestions as needed: Listen to parents and teachers, clean up toys, be kind to friends and family members. **God blesses you with many ways to love and help others.**

Bible Verse 1 John 3:1

See what . . . love the Father has given . . . , that we should be called children of God.

Practice saying the Bible verse and doing the actions together.

See what love (*Hug self*)
the Father has given, (*Point up.*)
that we should be called (*Open arms wide.*)
children of God. (*Hold hands.*)

Student Learning Page

Print copies of the Student Learning Page onto cardstock. The learning page has an outline of a body. Older children can cut out the shape and glue it onto a favorite color of background paper. Younger children can work right on the cardstock page. Encourage children to color the body outline to look like themselves. They can add eyes, nose, mouth, hair, clothing, and so forth. Provide stickers, wiggle eyes, and other decorations as desired.

Talk about the similarities that all people share: God created all people with eyes, hair, mouths, arms, and so forth. We all wear clothing, sleep, and eat. Talk about differences between people: God made people with different eye colors and skin and hair colors, different shapes of noses and lips and bodies. Tell children that we may look different in some ways, but God loves us all the same. We are all uniquely and specially made by God!

Bonus Activities

You may choose to do one or more of these activities during the lesson, or you may choose to use these activities throughout the year to remind children that they are specially made by God, loved by Him, and blessed to serve others!

BIBLE NARRATIVE: Read the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) from a Bible story book. After reading the story, ask: **How did the man from Samaria help the hurt man?** (He bandaged his wounds and took him to a safe place.) **How can you help others?** Let children share ways they can help others. **Who helps you love and help others?** (Jesus)

CENTER ACTIVITY: Set out dress-up clothes, including uniforms for a variety of occupations. Talk with children about jobs people have and how they help others: teacher, firefighter, pastor, doctor, farmer, banker, mother, father. Affirm that while babies can only grow in a mother's womb, both mommies and daddies take care of their babies. Discuss what kinds of activities and jobs the children do to help others.

MOVEMENT: Sing “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.” Before and after singing, remind children that God made them and all parts of their bodies. For an extension, ask children to help you “rewrite” the song using other body parts. It’s okay to be a little silly!

WORSHIP: Visit the church’s baptismal font (or show a picture of one) and talk about the many people who have been baptized and welcomed into God’s family. In Baptism, God says, “I love you and I forgive you for Jesus’ sake. You are My precious child!”

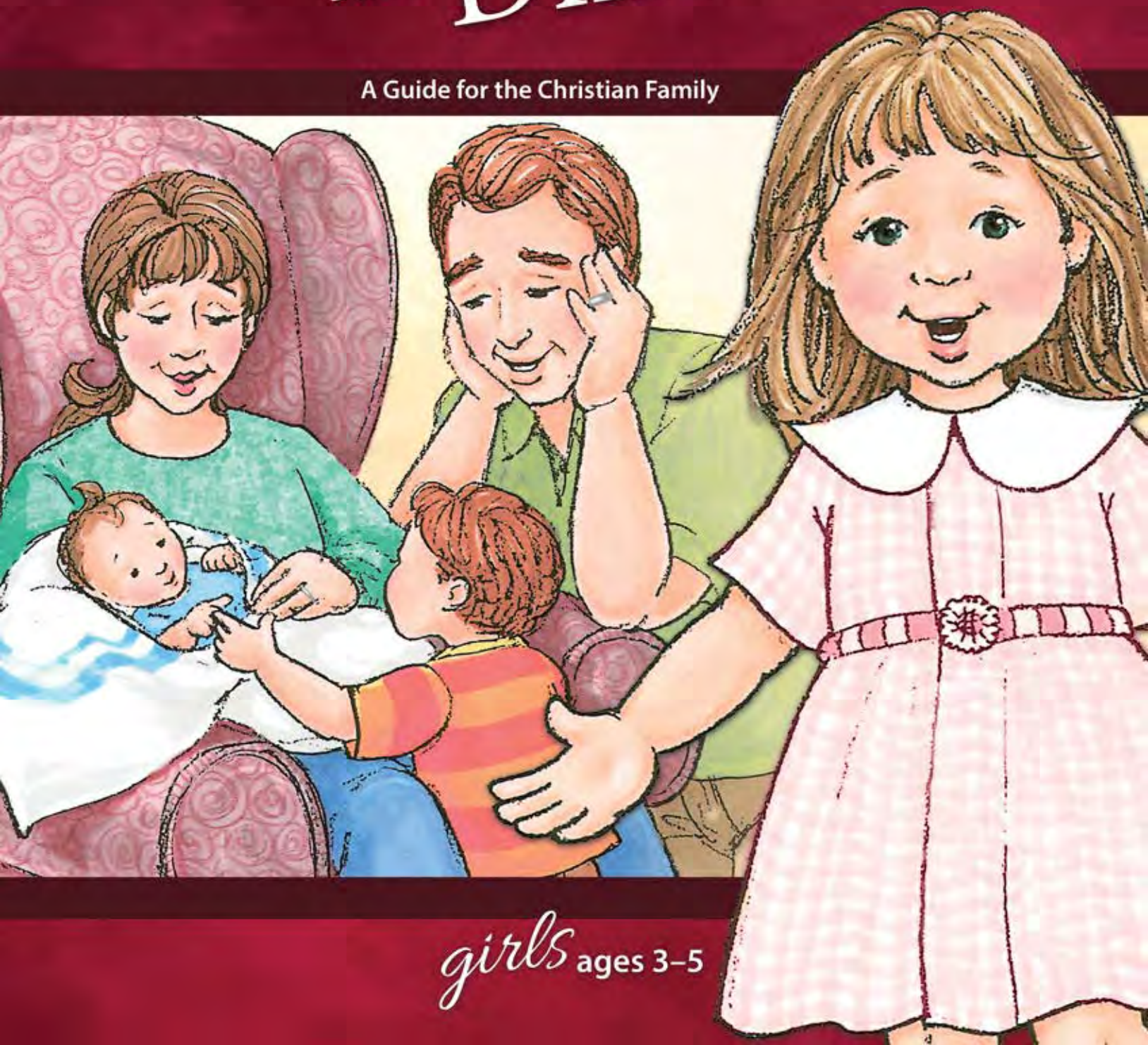
SERVICE PROJECT: Ask parents to give children quarters and dollar bills, which children place inside a baby bottle at school for chapel or worship offerings. Give the donations to a local organization that supports babies who are in need or to a local foster organization.

Additional Teacher and Classroom Resources

- “Who Will Help? (The Good Samaritan)” from *The Hear Me Read Bible* by Mary Manz Simon
- *How Can I Help? God’s Calling for Kids* by Mary J. Moerbe
- “We Love” and other songs from *Little Ones Sing Praise*, which can also be found on streaming platforms.

Why Boys and Girls Are Different

A Guide for the Christian Family



girls ages 3-5

Learning About Sex

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From text originally written by Carol Greene

Illustrations by Michelle Dorenkamp

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Manufactured in Dongguan, China/055760/416281

Foreword

This book is one of a series of six that is designed to help parents communicate biblical values to their children in the area of sexuality and relationships. *Why Boys and Girls Are Different* is the first book in the series. It is written especially for girls ages three to five and, of course, for the parents, teachers, and other concerned grown-ups who will read the book to the child. (See “A Note to Grown-ups” at the end of the book for suggestions on using the book and ways to communicate Christian values in sex education in the home.)



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While parents will appreciate the help of the school and church, they will want to know what is being taught. As the Christian home and the Christian school and church work together, Christian values in sex education can be more effectively strengthened.

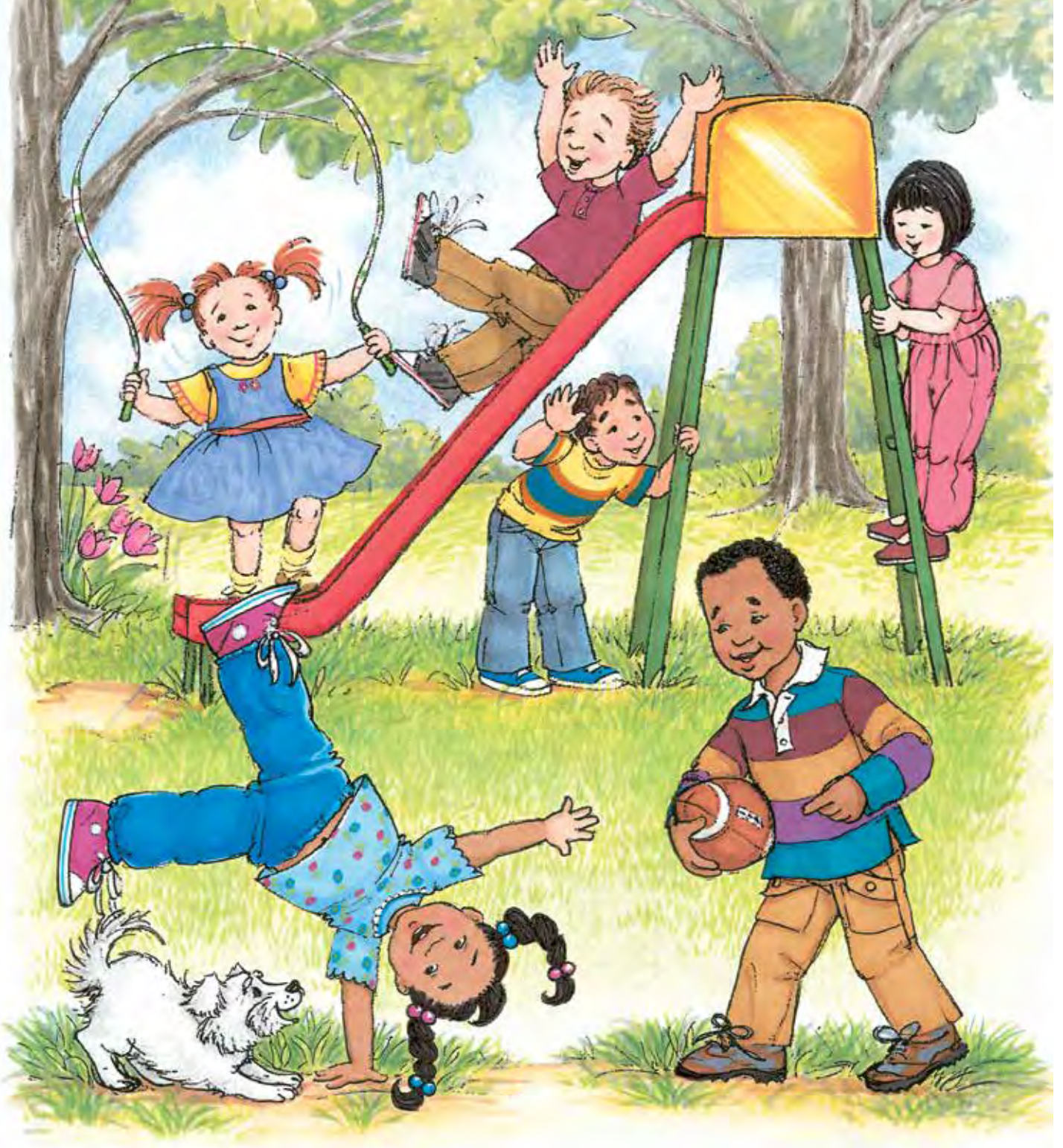
The Editors



I'm a girl.
God made me!



He's a boy.
God made him too!



God made you too. He did a good job, didn't He?

Each of us is *special*. We are all loved by God.

There is only one of you and only one of me in the whole world!

Each of us is *unique*. We are all precious to God. Isn't that amazing?



You are you. And I am me.

I like to hop.

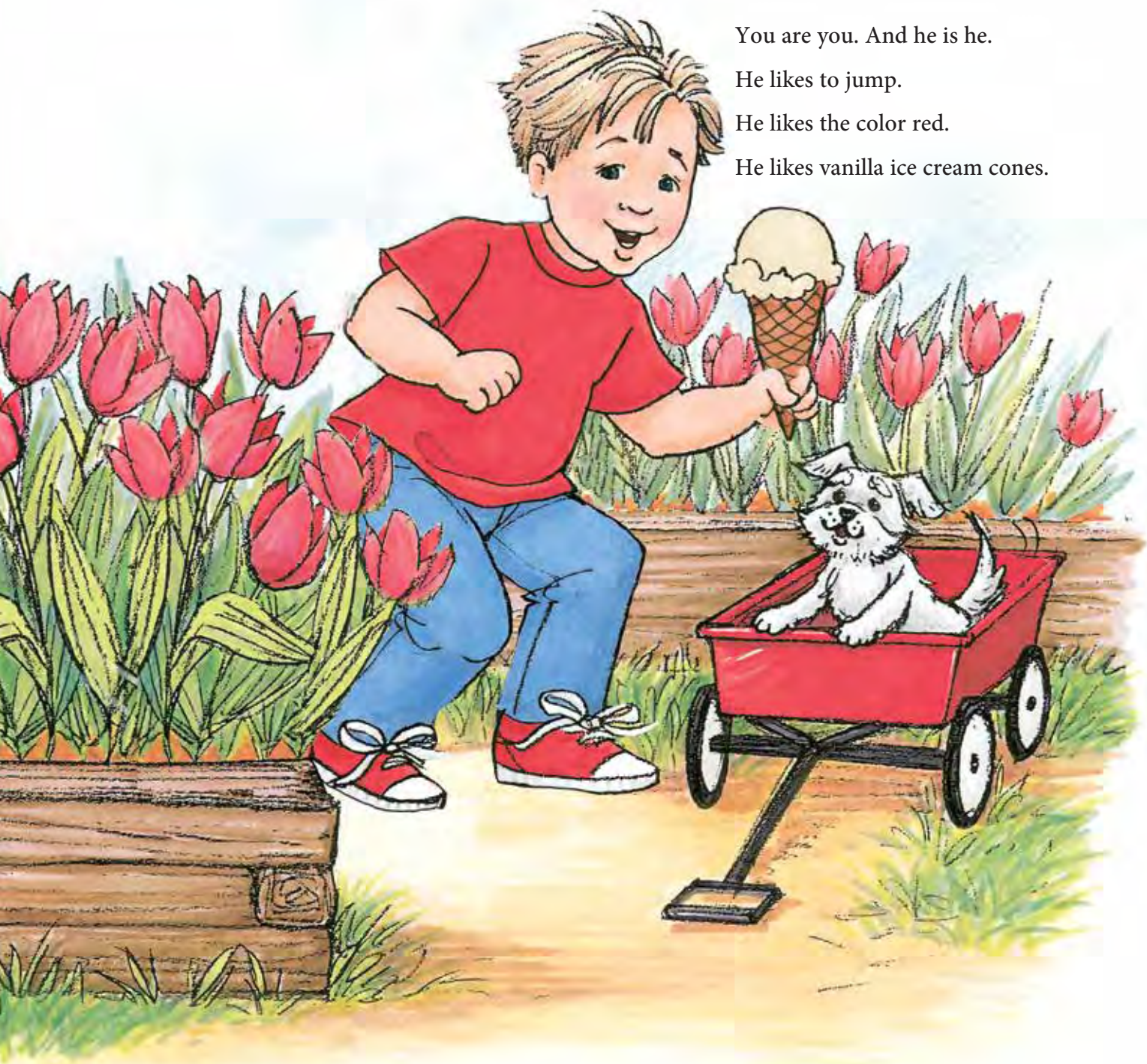
I like the color yellow.

I like chocolate ice cream cones.

In some ways, we are the *same*. In some ways, we're not.

God made us that way. I like God's plans.

And I like you.



You are you. And he is he.

He likes to jump.

He likes the color red.

He likes vanilla ice cream cones.

In some ways, we are the same. In some ways, we're not.

God made us that way. I like God's plans.

And I like you. I like him too.

God made boys and girls with bodies that are the same in many ways.



God gave us eyes to see with



and ears to hear with



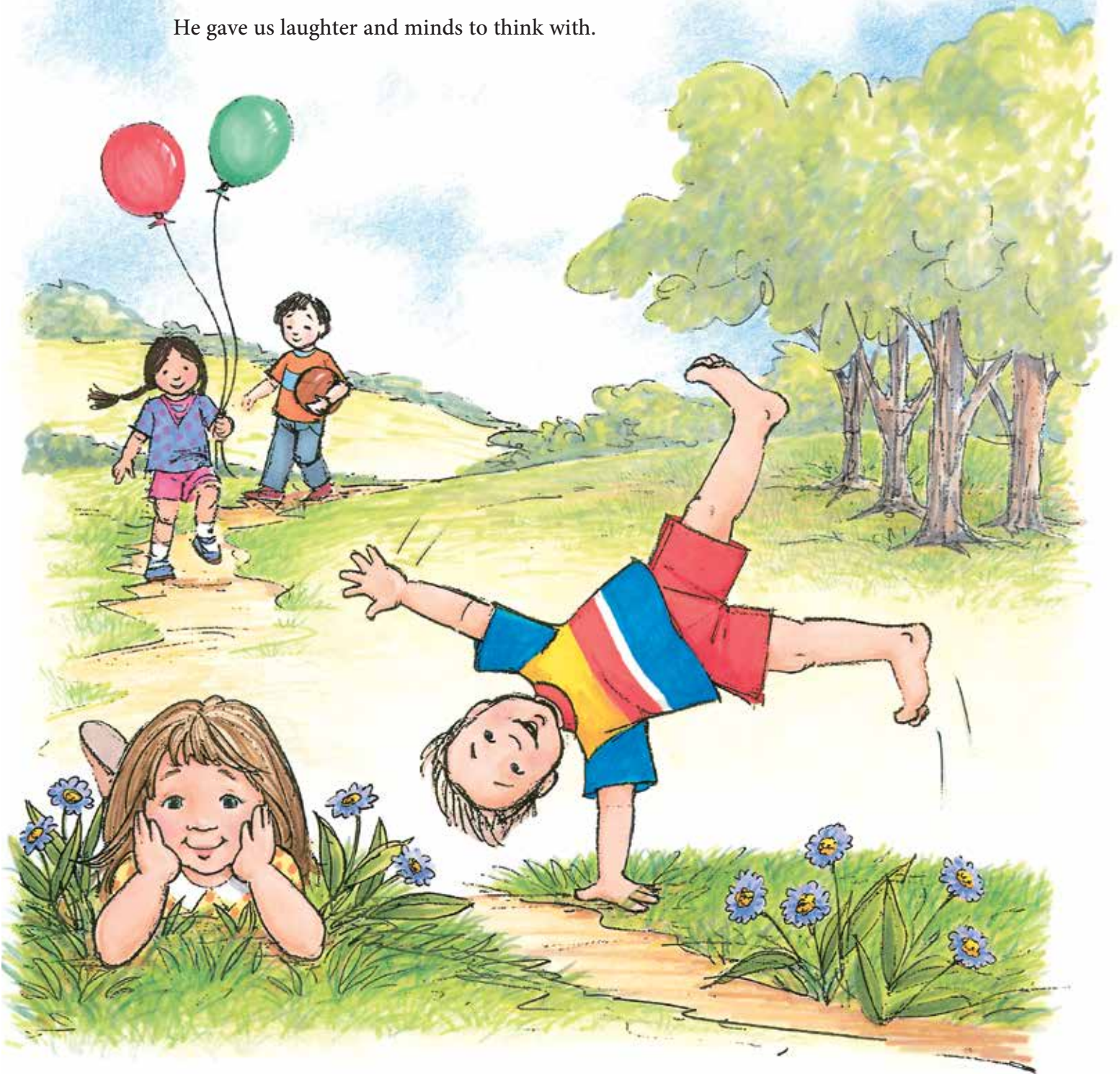
and noses to smell with



and mouths to talk and taste with.

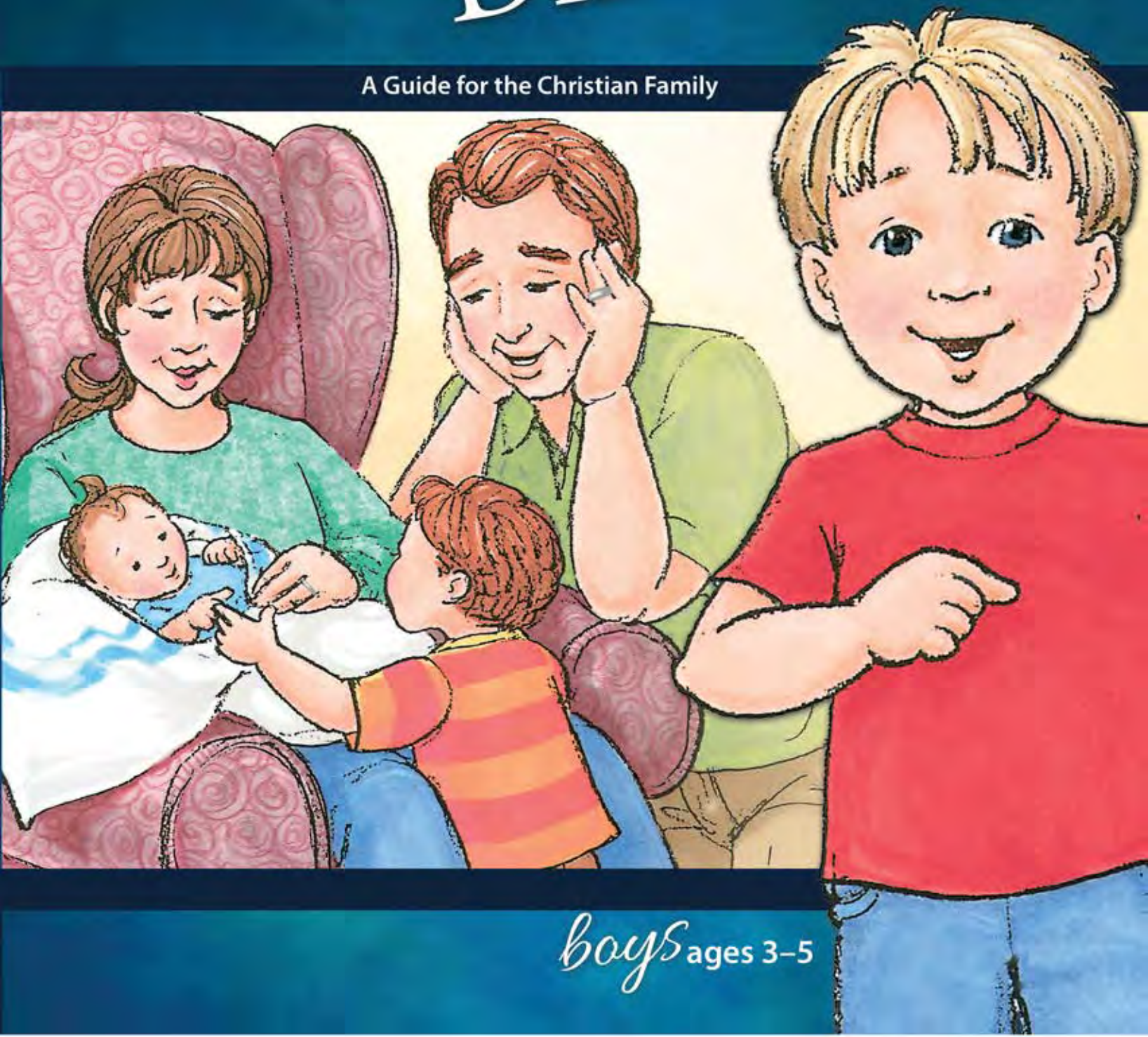
God gave us hands and feet and fingers and toes.

He gave us laughter and minds to think with.



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A Guide for the Christian Family



boys ages 3-5

Learning About Sex

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From text originally written by Carol Greene

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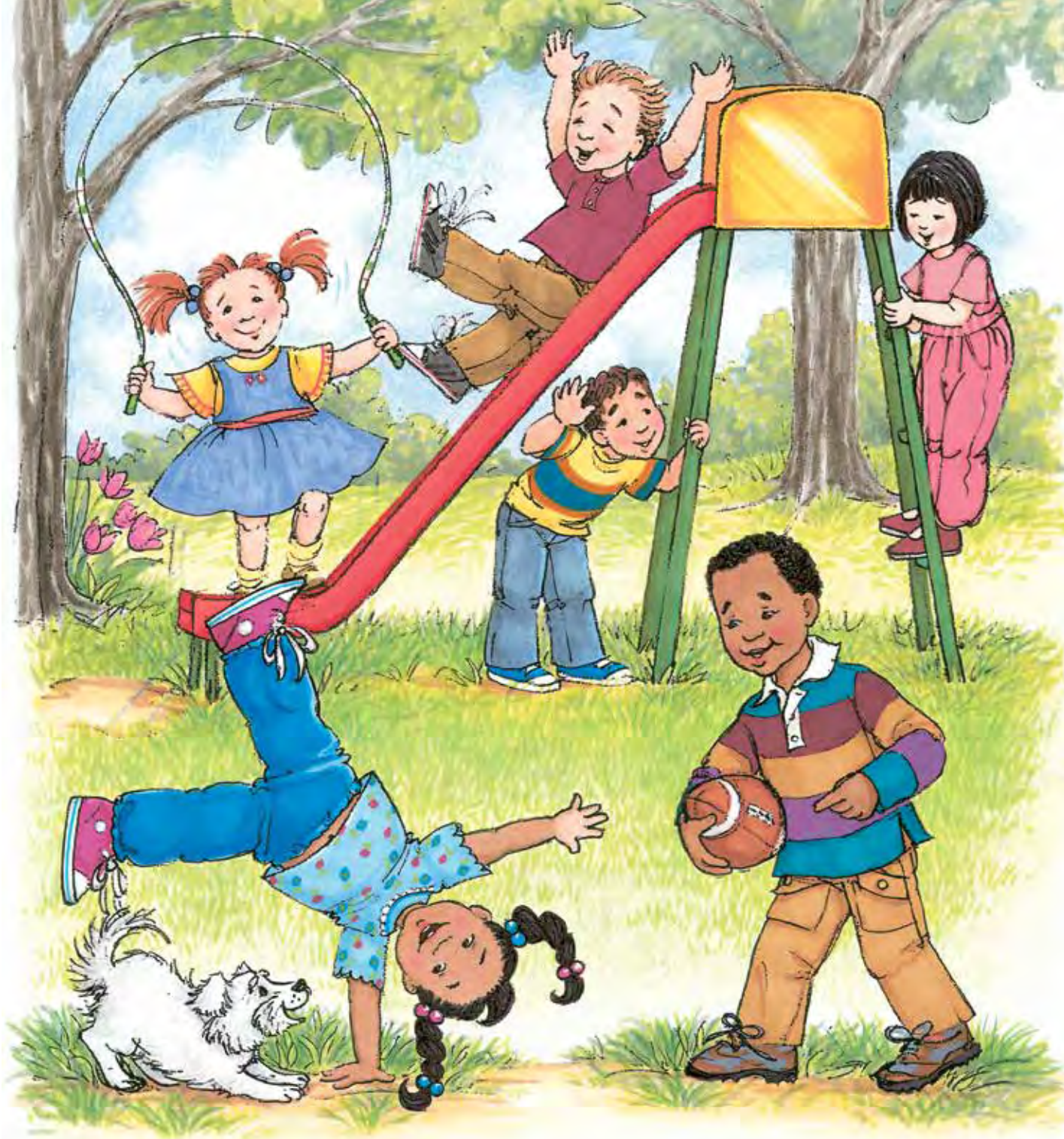
The Editors



I am a boy.
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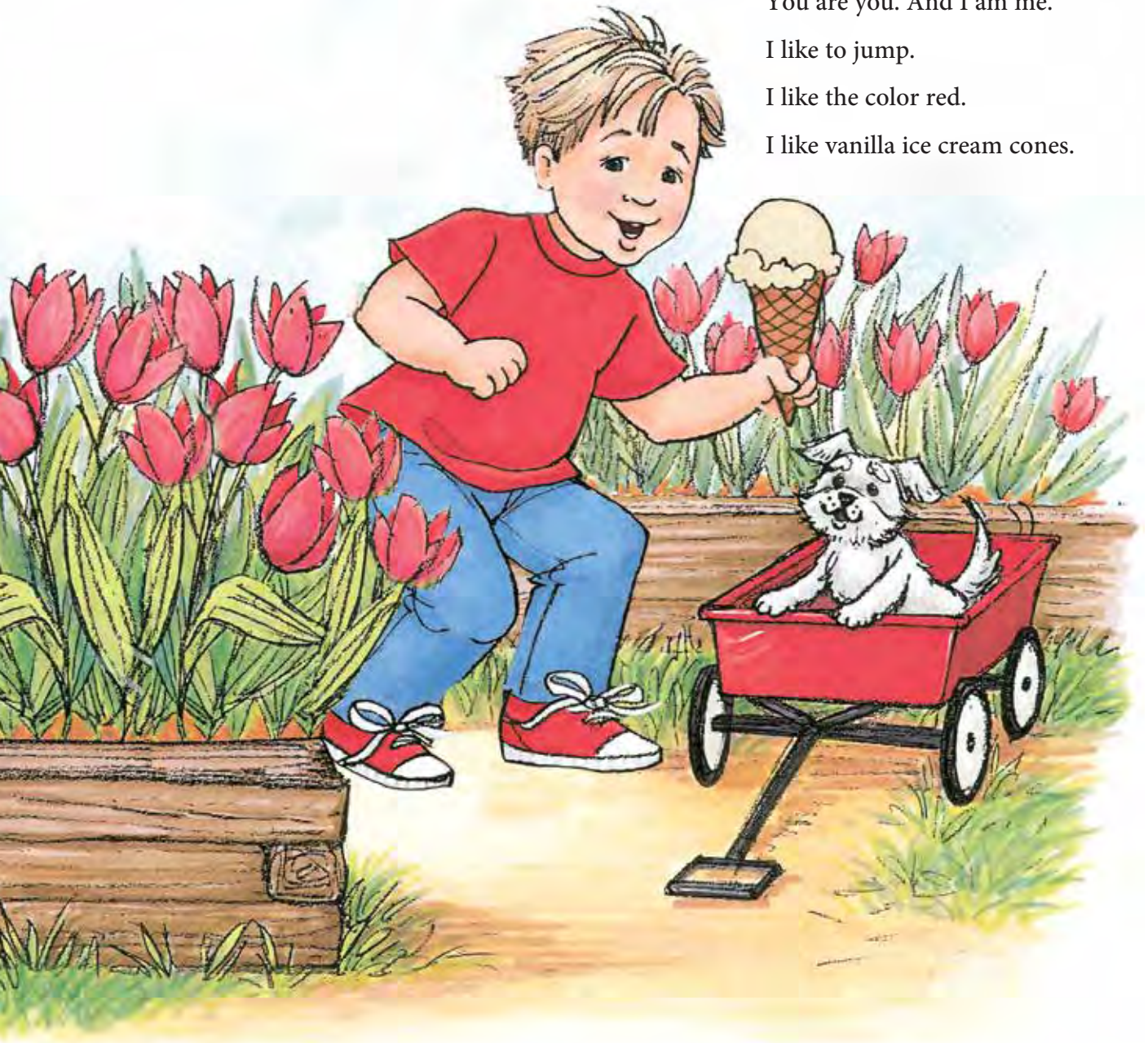
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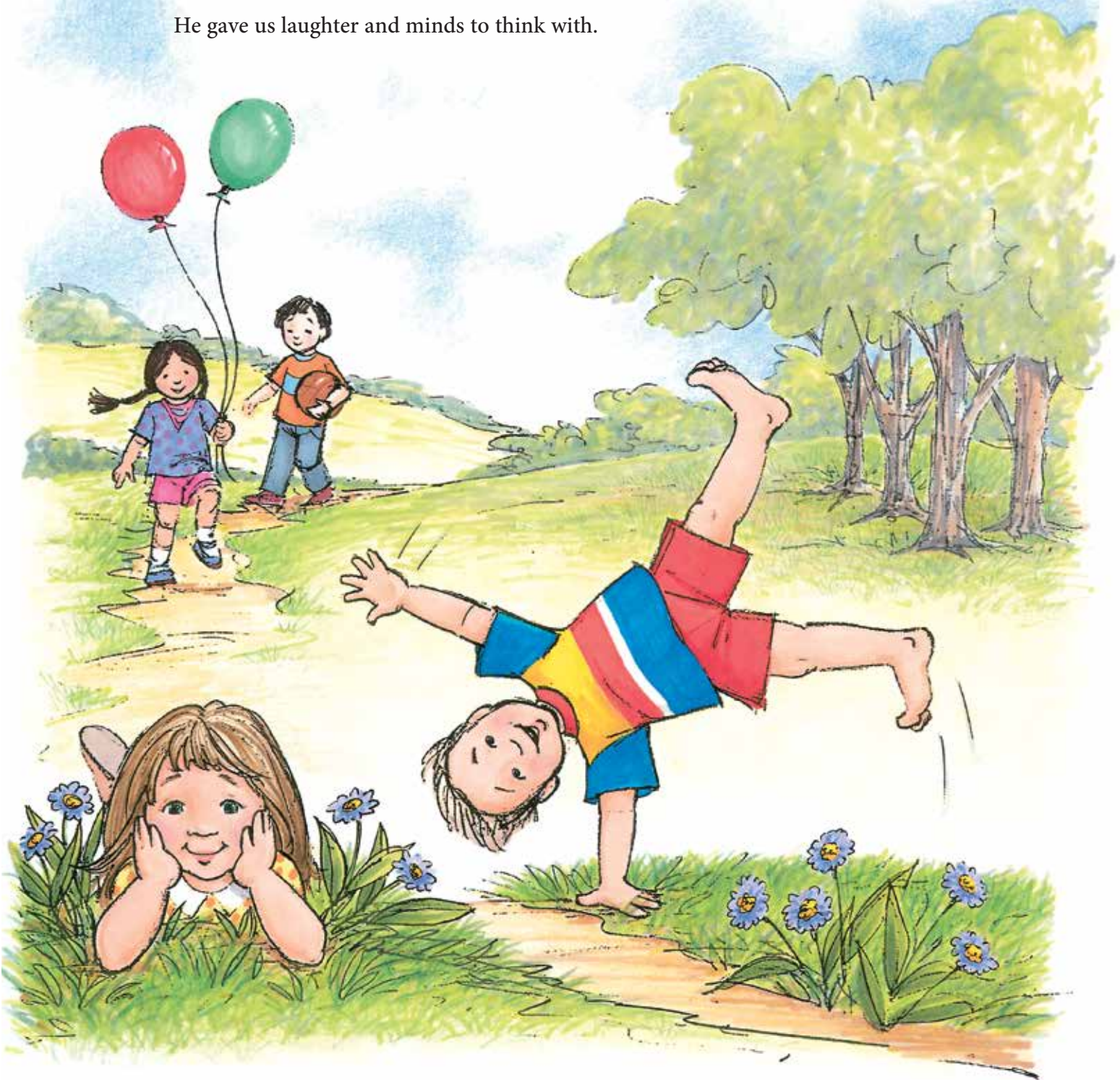
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He gave us laughter and minds to think with.





*How to Talk
Confidently
with
Your Child
about Sex*

A Guide for the Christian Family

For *Parents*

Learning About Sex

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Written by Lenore Buth

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Manufactured in the United States of America

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Editors' Foreword

How to Talk Confidently with Your Child about Sex is written especially for parents who want to communicate Christian values as they discuss sex with their children. Like its predecessor, this revised and updated Learning about Sex series provides information about the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual aspects of human sexuality. Moreover, it does so from a distinctively Christian point of view, in the context of our relationship to the God who created us and redeemed us in Jesus Christ. The series presents sex as another good gift from God, and it helps us understand sex in the larger context of our entire life of faith. To counter cultural influences, be strong and consistent in communicating the miracle of God's design. The way God made us is just the way He knew it should be for our health and happiness. The other books in the series are graded—in vocabulary and in the amount of information they provide. They answer the questions that persons at each age level typically ask. Separate books for boys and girls are provided at each age and developmental level.

Because children vary widely in their growth rates and interest levels, parents and other concerned adults will want to preview each book in the series, directing the child to the next graded book when he or she is ready for it.

Ideally, the books in this series will be used as part of a biblically based, broadly focused—yet personal—training of young people for biblical adulthood. For young people, this training can flow from a mentoring relationship similar to that of Paul and Timothy or Ruth and Naomi. A young man or woman can learn much from a parent, grandparent, or other adult who trusts in Jesus for his or her salvation. In the context of such a relationship, questions of a personal nature can be asked and answered, insightful discussions held, and godly behaviors modeled. Your expression of God-pleasing values will likely have a greater impact on the healthy development of your son or daughter than any book, other than the Bible. God's plan unfolds as each generation in succession passes on the truths God imparts through His Word and the wisdom that comes as challenges are met and overcome by the power of God's grace through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Each of the books in the Learning about Sex series for boys and the Learning about Sex series for girls can

serve as a helpful starting point for casual conversation and when answering other questions a child might have.

The other books in this series also can be used as mini units or as part of another course of study in a Christian school setting. Whenever the books are used in a class setting, it is important to let the parents know beforehand, since they have the primary responsibility for the sex education of their children. If used in a classroom setting, the books in this series are designed for separate single-gender groups, the setting most conducive to open conversations about questions and concerns.

As the Christian home and the Christian school and church work together, Christian values in sex education can be more effectively strengthened.

The Editors



1

Children = Changes



*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward. (Psalm 127:3)*

Parenthood certainly brings with it myriad changes. Veteran parents advise new parents, “Life will never be the same again,” but add, “and we wouldn’t have had it any other way!” Although a parent’s world may get turned upside down with the addition of a child, the joys are unparalleled.

Subtle changes begin when the woman misses that first menstrual period. Immediately, both spouses find that their perspective on life enlarges. The husband ponders what it will mean to be a father. The wife ticks off the months to wait and thinks about the bodily changes that lie ahead. Together, they try out names and speculate about the future. Life has a new focus.



For most parents, their child's birth instantly cements and strengthens the bond they already feel with their tiny child. Despite the exhaustion associated with caring for a newborn, parents are most often happy to serve their dependent infant as an expression of their love. A parent's care and nurture for his or her new child is a loving gift of the self, with little or nothing expected in return. Christian parents may grow weary in their round-the-clock service to their "helpless" little one, but also know that their child is a gift from God and find comfort in His promise to renew their strength through His Word. Parents may have bags under their eyes, but they gaze upon the child in their arms with gratitude to God.

For those who become parents through adoption or become a step-parent, their love may not be so instant. But by the power of the Holy Spirit the love between parent and child grows as the child looks to the parents to meet all of his or her physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Look forward to the joy of watching your child develop, and give the relationship time to develop, trusting that God brought you together as a family.

From the day a child arrives, parents embark on an exciting learning adventure. Each phase of the child's life is new to both child and parents. The arrival of a baby boy or girl—a brand new life—brings with it joy, anticipation, and hope for the future.

Children are a
gift from God!

The gift sometimes overlooked is that parenthood offers a deeper understanding of God's love for His children. While imperfect in our ability to love unconditionally, parents can reflect the perfectly unconditional love God has for us, evidenced in His sending of His very own Son to die for our sins. Even though our best efforts fall short and we follow our own selfish desires, God never runs out of patience or forgiveness for us, His children. *"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him"* (Psalm 103:11–13). God calls, motivates, and empowers us to parent our children, exercising Christlike love, patience, and forgiveness.

The Number One Task

The most important task that faces the new father and mother is *not* the obvious physical childcare and support. The major job, starting with

the first day, is to provide their child with constant, accepting love. As Christians, we believe that kind of love has only one source: God.

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. . . .
We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:7, 19)*

No less vital is to have the same attitude toward each other. When parents love each other abundantly, they have an abundance of love to give their offspring. In such an atmosphere, children are more likely to grow up well-adjusted, with good self-images, and with the foundation they will need as adults. When spouses love and support each other throughout the child-rearing years, healthy patterns are formed. Parents model unconditional love when they readily forgive and do unselfish things for each other.

The child's sense of being accepted or rejected, his or her self-image and value system for the rest of life, is greatly influenced during the first five years of life. Parents may see the time of their child's growing-up as years of sacrifice and hard work, with never a moment to call their own (and in many ways that's true). Yet during that time, life values are being laid down.

When parents must find someone else to care for their child for extended periods, it's of prime importance that there is as little turnover as possible in the person(s) providing childcare. A child needs stability. It's also vital that the person(s) who cares for children have attitudes and values similar to the child's parents. A child often spends more waking hours with another caregiver than with his or her parents, so that person's lifestyle and views inevitably carry great weight with the child. Is that reassuring? Or does it make us uneasy?

Reading this may fill many of us with remorse and guilt. If so, be assured: All parents make mistakes. All parents have times when they feel antagonism toward their child. All parents at times communicate attitudes they later regret. And few totally agree with their caregiver's attitudes, even when the child's own grandparents fill that role. So what's a parent to do?

"There's only one thing parents can do!" says one great-grandmother. "Same as we did and our folks before us. Just ask the good Lord for wisdom, and count on Him to take everything in our children's lives—even