

UNIT 10 BELONGING

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND
WE HAVE A NEED TO BELONG.

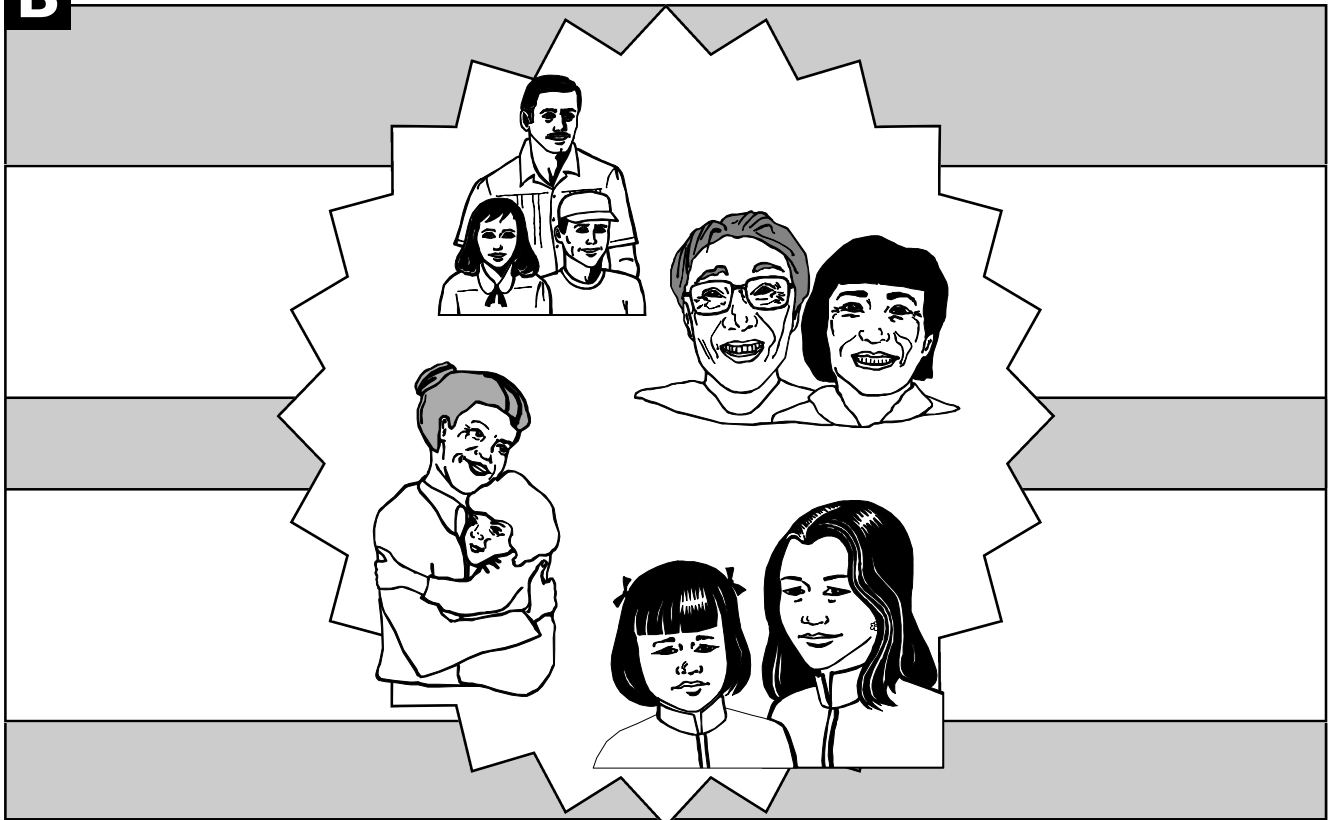


A Write down the name of two groups of which you are a member / you belong to.

I am a member of ...

A large graphic with a jagged, starburst-like top edge. Inside, the text "I am a member of ..." is written in a cursive font. Below the text are two large, empty, rounded ovals for writing.

B BELONGING TO ... MY FAMILY. Why do we need the FAMILY?





A well known parable Jesus told is that of the “Prodigal Son”. It contains many messages, but it also tells us something about belonging to one’s family. Read the story then reflect and discuss using the questions that follow.

JESUS: There was once a man who had two sons. The younger one said to him:
YOUNGER SON: Father, give me my share of the property now.
JESUS: So the man divided his property between his two sons. After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. At last he came to his senses.
YOUNGER SON: All my father’s hired workers have more than they can eat and here I am about to starve! I will get up and go to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers.’
JESUS: So he got up and started back to his father. He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms round his son, and kissed him. The son said:
YOUNGER SON: Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.
JESUS: But the father called his servants:
FATHER: Hurry! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now has been found.
JESUS: And so the feasting began. *(pause)* In the meantime the elder son was out in the field. On his way back, when he came close to the house, he heard the music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him:
OLDER SON: What’s going on?
JESUS: The servant answered:
SERVANT: Your brother has come back home, and your father has killed the prize calf, because he got him back safe and sound.
JESUS: The elder brother was so angry that he would not go into the house; so his father came out and begged him to come in. But he answered his father:
OLDER SON: Look, all these years I have worked for you like a slave, and I have never disobeyed your orders. What have you given me? Not even a goat for me to have a feast with my friends! But this son of yours wasted all your property on prostitutes, and when he comes back home, you kill the prize calf for him!
JESUS: The father answered:
FATHER: My son, you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.

1. What does the parable tell us about ‘belonging’ and family life?

2. When do I behave like the younger son in my family?

3. What did the younger son do to show he was sorry?

4. What did the father say and do which showed that he forgave his son completely?

5. How do you describe the older son? (*underline one of the following*)
 a) Happy b) Understanding c) Selfish d) Caring

