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## *Children's Unit 1*

### *All Kinds of Families*

*Ages 5-8*

Total Time: 1 Hour

**PART 1:** Ice Breaker

**PART 2:** All Kinds of Families

**PART 3:** My Creation of Story

**POWERPOINT:** Creation Story Artwork (Ages 5-8)

## *Part 1: Ice Breaker*

**Time:**

15 Minutes

**Objective:**

Participants will become energized and ready to learn

**Materials:**

None

**Techniques:**

Ice Breaker Activity

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**TRAINER INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Ask a child to share one thing that makes them happy. Then ask the others to raise their hand if it makes them happy too. Continue asking each person to share a different thing that makes them happy and then asking the whole group if they agree. Stop when everyone has had a turn.

## *Part 2: All Kinds of Families*

**Time:**

15 Minutes

**Objective:**

Participants will learn about the many kinds of families.

**Materials:**

- None

**Techniques:**

- Group Discussion

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**TRAINER INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Explain that children grow up in many different ways – invite the children to share the different types of families that they can think of.
  - Include the following if they haven't been mentioned: some live with their first mother and father, some children have only one parent, and some children live with another relative or friend. Sometimes children do not have any adults to help them. Some children live and grow up with lots of other kids in a Children's Home. Some children are adopted into families where they finish growing up.
2. End by reminding the children:

*Wherever a child lives, ALWAYS REMEMBER, every single person in this world is invited by LIFE to love, to enjoy those around them, to be of service and to make a good life for themselves. This is the possibility given to each person on earth. What will YOU decide to do with this gift of your life?*

## *Part 3: My Creation Story*

### **Time:**

30 Minutes

### **Objective:**

Participants will imagine and illustrate their creation story

### **Materials:**

- PPT: Creation Story Artwork
- Paper, markers, or crayons
- Small beans, dried rice, or any tiny jewels
- Glue
- Glitter

### **Techniques:**

- Storytelling
- Art Activity

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### **TRAINER INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Begin the PPT and share the following birth/creation story with the group in a very child-friendly way:

*I'm going to tell you a story and LATER I want you to draw this story...*

*Every single child in this room, in fact every person in this whole wide world starts out the same way: There is a man and woman and there is magic, and love, and SO MANY GOOD WISHES.....*

*...and YOU? YOU were so teeny tiny you were smaller than a pinky fingernail. Smaller than a dot drawn by a pencil!*

*BUT LITTLE AS YOU WERE, YOU HAD THE MIGHTY STRENGTH OF A FORCEFUL, FLOWING RIVER AND YOU WERE HEADED FOR LIFE!*

*Imagine yourself as that tiny dot, cradled in a little boat, in a flowing river. You are going to ride that boat through lots of kinds of water – some smooth, some choppy and maybe even over some waterfalls. Maybe hit a boulder or two. Maybe get thrown from your boat and into the cold water. But YOU are always riding into and through life.*

*If you were separated from your first parents and family, if you lived in a children's home, if one day you are adopted, if you have lived with different families..... then you have MORE THAN ONE RIVER coming together and flowing.*

*But EVERY SINGLE PERSON has a destiny, a guiding force with them in the little boat and in the flowing water.*

**[TRAINER:** If the children are old enough, put information here that acknowledges that some parts of their “destiny” or what has happened to them, is bad, sad and not what they would have chosen.]

2. Help the children draw a picture with the above elements (themselves as a tiny being; rivers, boats, images of first parents and family, etc). After kids finish their drawing you might set up an area and invite them to choose a small symbol to represent themselves as tiny-before-they-were-born beings (small beans, rice, or tiny jewels) and glue it in their boat. Another fun thing to add is a little glitter to represent magic or destiny.
3. Be sure to put the child's name on the drawing, and gather the drawings for safe keeping as they will become part of their Life Books.