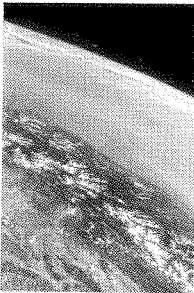


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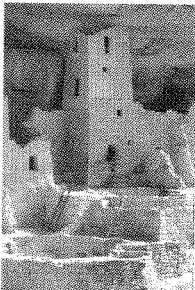
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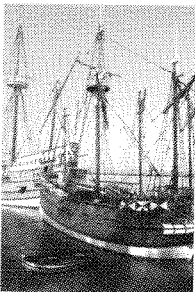
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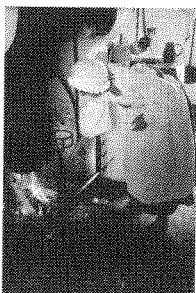
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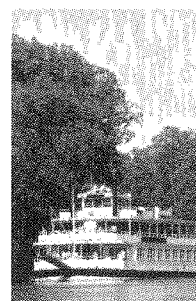
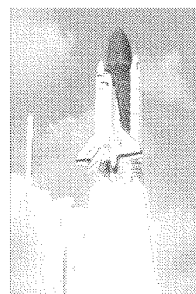
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# 1 God Governs Everything

**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.—Genesis 1:1**

The Bible teaches us that Jesus Christ made everything and everyone in the world. He made the land and sea. He made each person who walks on the earth.

Every man, woman, and child, therefore, has the duty to serve and glorify the great Creator God. The same God who made each of us also controls the world He has created. God controls the creatures that He made through the laws which He has given them in the Holy Bible. He also controls the life of each person through God the Holy Spirit.

## **God Rules the World**

God's control over the world is called His government. The mighty Creator expects each person to follow His rules for living so they can be holy and happy. Unless we follow God's Law, we will not know how to serve and glorify our Maker. When the people of the world honor God's

"The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness..."

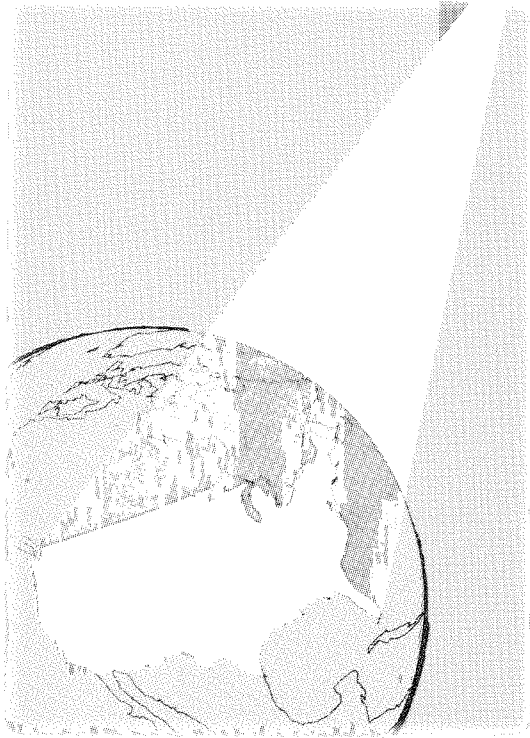
(Psalm 24:1a).

God created the earth and all creatures to bring glory to Himself.

government, they enjoy peace on earth. When people refuse to follow God's plan, they find only sadness and death. We will now learn about the four types of governments that God set up to rule mankind.

### God's Plan Has Four Kinds of Government

1.	<b>SELF-GOVERNMENT</b> (A plan for each person)
2.	<b>FAMILY GOVERNMENT</b> (A plan for the family)
3.	<b>CHURCH GOVERNMENT</b> (A plan for the church)
4.	<b>CIVIL GOVERNMENT</b> (A plan for each nation)



God rules over each nation  
with the heavenly light of His  
wisdom and power.

### Self-government— God's plan for each person

When God made Adam and Eve, He gave them rules or laws to follow. However, the first man and woman chose to break the rules God had made because they thought that they could live by their own wisdom. They did not want to obey God and live under His loving rule of government.

After Adam and Eve sinned, they lost the ability to follow God and His Word. All of mankind fell into the paths of sin and rebellion set by Adam and Eve. For this reason,

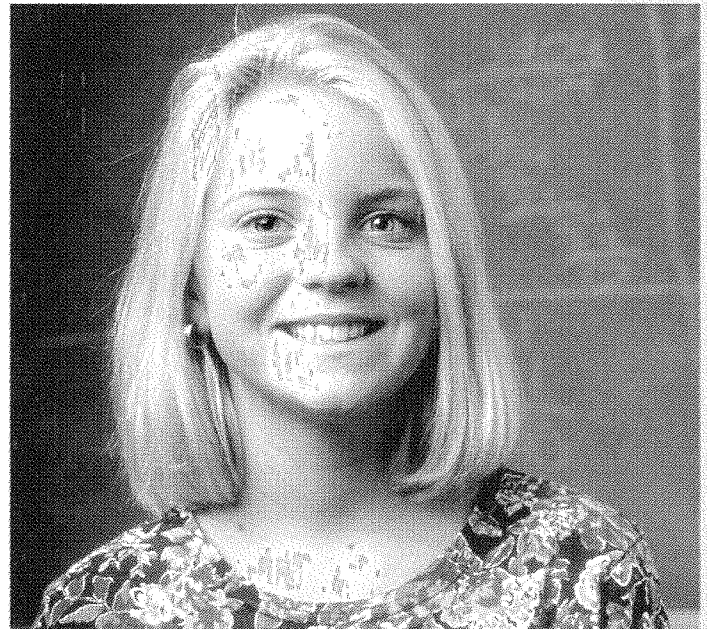
everyone is a slave to the sinful nature that seeks to follow the wisdom of men instead of the wisdom of God.

In the Bible we read:

**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.—Matthew 4:4**

This Bible verse teaches that all people on earth have the duty to live their lives according to the teachings of the Word of God. Sometimes this is called the duty of self-government under God's Law. All boys and girls must build their lives around the truths which God has given in the Bible.

Children must ask the Lord to give them hearts that want to obey His commandments. When God gives people the power to cheerfully obey, they can begin to practice self-control or self-government.



Even a child is known by his deeds, by whether what he does is pure and right.  
Proverbs 20:11

## ■ Exercise

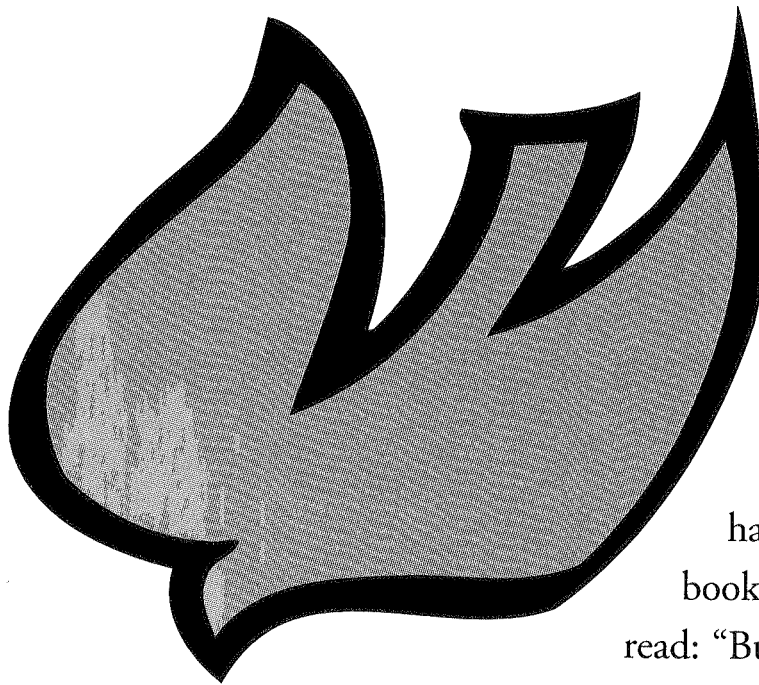
List five things you can do to be self-governed under God's Law.

1.	
2.	



3.	
4.	
5.	

A good child will want to be self-controlled or self-governed under God's Law. Unless a person is brought to the point where he can follow God's ways without having to be forced, he will never be able to live peaceably with any of God's governments.



Self-government, therefore, is the most basic and important type of government in God's plan for mankind. Wicked people by their very nature will not be controlled by God's Law and will be unable to live happy and fruitful lives. In the book of First Corinthians we read: "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14).

The power to turn away from sin comes from God. Only by trusting in the work of Jesus Christ as Savior can a sinner find the strength to live a godly life.

To understand why people need to obey God's rules we can think about a baseball game. If there were no rules in a baseball game, and every player and team did something different, there would be no game. And if each player tried to be the coach and refused to stay in his position, the team would fall apart.

In the same way, God controls the world and sets the rules for the game of life. People who refuse to follow God's rules will find that their lives fall apart. The Lord has a perfect order and plan for mankind to follow. The Word of God, the Bible, shows us God's rules for living.

### **Family Government— God's Plan for the Family**

The Bible teaches us that after God made Adam, He said that it was not good for man to be alone. The wise Creator decided to make a special helper for Adam so he would be completely happy and not lonely. When God created Eve and brought her to Adam, He made the first family!

Before Adam and Eve sinned, they lived together in perfect unity and happiness. God planned for the government of the family to protect and bless them. He also planned for Adam and Eve to take responsibility for



Without rules and order, a baseball game would be impossible to play.

the care and spiritual nurturing of the children that God would send.

After Adam and Eve sinned, God's plan for the family was still the same. Men and women, however, would not be able to live together in perfect peace and joy because of sin.

God, in His wisdom, had already chosen the man to be the head of his family. Nevertheless, the family would now need a strong leader to keep peace in the household. The father would be responsible to see that God's loving commands were followed by each family member. The wife would help her husband and submit to his leadership as long as it was not wicked. Children would have the duty to honor and obey their parents for the Lord's sake.



The family is designed by God to be the basic unit of society.



Special blessings were promised for children who honored their parents.

**Honor your father and your mother, that  
your days may be long upon the land which  
the Lord your God is giving you.**

**—Exodus 20:12**

The government of the family became even more necessary to men, women, and children after sin entered the world. The world became deceived by Satan and his lies. People began to hurt and hate one another as they followed the foolish ways of Satan. The family unit provided children with the important blessings of loving support and protection, as well as companionship and education.

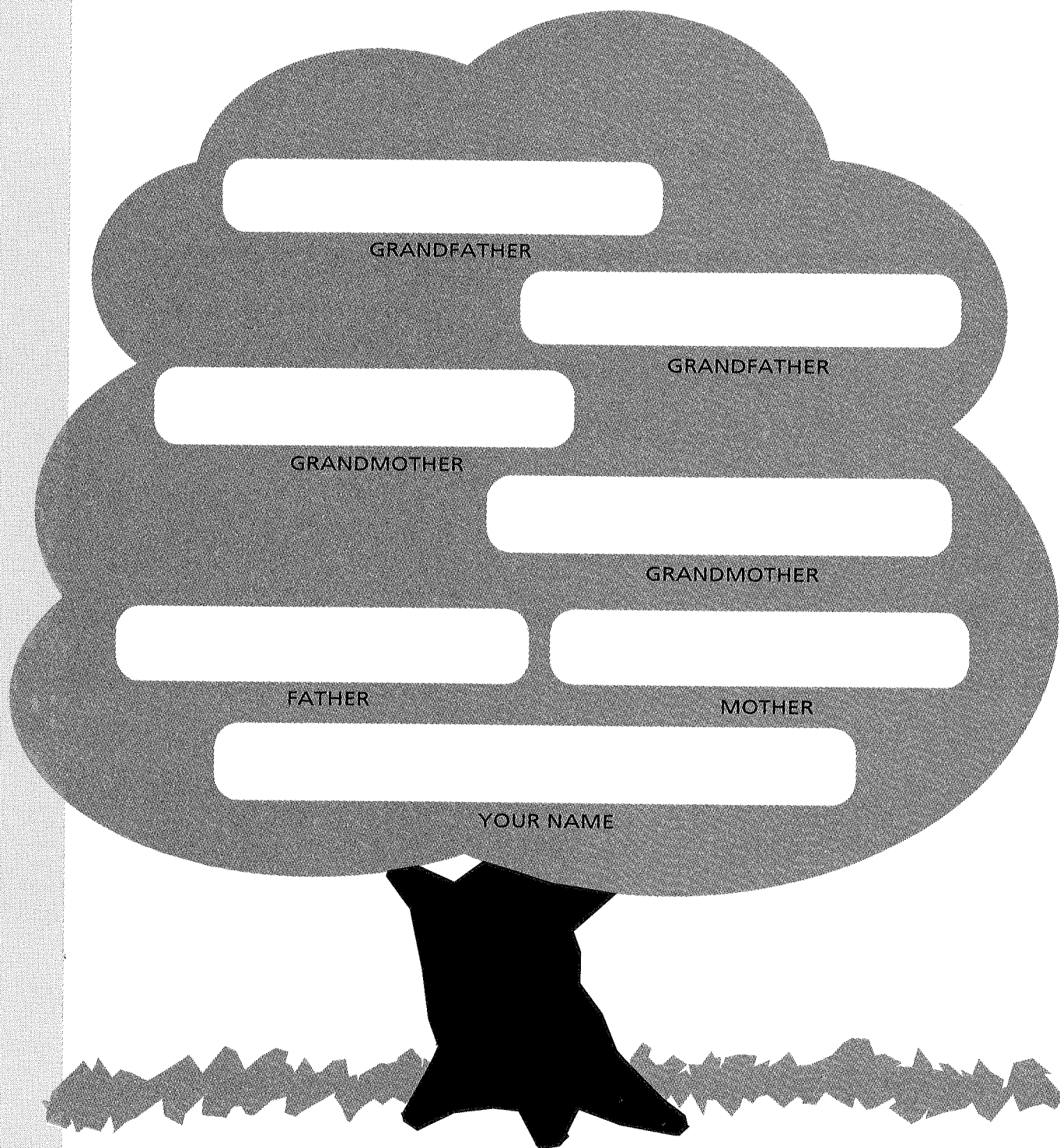
The wise Creator knew how important the government of the family would be as He planned the best way for people to live together. Many children do not enjoy the blessing of a loving home with caring parents. In such cases, God Himself is able to care for children who turn to Him as their heavenly Father.

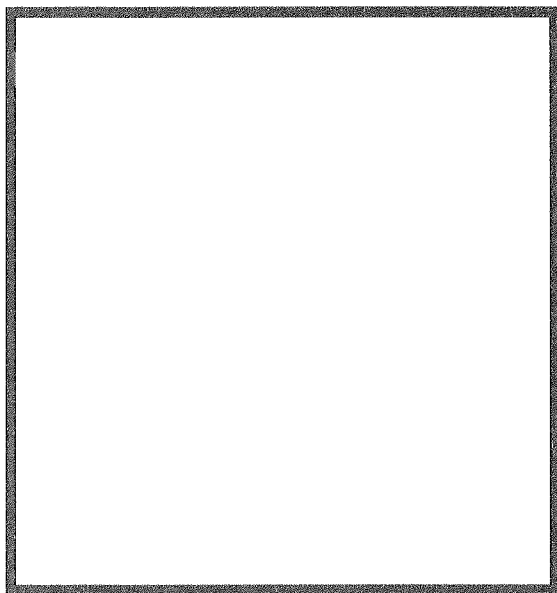


**Families should be places of loving support  
and protection.**

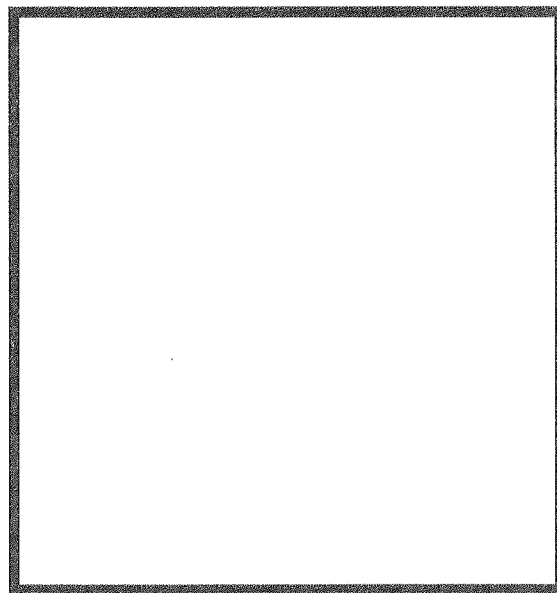
**■ Activity**

Complete the family tree on the page below by filling in the names of your family members. Feel free to ask your parents for help with this project.





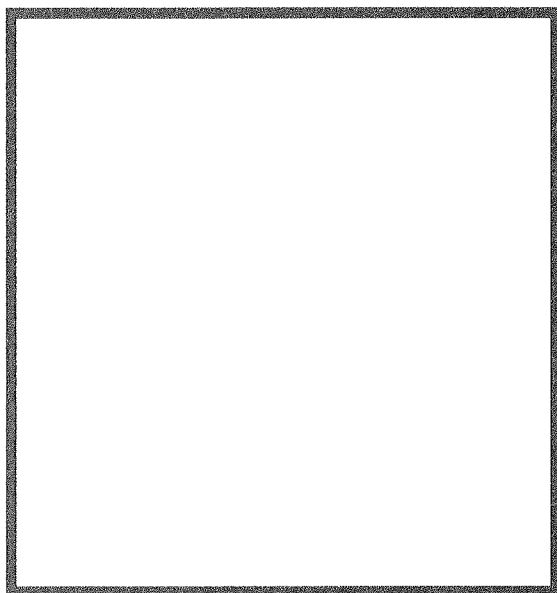
FATHER



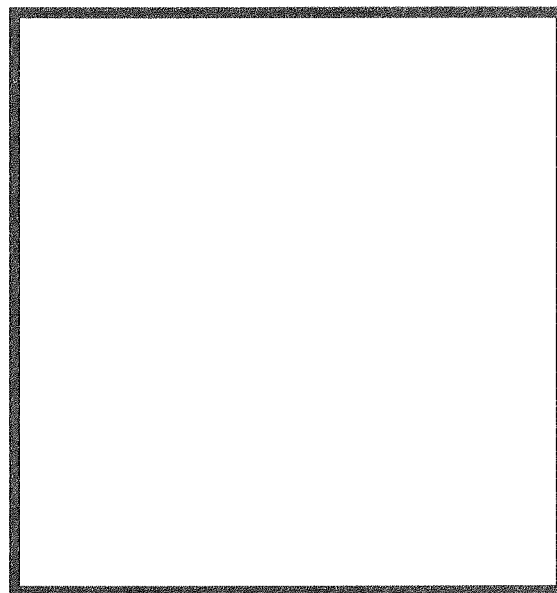
MOTHER

If God has blessed you with a family, please draw pictures of your parents in the top boxes or glue in photographs of them.

Do you have brothers or sisters? If so, please draw pictures of them in the boxes below or glue in photographs of them.



BROTHER OR SISTER



BROTHER OR SISTER