

You are on a roll and ready for another *challenge*! Did you see your family's name on the 'wall of fame'? Check the big screen in the children's space on Sundays when you check in at the computer kiosks.



God's big story continues! He chose to love us through Jesus. His desire is to live connected heart-to-heart with his treasured possession. And when Adam and Eve made a choice to go against God's right way, God told them in the garden that he would make it right again through Jesus. God's choice still stands...the choice he made before he created the world...to love us and bring us into his family through Jesus.

## How is he going to do this?

The Old Testament part of our Bible tells us what God said and did as he prepared for just the right place and just the right time for Jesus to be born.

God asked people to join him in his plan to provide a family for Jesus and a land where he would one day walk and talk. Amazingly, as God's plan was put into motion, a 'spotlight' was put on God as he displayed his love and power.

As we see what God did and we hear what God said in the big story of our Bible, we get to know God.

## Who were these people that were part of God's plan?

They were people just like you who were willing to trust God and his right way, even when it was confusing and didn't make sense! And, it turns out, they were part of one big family!

The stories in the Old Testament tell of the adventure with God as he used one family to do something amazing for the whole world. Jesus was born into this special family, in a special land that God had promised to his people. This family showed the world who God is as they followed him.

Did they make mistakes? They sure did. But remember, God doesn't change and he can work through the unwise choices his people make.

## The story of this family is now your story.

## Remember what you read in Challenge #2?

'Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.' Ephesians 1:4-5

When we believe that Jesus is the son of God and believe that he came to make right the damage that our sin causes by dying on a cross, we can ask for that gift of forgiveness. Jesus will hear us and forgive us. Then, when God sees our heart, he sees it the way he sees Jesus' heart, pure and holy.

As part of God's family, we can live and adventure with God, joining him in his work to make sure that everyone, everywhere, can know God and experience his love!

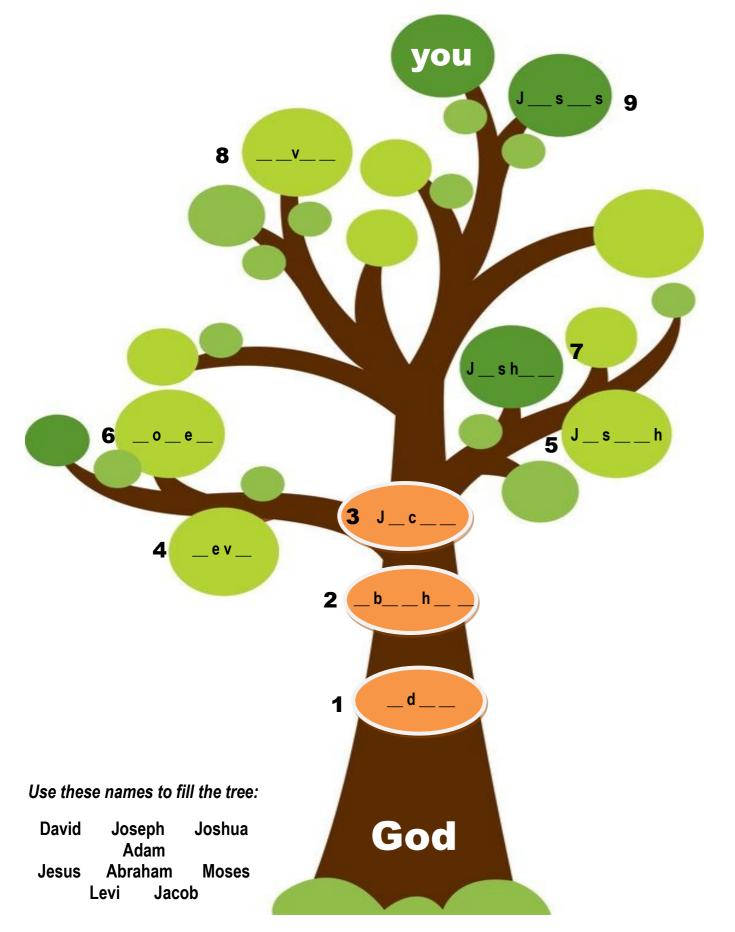


Can you put the pieces together to create the family tree that Jesus was born into? The puzzle is on the next page; submit your answers to 'challenge headquarters' by *clicking here*. You may also send a picture of your family working on the puzzle to *cokesburykids@gmail.com*.

OR

What can your family do together that puts a spotlight on God...that helps someone experience God's love? We can love others because God has shown us love. Email a picture or description of what your family chose to do to cokesburykids@gmail.com.

make cookies for someone on your street, make a donation to KARM to help provide food and shelter, support Manna House, our food pantry...



First person created by God in God's image. God promised this man a Savior to make right the damage caused by disobedience. *Genesis* 2:20

**Did you know:** This man is Noah's great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather!

God asked this man to be the father of a HUGE family that would give something special to the whole world. God made a promise to give this family a land of their own, the Promised Land. *Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 17:5* 

**Did you know:** This man belongs to Noah's family!

Abraham had a son named Isaac. Isaac had two sons, Esau and this man. This grandson of Abraham had 12 sons! God's promise of a HUGE family is happening! *Genesis* 35:23-26

This man is one of Jacob's sons. God put this man's family in charge of worship and they helped God's people know God's right way. This family took care of God's dwelling places—the tabernacle and the temple. *Genesis* 35:23; *Numbers* 8:22

Hint: '-ite' has been added to his name and means 'family of \_\_\_\_\_'

This man is also one of Jacob's 12 sons. He was his father's favorite and had a coat of many colors to prove it. He was sold by his brothers and was a slave in Egypt. With God's help, he became very powerful and was able to give his brothers food when there was no rain for crops. Next, this man's father and brothers and families moved to Egypt. They did very well and their family is still growing! *Genesis* 37:3 (Israel is the new name God gave to Jacob.)

This man is from Levi's family. God spoke to him from a burning bush; God had chosen this man to lead his people, this HUGE family of Abraham, out of slavery and take them to the land that God had promised to Abraham! *Exodus 2:1-2, 10* 

This man was chosen by God to help his people move into this promised land, the land where Jesus would walk and talk someday! Joshua 1:1-3

Did you know: This man is from Joseph's family!

This man is from the family of Jacob's son, Judah. God chose this shepherd to be a king.

God promised this king that someone from his family would rule on the throne forever!

Abraham's family has grown into a kingdom. 1 Samuel 16:11-13

This man is the Savior promised to Adam; the special gift that would bless the world from Abraham's family; the king from David's family who would rule forever! God is good and his promises are true! *Matthew 1:21 Do you see the 'family tree' for Jesus?*