

Do you know any famous TV families? Maybe you have heard of an old show called *The Brady Bunch* that featured two families' kids blended together. *Full House* had a dad, two uncles, and three kids. The family in *Good Times* included a dad, mom, and three children who lived in an inner-city neighborhood. *The Addams Family* gave us perhaps the weirdest family on TV. (Check out some YouTube clips of this family for a good laugh.)

Families come in different shapes and sizes. Some kids live with both parents, about a third live with a single parent, and a few live with other people. Research says today's fastest growing family arrangement is multigenerational, which may include young kids, adult kids, parent(s), and/or grandparents all living together. Because families are so important, people everywhere are working to make families stronger, and each year our government grants billions of dollars to people who are finding ways to support families.

Think About It . . .

- How would you define the word *family*?
- What are some ways families are different? the same?

THE BEAT

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Lesson 1



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Who's in Your House?

Distribute paper and pencils. Explain that each student is to quickly draw a house shape and write inside the shape the names of family members they live with. (They can draw "additions" onto the original house shape, if they run out of room for names.) Set a timer for two or three minutes and let kids create their drawings. When the time is up, take a couple of minutes to share about the kids' families. SAY: **God cares about families, no matter what families look like!**

When will you thank God for your family—and every other family?