

# One God



**Parents & guardians, start here.**  
**Read these numbered instructions**  
**to yourself throughout the process.**

1

Thank you for guiding your child through this process. Please be sure you have **read the Parent Introduction Page** so you will understand your role.

2

**Before you begin**, read the introduction on the right to yourself. It will help you understand what you will be exploring with your child in the following pages.

3

With the help of your child, prepare the meeting space. Pull out your Bible, light some candles, and add any other decoration you'd like to make the space beautiful.

We know God by many names: *Creator, Redeemer, Holy Spirit, Friend*, and so on. One of the ancient names of God, *Yahweh* (which we usually translate today as **LORD**), is the name God revealed to Moses when Moses was called to lead the Hebrew people to freedom. This was the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Other nations worshiped a multitude of other gods who were distant rather than involved in the regular lives of the people.

The God of the Hebrews was a powerful God who walked with the people and asked only faithfulness. This is the God to whom Jesus prayed daily. This is the God whom Jesus called *Abba*, Father.

The **LORD** God is the same God, the one God, we still worship today. This is the God in whom we believe—a God who is beyond our grasp and understanding, and yet as close and vital as our next breath.

## A Personal God

God calls each one of us, inviting us into an ever-deepening relationship of love.

We believe in an all-powerful God, Creator of heaven and earth, a God who is the beginning and end of all that is. But we also believe in a God who is personal, an intimate friend. Our God is always reaching out to us. All we need to do is respond.

God is with us. God will never leave us. God calls each of us by name. It is up to us to answer.

Constantly reinforce this image of an ever-loving God with your child. Help your youngster to understand that what God wants most is our friendship.

**1**

**Getting started.** Discuss together: Who do you talk to most on the telephone, or via some other technology? What do you usually talk about?

**2**

Read the story below out loud. If your child is old enough, he or she can read it to you. Otherwise, read it to your child. Along the way, clarify anything your child might not understand.

**T**here is only one God, but God has many names. One of God's most ancient names is Yahweh. God has been known by this name for thousands of years.

Whatever we call God, there is only one true God. This is the God who we know is with us whenever we feel lonely or frightened. This is the God we see in the beautiful world around us. We thank this God for all we have received; we ask this God for all we need.

Maybe you think that God is a silent listener. That's one of the things God does, but not the only thing. God speaks to us. Sometimes God speaks very softly, like a voice in our hearts. Sometimes God speaks through other people. And sometimes, like many of the people in the stories we will be reading, we hear God speak very clearly indeed.

When you finish reading these stories, try to hear what God is saying to you right now. God is trying to tell you about God's love, about how special you are, about how you can answer God's call. What do you hear when God speaks?





### One Great God

*There is one God. There will always be  
One God who loves and looks after me.  
God made whales and birds that sing.  
One great God made everything.  
God made me good. God made me free  
To answer when God calls to me.*

3

Discuss the text with your child.

Ask: What are some of the different names that we can call God?

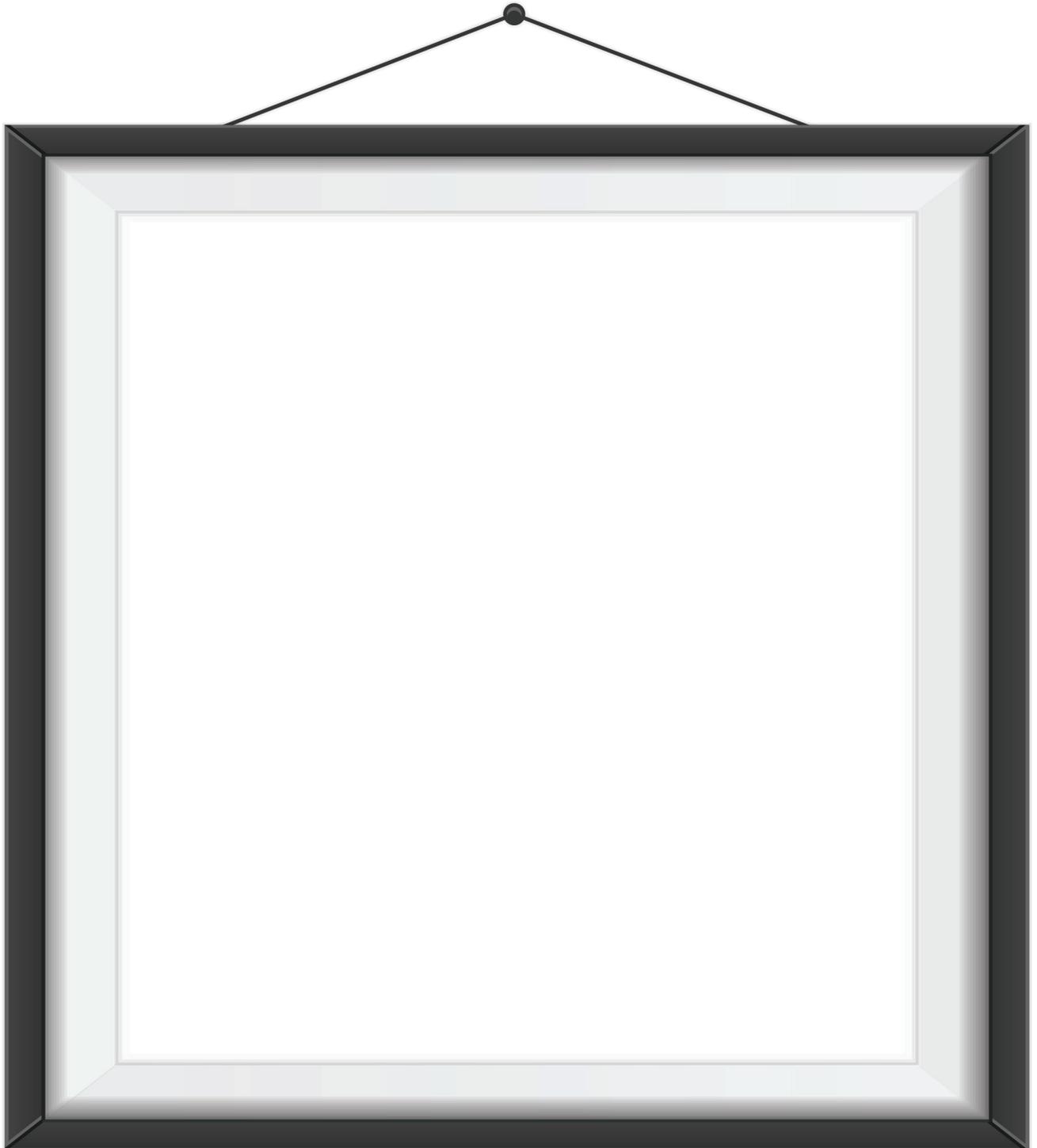


# Who God is to You

1

Work on this activity together.

In the space below, draw pictures that represent who God is to each of you. Include yourself in the picture. Talk about what you have drawn.



2

Take turns filling in the blanks in the following sentences. There are no wrong answers. Feel free to ask follow-up questions.

If God were a color, God would be \_\_\_\_\_,  
because...

If God were a toy, God would be a \_\_\_\_\_,  
because...

If God were a vehicle, God would be a \_\_\_\_\_,  
because...

# Hands On



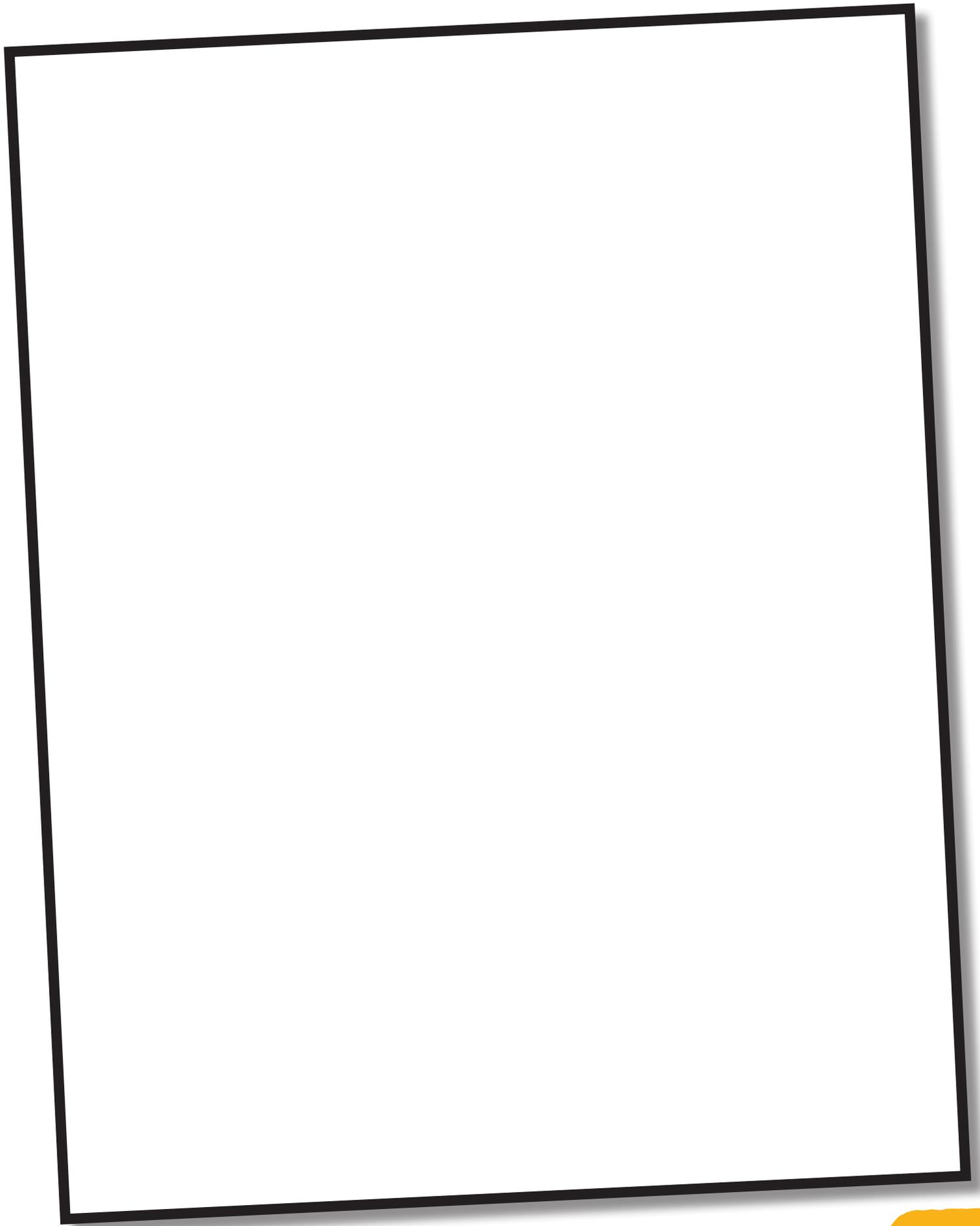
1

God is always calling us, reaching out to us. As a sign that you would like to respond to God's invitation, trace around your hand on the next page. Ask your child to do the same so that they overlap.

2

Help your youngster to understand that this is a way of saying "yes" to God. This is one way to let God know we want to become closer friends. When all the hands are traced, you and the child may color in the patterns formed by the overlapping hands.





# On the Phone with God



1

Engage your youngster in a conversation on a phone (toy or real). Pretend you are God. Ask how the child's day is going. Ask if he or she needs God's help with anything in particular or has any questions to ask. Use your imagination and have fun.

One very important rule: **Keep things positive.** Remember, the God you are pretending to be is all-loving.

Suggest that an older youngster play God's part.

# Closing Ritual

2

Place your Bible reverently on the table. Tell the child that all the stories you will be reading are found in this holy book.

Place one hand on the book and invite the child to do the same as you say, "Thank you, God."

End with the Sign of the Cross.

