

## WEEK 4 | ELEMENTARY (4-5)

**Need to Know:** God Is My Father

**Bible Story:** The Prodigal Son

**Bible Reference:** Luke 15:11-32



### READ THE BIBLE

**DO** Read the **Bible Story Cards** aloud to the group.

**SAY**

- *When the younger son left home, what kind of things did he do while he was gone? (Wasted all of his money, had to share food with the pigs, etc.) Right! The son made a lot of decisions that were not best for him.*
- *When that son came home, what happened? (The father welcomed him, was excited to see him and forgave him right away)*
- *Even though the son had made mistakes, the father was so thankful to see his son come home. That's just like our heavenly Father. When we mess up or try to walk away from God, He still loves us and is always waiting for us to come back. God will always forgive us, and He will always be our Father.*

### LET'S PRACTICE

#### OPTION 1: CHARACTER CATCHERS

**SAY  
& DO**

1. *Let's make something to help us remember what kind of Father God is to us!*
2. Give each child a **Character Catcher** and **scissors**. Then place **drawing utensils** in the center of the circle.
3. Follow the instructions on the Character Catcher to lead kids in making their own.
4. Afterward, have kids take turns playing with their Character Catcher and reading what they find to the group.
5. Then have kids say: **God Is My Father**

#### OPTION 2: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things you know about your heavenly Father?
2. What does it mean to be a child of God?
3. Is there anything you could ever do to change how your heavenly Father sees you?
4. Have kids repeat after you: **God Is My Father**

## LET'S PRAY

### PRAY

*Dear God, thank You for being a perfect Father and for loving us no matter what! Help us to grow to be more like You. We love You! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

## MEMORIZE IT

### SAY

*There is a promise in God's Word, the Bible. It tells us that when we know God's name we can trust Him more. Let's practice memorizing it together. Repeat after me: (Pause to allow kids to repeat)*

***"Those who know Your name  
trust in You,  
for You, O Lord,  
do not abandon  
those who search for You."  
Psalm 9:10***

### DO

Have everyone put their feet in the middle of the group. Going around the circle, have each person say one word of the verse while stomping one of their feet. The person who stomps their foot on "9:10" is out. Continue playing until only one foot remains, or as time allows.

Give children **coloring utensils** and allow them to draw a self-portrait on the **God is My Father** sheet.



# The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

***There was a father who loved his two sons and planned to give them each a share of what he owned one day. But the younger son couldn't wait. He wanted his share right away.***

***So his father gave him the land, money, and other gifts he had promised to his son. The younger son packed up all of his stuff and moved to a faraway country. He wasted all that his father had given him, and before long, he didn't anything left.***



***So, the son had to find a job. The job he found was not a fun one. He had to go to work feeding pigs! This job was hard work, and the son was so hungry that even the slop he fed the pigs looked good enough to eat.***

***Tired, hungry, and out of money, he finally came to his senses. He knew it was time to go back home and talk to his father. He hoped that maybe he could at least live in his father's house as a servant. So, he set off on the journey back home.***





***As he was walking up the road to his father's house, his father saw him and couldn't believe his eyes. He was so excited that he ran up to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. This wasn't at all what the son was expecting.***

***What do you think the son thought his father would do when he saw him?***  
(Allow responses)





***The son told the father that he had sinned and didn't think he deserved to be his son anymore. But the father didn't feel that way at all!***

***He called his servants to bring the best robe, and he told them to put a ring on his son's finger and sandals on his feet! The father said, let's have a feast and celebrate! It was time for a big party because his son was back home!***



***While they were celebrating, the older son was working out in the field. He heard music and saw dancing. Soon, he found out that his brother was back. He wasn't quite as happy as everyone else, though. He was angry because he had been working for his father for years, always doing the right thing, and he never got a party for that.***

***The father told the older son that he had always been with him and that everything belonged to him. But how could they not celebrate? The youngest son, who was lost, was now found!***

***The father in this story was a good father to both of his sons, no matter what they did. And that's just like our heavenly Father, God. He loves us and will take care of us, too!***

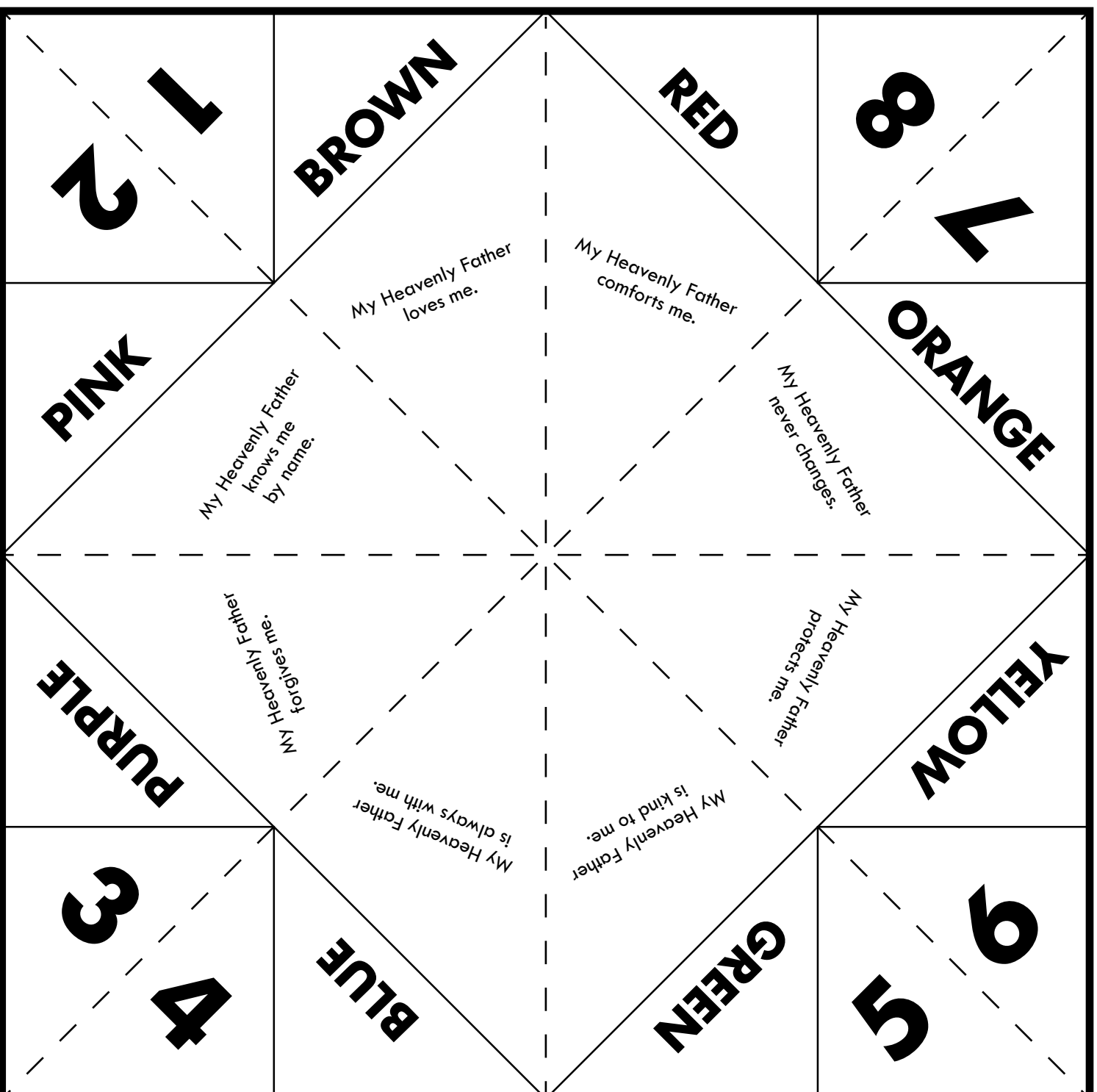
# CHARACTER CATCHER

## DIRECTIONS

1. Cut out the character catcher and turn it face down.
2. Fold each corner towards the center so that the numbers and colors are facing you.
3. Turn it over and again fold each corner into the center so that the color names are visible.
4. Fold it in half so that the color names are touching and the numbers are on the outside. Now open it and fold it in half the other way.
5. Insert your thumb and first finger of each hand (pinching motion) under the number flaps.
6. Close the character catcher so only the numbers show.

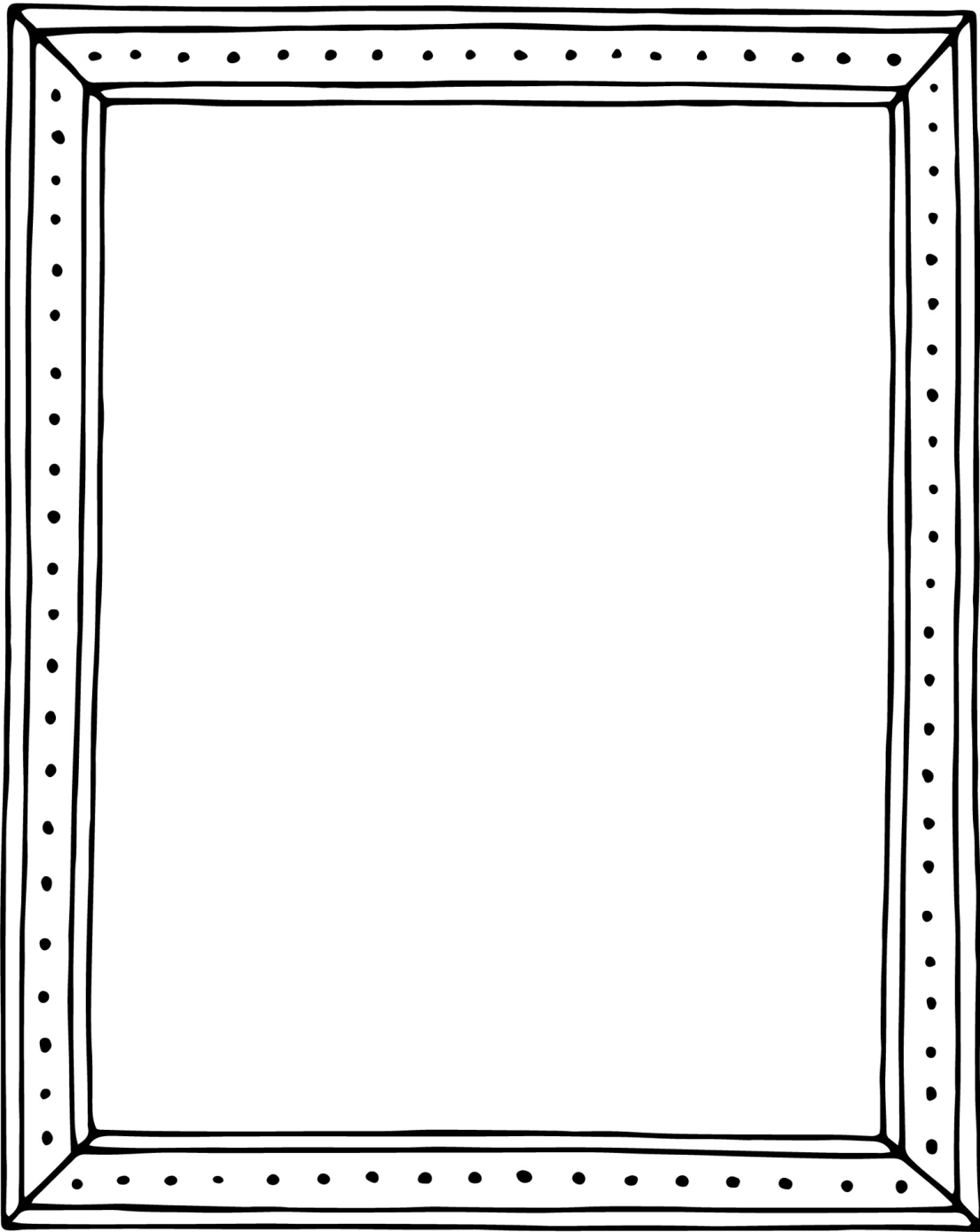
### TO USE:

Pick a number and open and close the character catcher that number of times, alternating directions. Next, pick a color and spell out the color name, opening and closing the character catcher for each letter. Then pick a color that is visible and open that flap. Read what it says and give it a try! Play this game to help you know more about your Heavenly Father.



# GOD IS MY FATHER

Draw yourself in the frame below.



**Week 4 • Need to Know:** God Is My Father

**Today's Bible Story:** The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

**Series Memory Verse:** *"Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for You." Psalm 9:10 (NLT)*



Name \_\_\_\_\_