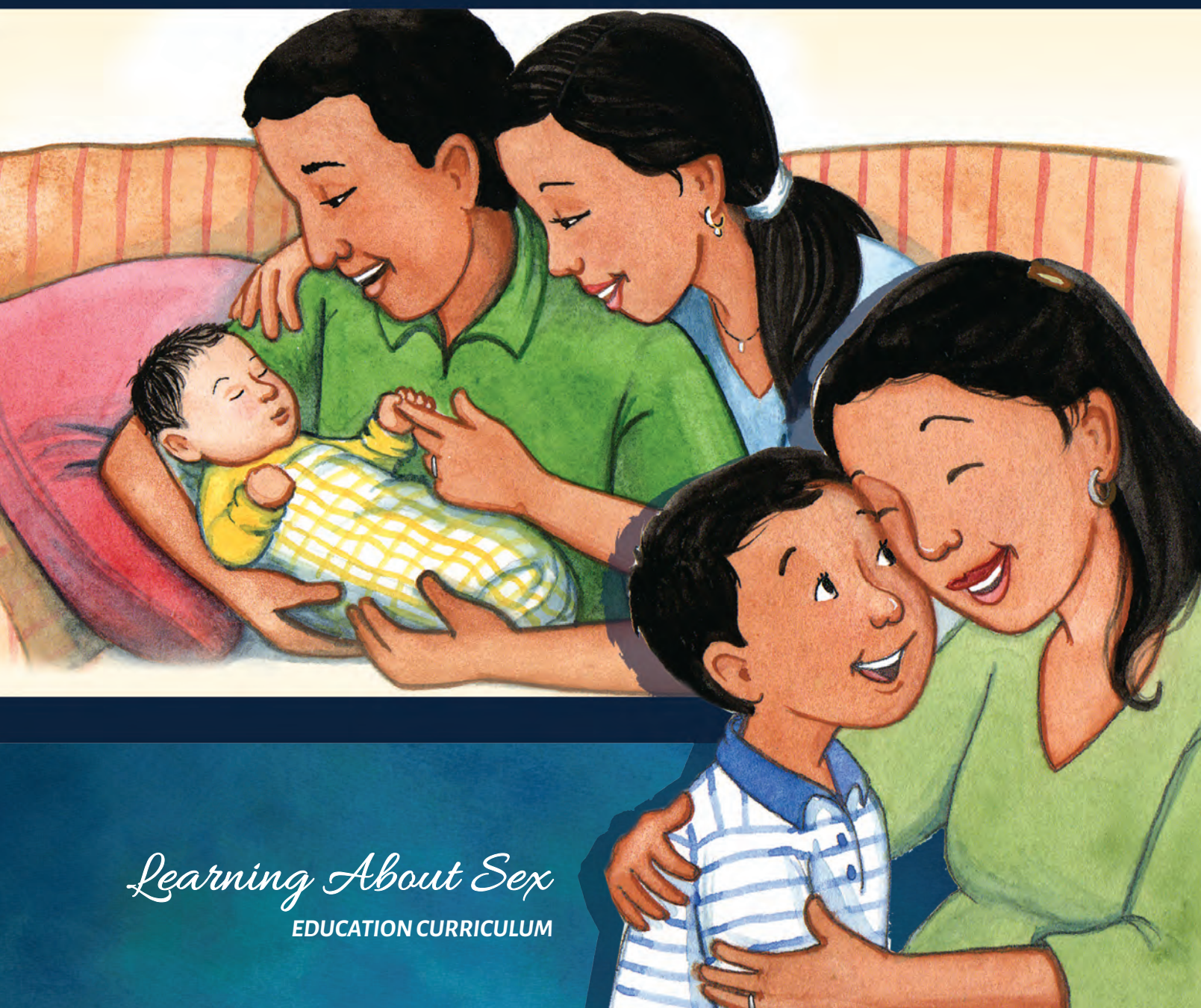


Where Do Babies Come From?

For boys ages 6–8

For girls ages 6–8



Learning About Sex
EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Ages 6–8

Lesson 1: Identity and Calling

I Am a Child of God!

Lesson Focus

Every person's identity and worth are established by God. God created every person on this earth, and each person has intrinsic worth, is unique, and is loved by God as His precious child.

Materials Needed

- A lump of play dough or clay
- Bible or Bible story book
- Book: *Where Do Babies Come From?* (boy or girl version)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for lovingly creating each of the students in my classroom. Guard them against feelings of insecurity and unworthiness. Help them to feel content and confident in who You have made them to be. Guide them to respect, love, and serve others as You have loved us. Thank You for calling us to be Yours! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Learner Goals

 With prompting and support,

- the learner can tell that God knew him or her even before birth. God created every person with special care to be either a boy or a girl, and He loves every person the same.
- the learner can relate that God made every person in the world. God made each person unique and special. People are the same in some ways and different in other ways.
- the learner can describe the roles God has given to him or her (daughter or son, friend, student, athlete, etc.), through which he or she can love and serve Him and others.

Teacher Insights

- We know who we are by what God has told us in His Word: we are created and known by Him. Through faith, we are forgiven and we are His children. God declares our worth as His children: "I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine" (Isaiah 43:1).
- Our worth does not depend on talent, appearance, or gender. Instead, Jesus Christ gave us worth when He created us. He showed us how much we are worth to Him by dying on the cross to save us from our sins.
- God has given each person a unique set of talents, gifts, and experiences. God has given us purpose in life: to know Him and to serve others and give glory to God 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).
- God gives us security in our identity—we are loved and forgiven children of God. Each person has been uniquely, intentionally created by God. When we know and understand this, we are free to live out our lives as God intended—in service to Him and to others.
- Vocation is the work that God does through people. God wants us to serve others in the roles He has given us as a son or daughter, brother or sister, friend, athlete, student, doctor, teacher, musician, and so forth.

Opening

PRAY Dear Father in heaven, thank You for specially creating each one of us and making us Your children. Help us to love and care for others as You love and care for us. In Jesus' name we pray. 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.*

*Jesus is my perfect Savior,
Died and rose to set me free.
When I show a bad behavior,
His forgiveness covers me
For He loves me! Yes, He loves me,
And He knows me in and out.
Yes, He loves me! Always loves me!
I know this without a doubt.*

Introductory Activity

Hold a lump of play dough. Tell students you are going to make a person from the dough. Quickly and without care, shape the dough into a rough shape of a person. Ask students what they think about the "person" you made. Then shape the dough a second time, taking your time to carefully make arms, legs, a head, and so on. **What difference did you see between the first person I made and the second person?** Listen to answers. **When God made the first people, Adam and Eve, He took great care forming every detail like fingerprints, eye-lashes, and teeth! What is something you think is amazing about the human body?** Let students share. **God made every person in an amazing and wonderful way!**

Reading

Read about God's creation of Adam and Eve (Genesis 2) from a Bible or Bible story book. Then read from the book *Where Do Babies Come From?* Read the section titled "Boys and Girls—Fathers and Mothers." This section talks about the roles (vocations) God gives to people.

Points to emphasize as you read:

- God formed Adam, the first man, from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him.
- God formed Eve, the first woman, from one of Adam's ribs. God took great care in forming both Adam and Eve!
- God made boys and girls the same in many ways but different in some ways. God loves all people the same, both boys and girls, men and women. God wants us to respect and treat all people with love and kindness.
- Both males and females can be many things: pilots, chefs, teachers, and more! But only females can become wives and mothers, and only males can become husbands and fathers.

Discussion

- **Do you know how many hairs are on your head? Do you know who you are going to marry someday? We don't know those things about us, but God does! God knew everything about you before you were even born. He made you a boy or a girl, and He made you just the way you are.**

Ask students to share one thing about themselves (how many siblings they have, where they were born, their favorite food, etc.).

- **Is there anyone in the world who is exactly like you? There is no one just like you—every person is unique! What are some things that people have in common? In what ways are people different?**

People have many things in common—we all eat, sleep, laugh, think, and so on. People have different likes and dislikes, talents, physical characteristics, personalities, and so forth.

- **Does God love some people more than He loves other people? No, God loves every person the same, even people we think are mean or bad. We are all sinners—we all do wrong things. Jesus loves all people so much that He died on the cross to pay for our sins so we can be saved (John 3:16). All people who believe in Him are God's children.**
- **What kinds of jobs can men and women do?**

Let students name different occupations/vocations.

- **Both men and women can do many kinds of jobs! There are many things we can do that serve God and other people. Of course, only males can be sons, husbands, fathers, grandfathers, and uncles, and only women can be daughters, wives, mothers, grandmothers, and aunts. That's the way God made us, and each of these roles, or vocations, are special and helpful.**

Bible Verse Isaiah 43:1

I have called you by name, you are Mine.

Write the Bible verse and reference on the board, leaving a large space between “I have called you by name,” and “you are Mine.” Give each student a piece of white paper and have them copy the verse, asking them to write their names in the space so that their papers read,

“I have called you by name, [Ezekiel,] you are Mine.” Isaiah 43:1

Student Learning Page

Print copies of the Student Learning Page onto cardstock. The learning page has a decorative frame printed on it. Each student will write his or her name inside the frame. Students can use markers, crayons, colored pencils, or watercolors to color the frame. Provide students with stickers, sequins and glue, or adhesive gems to further decorate the frame. Read together the words printed at the bottom of the page: “I am a child of 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 Bible account of Jesus calling the first disciples (Mark 1:16–20) from a Bible or Bible story book. After reading the story, ask: **What job (role/vocation) did Peter, Andrew, James, and John have before Jesus called them?** (They were fishermen.) **What did Jesus call them to do?** (Follow Him and tell others about God) **What roles/vocations do you have?** (son, daughter, student, etc.) **What can you do to help and show love to others?** Allow students to answer.

CRAFT: Look online for a paper-doll template. Photocopy and provide a paper template for each student to color and cut out. Remind children that God made every person on the earth, and every person is unique and loved by Him! Encourage students to use different skin tones and clothing for the paper dolls to represent a variety of cultures and nationalities.

GAME: Play “Simon Says,” using occupations/vocations as the actions. Actions could include the following: act like a farmer, act like a restaurant chef, act like a musician, act like a bus driver, and so forth. After playing, ask students how each profession they acted out can be an opportunity to praise God and serve others.

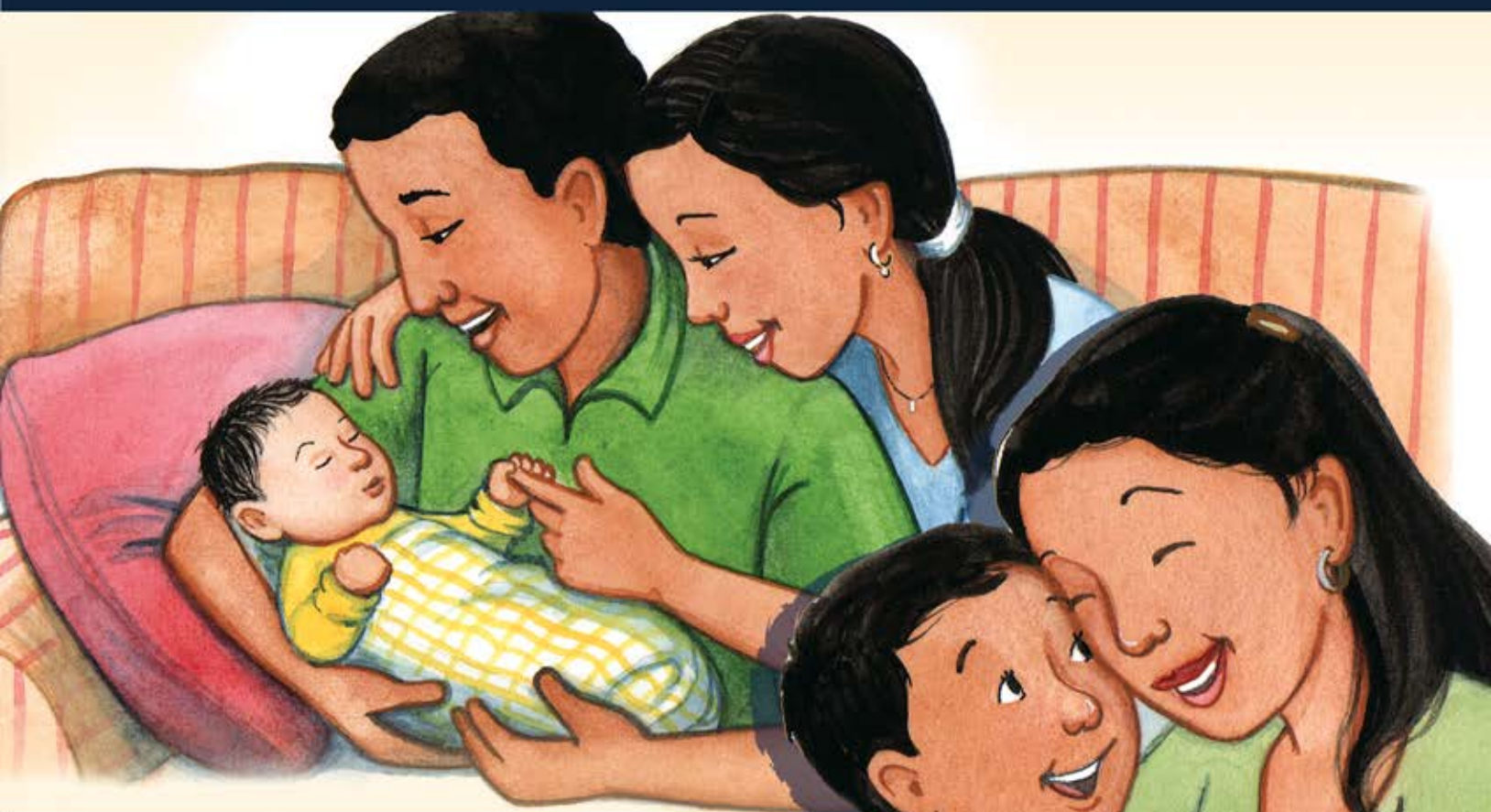
WORSHIP: Help your students learn and sing the song “I Am Loved,” included as part of the Opening in this curriculum. Plan to have your class sing it in a chapel service, perhaps one that focuses on life issues.

INTERACTION: Invite your pastor, a church worker, and/or a few parents to your classroom to talk about their occupations. Provide prompts ahead of time, asking guests to share how their occupations/vocations praise God and serve others.

Additional Teacher and Classroom Resources

- “Jesus Calls Four Disciples” from *The Growing in Faith Bible Storybook*
- *God Chose You* by Julie Dietrich
- “Children of the Heavenly Father” (OAR 271) and other songs from *One and All Rejoice*, which can also be found on streaming platforms.

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boys ages 6-8

Learning About Sex

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From text originally written by Ruth Hummel

Illustrations by Janet McDonnell

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A Note to Grown-ups about Communicating Values at Home



In story form, this book answers questions about sexuality that six- to eight-year-olds typically ask—or wonder about. Many children this age will have difficulty reading the book on their own, so plan to enjoy reading it with your child. Depending on his interest, read all of it at one time, or read one chapter at a time.

Make it just another book that you enjoy reading to or with your child at the usual times when you read together. Once you've read it, of course, you may want to read it again—next month or even next year, when your child is at a different developmental level and able to absorb more of the content.

Take your time as you read, expanding on the text when your child asks for further information. Most of all, use the occasion to wonder at the beauty and design of God's good gift of sexuality. After all, what we're most interested in is helping your child develop a reverent, wholesome, responsible attitude about human conception and birth and the way God made us male or female. We want to communicate not only truthful and accurate information about sexuality, but especially a deep appreciation of God's marvelous design and purpose and a sense of respect and responsibility toward all God has given. "God made me a boy—and His creation is wonderful!"

Here are six easy-to-remember guidelines (each beginning with a C) to keep in mind as you answer questions:

1. Commend your child for coming to you and for asking, especially if the question makes you uneasy! You want to keep the channels of communication open.
2. Clarify the question: "When you ask, 'Where do babies come from?' do you mean, 'How do they grow?'"
3. Communicate with simple, direct answers.
4. Connect your answer to what your child already knows (or thinks he knows): "Remember what you learned about . . . ? That will help you understand that . . ." Also, you may want to connect your child's question to other aspects of growing up, thereby avoiding the danger of isolating sex from the wider background of life in general.
5. Care must be taken to warn your child about the possibilities of abuse. You might want to work this into a discussion of appropriate behavior. "Your body belongs to you—including those private parts that your swimming suit covers. You don't show those parts or touch them in public. And other people should not touch your private parts either. No one has a right to do that unless it's a nurse or a doctor helping you to be well or someone who cares for you helping you to be clean. If anyone does touch your private parts, be sure to tell me. I want to keep you safe."
6. Christ Himself is with us and is guiding us in what we say and what we model about relationships. Share with your child: "Isn't it wonderful that Jesus, God's own Son, was born as a baby? He grew up—just as we do. So He knows what it's like when we feel lonely or afraid. He always did what was right—and He died on a cross—to pay for our sins. Now we can be sure that God, our Father, forgives us. And we can be glad that Jesus is there to help us grow as God's loving children."



Simon Has a Birthday

Simon was seven years old today. He could hardly wait to get home from school.

His dad, his mom, and his grandpa were all waiting. Grandpa always came over when there was a birthday or something else special.

"You need me to help you celebrate, don't you?" he said with a wink. Simon agreed as he gave him a hug. Then Simon saw his birthday cake.

"O-o-oh, it's cool!" he said. And it was! It had seven blue candles and seemed like it could be seven layers high! With the family gathered around, he opened his presents. There was a set of action figures, a pair of rollerblades, the game he had wished for, and tickets to go to the amusement park today.

"How did everyone know just what I wanted?" Simon wondered. "They must know me pretty well."

After Simon blew out the candles, his dad picked him up and gave him a bear hug. Simon giggled when he got his breath.

"Look how big our boy is getting, Mother," Dad said. "Do you still remember how he looked seven years ago today?"





“Seven years ago, Simon, you had just been born,” Mother said. “You looked beautiful to me! Maybe you were just another red and wrinkled baby to some people. But to me, you were perfect! I wondered how your fingers and toes could be so tiny. I saw that you had your dad’s brown eyes. And I prayed, ‘Thank You, God, for such a fine baby.’”

“Yep,” said Dad. “We thought you were really something special. Crying loudly, but very special! We were so glad God gave you to us. And wow! Did you change our family!”

“I changed our family?” Simon was surprised. “How could I do that? I was just a baby.”

“Just a baby?” Dad laughed. “Before you came, Simon, there was just Mother and I to love each other. But after you came, we had another person to love. Soon you learned to love and trust us too. So then there was a lot more love in our family than ever before.”

“You mean each new baby brings more love to a family?” Simon asked. When Mother nodded, Simon said, “Then every baby does change a family.”



“That’s right,” Mother said. “Families are always changing. They change in different ways. A family grows larger whenever a baby is born or a child is adopted. And people in the family are always growing older, and the babies are always growing bigger.”

“I know a family where the children are teenagers,” Dad said. “They’ve grown taller than their mother and father.”

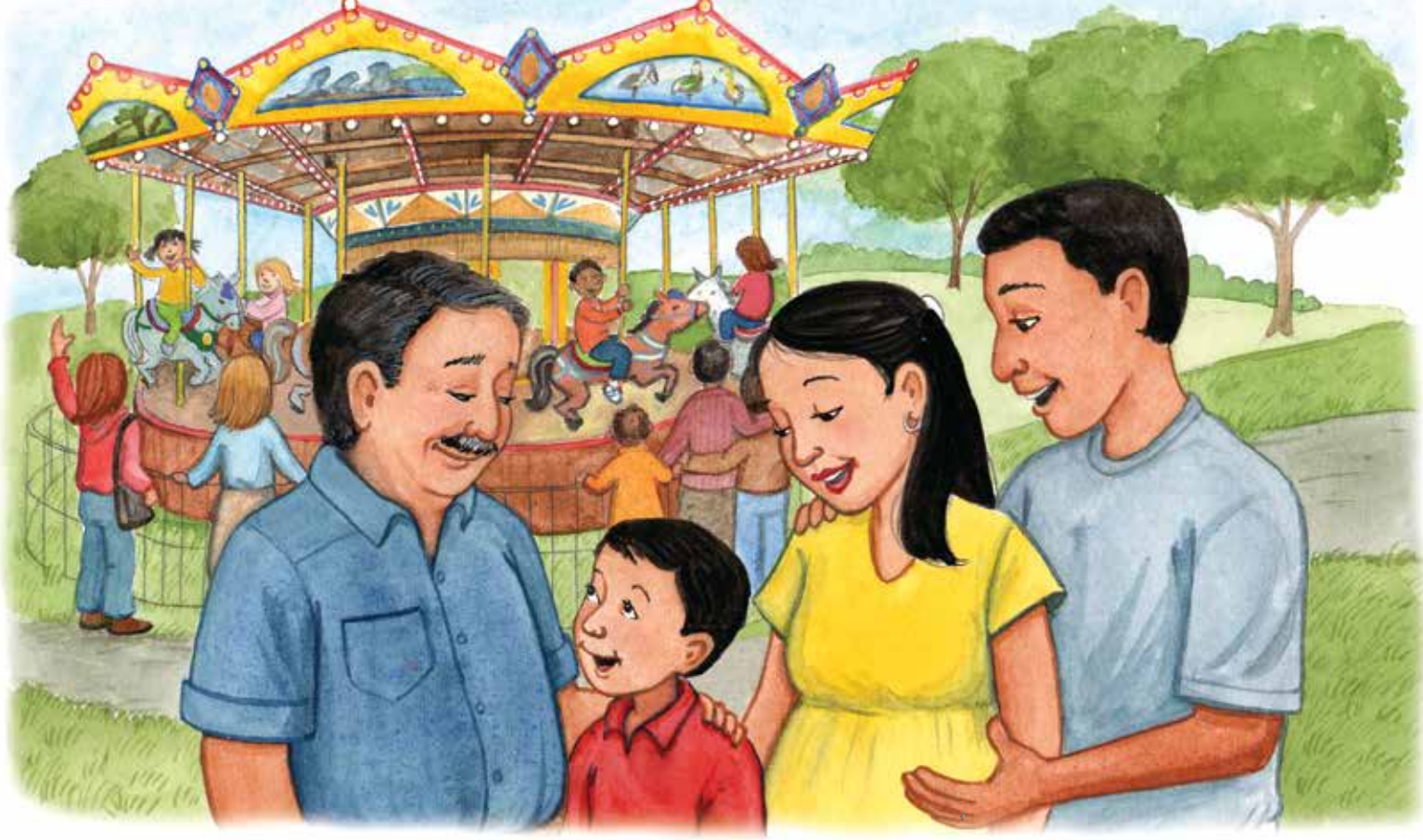
“They’ll be grown up soon,” Simon said. “When they move away, that will make their family smaller again.”

“That’s what happened to our family,” Grandpa said. “Our children got married. Then Grandma and I were a small family again.”

“Sometimes a family may have just a father or a mother. Or a family can grow larger when grandparents come to live with them,” Mother said.

“Why don’t you come and live here with us, Grandpa?” Simon asked. “Then our family would grow again.”

“Someday,” Grandpa said, “maybe I will make this family grow bigger. Just like you did, Simon, when you were born. When I first saw you, I knew for sure you belonged in this family. That straight, firm nose is your mother’s, for sure.”



“But how did I get her nose, Grandpa?”

“Well, babies born into a family often look like someone else in their family. Of course, God doesn’t make exact copies when He makes a new person. He makes each of us special—like no one else in the world.”

“But what about John, next door?” Simon said. “I wonder why he doesn’t look like anyone in his family.”

“That’s because he was adopted into his family,” Dad explained. “He was born to another mother. She loved him but could not take care of him. John’s parents wanted someone just like him for their family, so they adopted him.”

“What does that mean—*adopted* him?” Simon asked.

“Well, Simon, it means they decided to make him their own child. They love him as much as if he were born to them.”

“That’s another kind of family!” Simon said.

“Families are different in many ways,” said Mother. “Some families have just a mother or a father. Some families have only one child. Some families have many children.



“But in some important ways we are all the same. We are all people

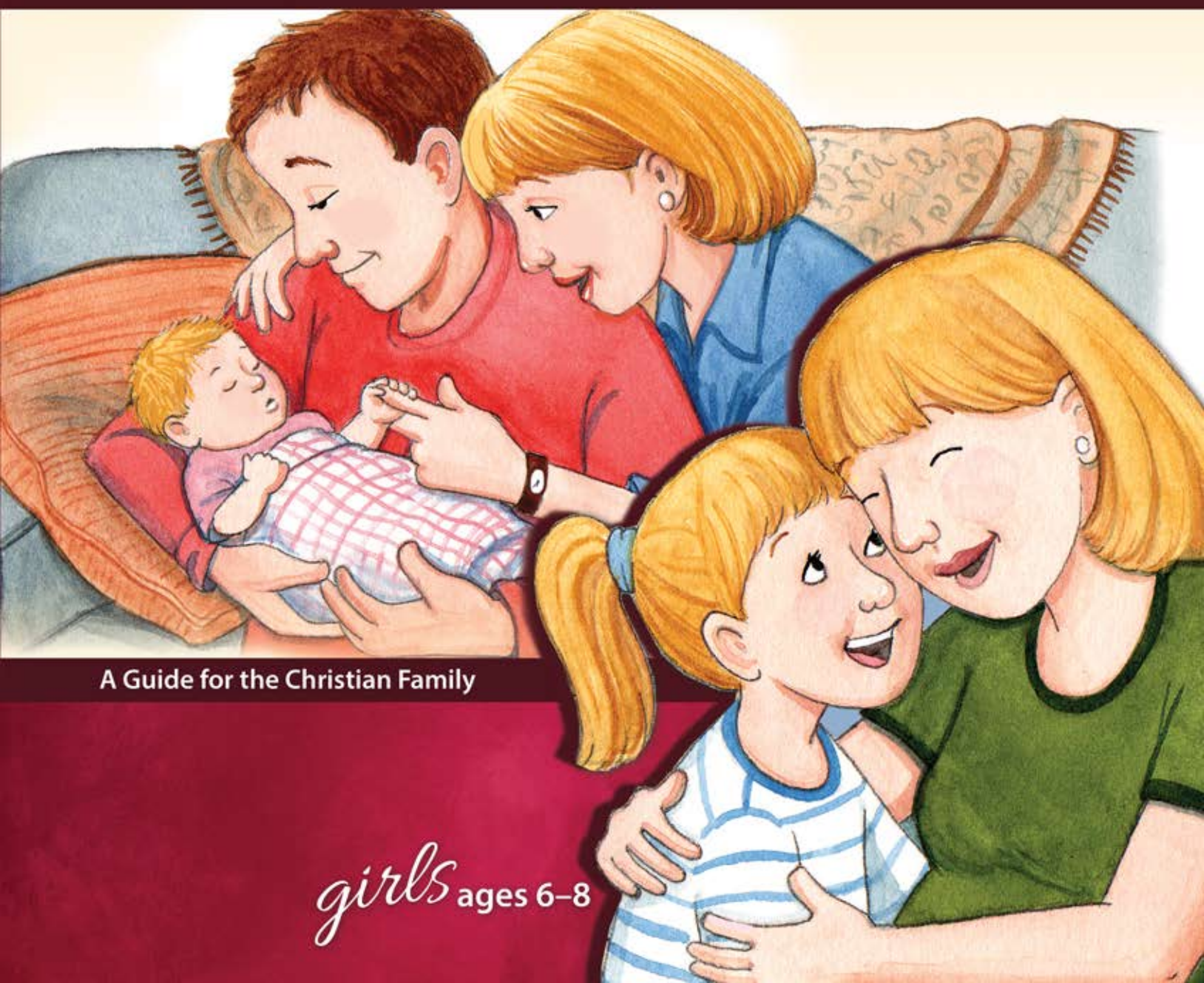
- loved by God all the time,
- loving one another all the time,
- living and working together,
- doing things for one another,
- celebrating good times together,
- helping one another through bad times, and
- caring about what happens to one another.”

“It was God who thought of putting us into families,” Dad said. “Wasn’t it a good idea? God knew that our family should start off with your mother and me, promising to love each other our whole lives. It was God’s perfect plan that our family would grow to include you. We promise we’ll always love you too.”

“I’m glad God put me into this family,” Simon said. “It’s just right for me. God knows what I want. He knows me so well!”

“O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!” (Psalm 96:7)

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Alisa Has a Birthday

Alisa was seven years old today. She could hardly wait to get home from school.

Her dad, her mom, and her grandma were all waiting. Grandma always came over when there was a birthday or something else special.

“You need me to help you celebrate, don’t you?” she said with a wink. Alisa agreed as she gave her a hug. Then Alisa saw her birthday cake.

“O-o-oh, it’s cool!” she said. And it was! It had seven candles and seemed like it could be seven layers high! With the family gathered around, she opened her presents. There was a set of dressed-up dolls, a pair of rollerblades, the game she had wished for, and tickets to go to the amusement park today.

“How did everyone know just what I wanted?” Alisa wondered. “They must know me pretty well.”

After Alisa blew out the candles, her dad picked her up and gave her a big hug. Alisa giggled when she got her breath.

“Look how big our girl is getting, Mother,” Dad said. “Do you still remember how she looked seven years ago today?”





“Seven years ago, Alisa, you had just been born,” Mother said. “You looked beautiful to me! Maybe you were just another red and wrinkled baby to some people. But to me, you were perfect! I wondered how your fingers and toes could be so tiny. I saw that you had your dad’s brown eyes. And I prayed, ‘Thank You, God, for such a fine baby.’”

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“I changed our family?” Alisa was surprised. “How could I do that? I was just a baby.”

“Just a baby?” Dad laughed. “Before you came, Alisa, there was just Mother and I to love each other. But after you came, we had another person to love. Soon you learned to love and trust us too. So then there was a lot more love in our family than ever before.”

“You mean each new baby brings more love to a family?” Alisa asked. When Mother nodded, Alisa said, “Then every baby does change a family.”



“That’s right,” Mother said. “Families are always changing. They change in different ways. A family grows larger whenever a baby is born or a child is adopted. And people in the family are always growing older, and the babies are always growing bigger.”

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“They’ll be grown up soon,” Alisa said. “When they move away, that will make their family smaller again.”

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“Well, Alisa, it means they decided to make him their own child. They love him as much as if he were born to them.”

“That’s another kind of family!” Alisa said.

“Families are different in many ways,” said Mother. “Some families have just a mother or a father. Some families have only one child. Some families have many children.



“But in some important ways, we are all the same. We are all people

- loved by God all the time,
- loving one another all the time,
- living and working together,
- doing things for one another,
- celebrating good times together,
- helping one another through bad times, and
- caring about what happens to one another.”

“It was God who thought of putting us into families,” Dad said. “Wasn’t it a good idea? God knew that our family should start off with your mother and me, promising to love each other our whole lives. It was God’s perfect plan that our family would grow to include you. We promise we’ll always love you too.”

“I’m glad God put me into this family,” Alisa said. “It’s just right for me. God knows what I want. He knows me so well!”

“O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!” (Psalm 96:7)



*How to Talk
Confidently
with
Your Child
about Sex*

A Guide for the Christian Family

For *Parents*

Learning About Sex

*How to Talk
Confidently
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about Sex*

A Guide for the Christian Family

For Parents

Book 6 of the Learning about Sex Series

The titles in the series:

Book 1: Why Boys and Girls Are Different

Book 2: Where Do Babies Come From?

Book 3: How You Are Changing

Book 4: Sex and the New You

Book 5: Love, Sex, and God

Book 6: How to Talk Confidently with Your Child about Sex

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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