

# Comparing



Learning & Growing  
**STEPS**  
Learning & Growing





## Contents:

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| The Moth and the Butterfly . . . . . | 4  |
| The Legend of Mother Earth . . . . . | 9  |
| The Garden . . . . .                 | 12 |
| Prayer and Memory Fun . . . . .      | 14 |
| Complete the Puzzle . . . . .        | 15 |
| Alphabet Quiz . . . . .              | 16 |
| Your Own Glad Garden . . . . .       | 17 |
| From Jesus—with Love . . . . .       | 19 |



It's best to be happy with all that you have,  
And not try to be what you're not.  
Instead of comparing with others around,  
Be thankful for what you have got!

By Amber Darley and Agnes Lemaire

Copyright © 2006, Aurora Production AG, Switzerland.  
All Rights Reserved.

# The Moth and the Butterfly

Estee and Delphy were two carefree caterpillars who lived happily in a beautiful garden. They were the best of friends and rolled in the grass, chased each other up and down trees, and chewed on young leaves together.

One day, it came time for Estee and Delphy to make their encasements. Wanting to stay near each other, the two friends each chose a different leaf on the same branch, then spun their cocoons and chrysalis and fell into a deep sleep.

A few weeks later, Estee woke up and felt a strong urge to break out of her encasement. With all her strength, she pushed and wiggled and kicked until her chrysalis cracked open.

Through the little hole at the top she managed to squeeze out. How she loved the fresh air.

It was just before sunset when Delphy woke up. After a few minutes of struggle, she managed to get out of her cocoon.

"Oh, hi, Delphy!" Estee greeted her friend. "You look so wrinkled and different—what happened to you?"

"You look very different from when I last saw you, too," Delphy replied. "But look ... we've both got wings."

"Oh, yes," Estee replied, as she tried flapping them. "I bet flying is going to be so much fun!"

After some good stretching and wing exercises, Estee and Delphy felt stronger and ready for a jump. They let go of the branch they were on, and found, to their delight, that their wings kept them up in the air.

After a few moments, Estee and Delphy were quite tired from the exertion\* and landed on a branch to rest. After regaining their strength, the two friends tried to fly again. After a few more times, Estee and Delphy were able to fly around the whole garden with ease.

"I don't know about you, but I'm feeling strong and ready for some fun," Delphy said. "Why don't we go exploring?"

"Well, actually I'm feeling quite tired," Estee replied. "It's dark and I think I'll go to sleep."

"Oh ... well, I'll see you later then," Delphy said. Then she flew away.

As the days passed, Estee and Delphy found themselves on different schedules. Estee would sleep at night while Delphy would sleep during the day, so the two friends did not spend as much time together as before. But every day, when the sun was beginning to set, Estee and Delphy would spend time together telling of their adventures, exploring, or playing hide and seek among the leaves of the big trees.

One day, as the two friends flew by a pond, they landed on a lily pad and looked at their reflection in the still water.

Estee marveled. "Oh, look how many patterns and different colors my wings have."

But Delphy was unhappy with her reflection. My body is big and hairy. The color of my wings is plain brown, with no bright colors, like Estee's, she thought. Delphy began to get teary-eyed. "I'm nothing but an ugly old moth. I wish I could be a butterfly instead," she sobbed.

Estee felt bad that Delphy was so sad. Maybe what I said about how I look is what made Delphy sad. I didn't mean to make her compare with me. I still like her, even though she doesn't have pretty wings. What can I do to help her feel better? I'll try to play with her.



"Come on, Delphy! Let's go! Try to catch me!" she said as she flew swiftly to a branch overhead.

Delphy looked up at her friend. Estee is so fast and graceful when she flies. I feel so awkward and slow! This made her even more depressed.

"No, I don't feel like playing right now," she mumbled.

Delphy was in a sulky mood and was going from bad to worse. She started murmuring in her heart. Oh God, why did You make me so ugly and awkward? Why couldn't I have been as graceful and beautiful as Estee?

Not knowing what to do, Estee decided to leave her friend alone for a while when she saw her crying. Estee prayed with all her heart, "Lord, please help Delphy to be happy! She's my dearest friend and that's all that matters. Please do something to help her."

God heard Estee's prayer and said, "I have some ideas of what to do that will help Delphy to be thankful for the way I made her."

Estee decided to go over to Delphy again and say something encouraging to cheer her up. Delphy saw her friend coming and looked up with a sad, "poor me" face. Suddenly a gust of wind swept Estee away!

"Oh, Delphy! Delphy! Help me! The wind is carrying me away!" she cried.

Without hesitation, Delphy went to Estee's rescue. She flew as fast as she could and managed to catch up with Estee. Grabbing her by the legs, she pulled her down behind a rock, away from the strong wind.

Estee was shocked by this experience, and so grateful to her good friend for saving her life.

"Thank you so much, Delphy! I am so glad to have you as my friend! If you had been as thin and light as me, we would both have perished. But thank God, He made you bigger and heavier so that the wind couldn't carry you away as easily!"

Wow! thought Delphy. That's right! If I had been as petite as Estee, I might have perished with her. But my weight saved us both! Thank God for making me bigger and heavier!

But after a few minutes her negative thoughts hit her again. Estee's wings are pretty and her colors so outstanding, but mine are plain and ugly!

A short distance away a little boy was running around carrying a butterfly net, looking for some beautiful specimen\* to add to his collection. Scanning a patch of yellow flowers, he spotted Estee's bright wings as she fluttered down to rest on a flower petal.

The boy ran towards her, swinging his butterfly net and trying to catch her. Delphy called out, "Careful, Estee! Careful! That boy is coming to get you!"

Estee quickly flew as fast as she could. Delphy threw herself in between, trying to distract the boy's attention and make him run after her.

"Oh!" exclaimed the boy. "Go away! I am not interested in you. Stop bugging me!" And he pushed Delphy away with his hand.

In the commotion, Estee had flown quickly behind a bush and the boy couldn't see her anymore. "Oh, where did that butterfly go?" he asked, frustrated. After searching, he gave up looking and left in search of other prey.

Again Estee expressed her gratefulness to Delphy: "Thank you, sweet and faithful friend. You saved me again! My beautiful wings and colors attract too much attention! I wonder if I wouldn't be better off if I was plain like you—then the butterfly collectors would leave me alone!"



Delphy agreed, If I had beautiful wings, I would have been in danger too! But because I am not so pretty, the collectors leave me alone and it keeps me from trouble! Thank God for making me as I am!

God looked down and smiled. The plan was working. "Just one more example," He said.

The following day, at twilight, when Estee and Delphy met again, they both were perched on a low-lying branch enjoying the last rays of sunshine. A lizard came along looking for a juicy meal. After spotting both the moth and butterfly, he decided that the moth would be more of a meal than the skinny butterfly. He slowly slithered up to Delphy, trying not to make any noise so he could catch her.

Suddenly he jumped on Delphy, catching her in his mouth! But just as quickly he spat her out, with a look of disgust.

"Oh! She tastes terrible!" the lizard exclaimed. "Where's that other one?" He looked around for Estee, but she was gone. Estee had already flown to safety while the lizard had been distracted with Delphy. And so they both escaped again!

"Wow!" exclaimed Delphy. "He didn't even want to eat me because I taste horrible!"

The two friends laughed long and heartily.

From then on, Delphy was completely cured from comparing negatively with Estee. She was happy for the way God had made her. Though she wasn't as beautiful as Estee, the Lord had given her other qualities for which she was very thankful!

Estee and Delphy remained the best of friends for the rest of their days.



- Did it matter who was prettiest when the gust of wind came?
- Could Estee have survived without Delphy?
- Talk about what is most important in life and how each one has certain qualities which are very necessary, though different from the other. Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 12.
- The best soccer teams are those that work together by passing the ball when someone is in the open, not the players who try to make all the shots themselves. Give some examples from some games that you have seen or played.



# The Legend of Mother Earth

In the days of creation, when God was separating the light from the darkness, and the earth from the waters, everything was very young. The whole world was new and, as you can imagine, God's creation had a lot to learn about how to fit into the big scheme\* of things.

God placed the ocean within its bounds and told it to stay there—and it obeyed. Its big moment was to come later, with Noah and the flood, but for now it knew its boundaries. And since water always seeks the lowest place, in its humility, it listened to the voice of God.

God let the dry land appear and called her Earth. And He said, "Let Earth bring forth every grass and herb yielding fruit after his kind."

Then the stars were placed in their constellations in the sky. They were thrilled to be close to Heaven, and they gladly let their light shine for all to see. The moon also shone its reflective glory and the sun beamed with happiness at its calling to demonstrate the power and light of God, and to rule over the day.

God knew in His infinite love and wisdom where each creation belonged. Each part of God's new, wonderful creation was filled with life and excitement. Everything was good. Everything was beautiful. Everything was happy. So each part of God's creation took its place at God's command. And God saw that it was good.

Earth had a tremendously important job to do in order to bring forth much fruit. But she was young and rather vain, and wished some glory for herself. As she looked up to the sky and saw the sun, moon and stars shining so brightly, she wondered why God had fashioned her so plain and unpleasantly clumpy. She looked at the happy, sparkling ocean, with its waves glinting\* in the sunlight, and she began to envy those around her.

How God put all those plants within the Earth and in one day created the beautiful garden of Eden, we do not know. It was not a slow process. It was part of the miracle of creation. Complete and mature plants appeared, each with their seeds already placed within them.

Suddenly the Earth began to feel broken and strange. She felt the grass and trees and flowers reaching their tendrils and roots deep into her heart. She could feel the movement of life, the motion of the grass and flowers growing. At that moment she began to see the incredible beauty of the garden that drew its life from her. She looked in awe at the dazzling colors and blossoms which lay on her surface. But instead of feeling happy with her part in the garden, she began to think, What about me? No one sees me or notices me at all. I do all the work, but they get all the admiration.

Then she saw how the wind played gaily\* with the flowers and grass. Without thinking, she tried to dance and imitate the swaying flowers. But as she began to shake and quake, the poor plants were totally uprooted. Trees fell. Bruised and broken flowers were strewn everywhere. The lacy tapestry\* of living green became disheveled\*, and the garden lay in shambles. God quickly replaced each plant, gently pushing it back into the Earth.

Earth lay still. Knowing her foolishness, she awaited God’s judgment. She had no need to fear. God lovingly looked upon her and said, “You do not understand, My dear Earth, how necessary you are to My world. Though you are hidden and unseen, the garden could not exist without you. Seek not to glorify yourself, nor attempt to dance the graceful dance of the flowers. Be willing to be covered and concealed, and be thrilled with the new life and fruitfulness that you help to nourish and feed. Be still and do your part to hold together and support this beautiful garden. Without you, there could be no garden at all. Rejoice, My dear Mother Earth, that you have been called and chosen and privileged to bear fruit for Me in this way.”

Then, to show Earth that He forgave and trusted her, and to show how much He appreciated her ministry of serving, nourishing and giving life to others, the Lord God formed His ultimate creation, man, out of the dust of Mother Earth. He breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and man became a living soul, created in God’s own image. Of all the beautiful, glorious parts of His creation, God chose the plain dirt of the earth to be the mother of life.

“But a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

“Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:6-9).



- What happened when Mother Earth tried to be something she was not?
- Was one of the creations God made better or more important than the others?
- Talk about how each thing God made is important and special in its own way, and how one cannot do without the other.
- Give some examples of how some plants and animals depend on each other, like the bees and other insects that help pollinate flowers, etc.

---

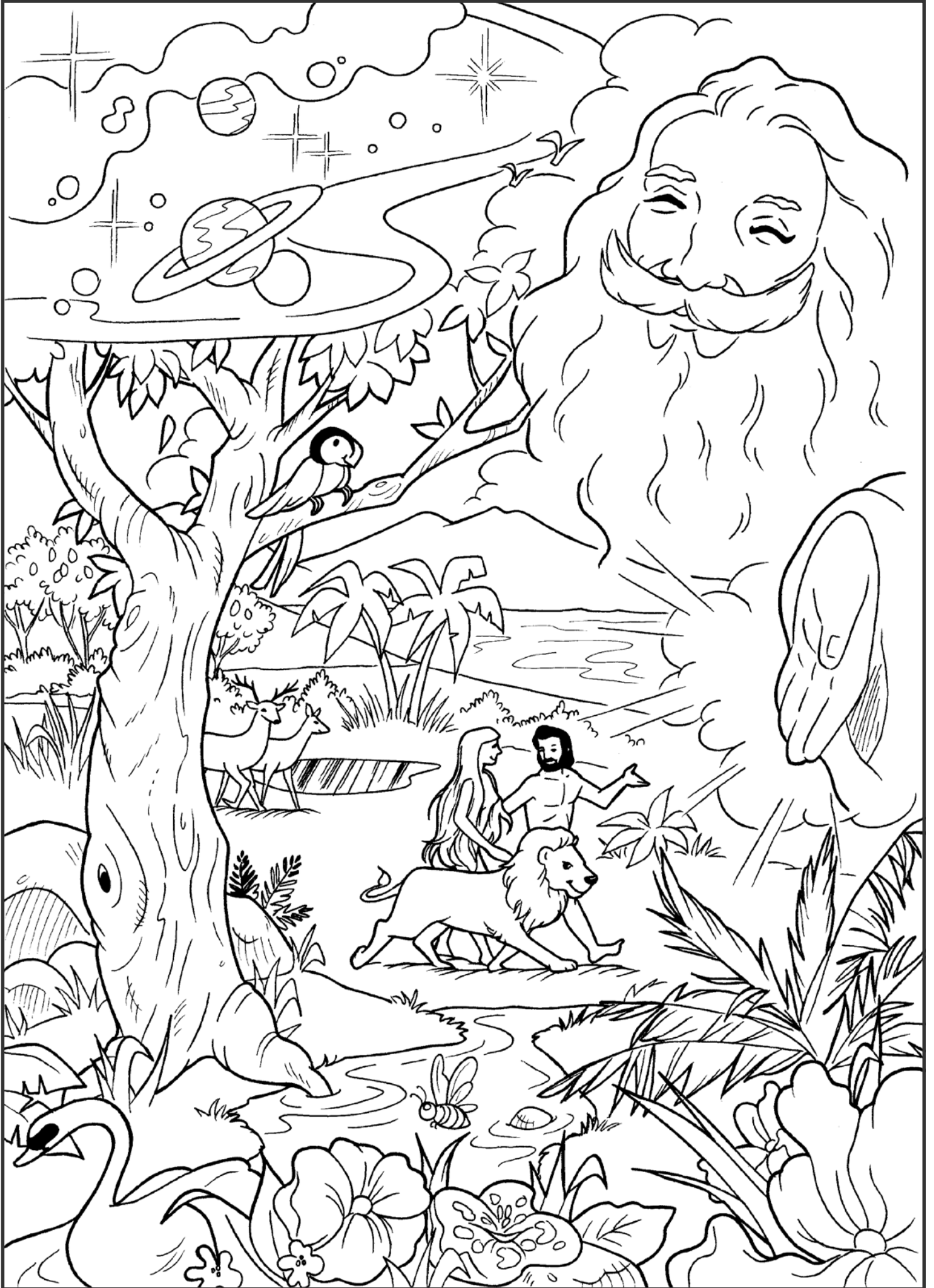
\***scheme**: a systematic plan of action

\***glinting**: momentary flashing of light; sparkling

\***gaily**: in a joyful, cheerful, or happy manner; merrily

\***tapestry**: something felt to resemble a richly and complexly designed cloth

\***disheveled**: thrown into disorder



# The Garden

Here's a story about a Gardener  
Who grew a garden so lovely and fair.  
But one morning he found that his plants all around  
Were moaning and filled with despair:

## **Gardener:**

Alas, woe is me! What is this that I see?  
All my flowers and trees look so sad!  
Tell me, my good Oak, is this some kind of joke,  
Or a terrible problem you have?

## **Said the Oak:**

I am tired and feel uninspired as an Oak.  
What I'd like to be best is tall, strong and fine  
Like that beautiful Pine.  
But I can't, so I'm feeling depressed!

## **Then the Gardener asked:**

Why? Pine, why do you whine?

## **Said the Pine:**

Oh, it's really not fair!  
Instead of a Pine, I wish I were a Vine,  
And then thousands of grapes I could bear!

## **Then blurted the Vine:**

I don't like how I twine,  
And how short do my poor branches reach!  
My leaves are so small! How I wish I were tall,  
And bore big juicy fruit like the Peach!

## **The Gardener spoke:**

My Geranium dear,  
Why, you're shedding a tear!  
And your petals are drooping with gloom!

## **Geranium:**

I cannot be content  
'Cause I have no sweet scent  
Like the Lilac with its lovely bloom!

## **Gardener:**

This despair can't be pardoned!  
In all of my garden discouragement fills every place!  
But now look over here, like a bright ray of cheer—  
It's my Daisy with her sweet round face!  
Why are you still so bright,  
Brave and happy in spite of the  
Gloom, doom and darkness I see?

## **Daisy:**

Well, I know that I'm small,  
Just a daisy, that's all,  
But this morning this thought came to me:  
If you'd wanted a Pine or a Peach Tree or Vine  
Growing here, you'd have made that your plan.  
But since you planted me, I'm determined to be  
The best little Daisy I can!

## **Gardener:**

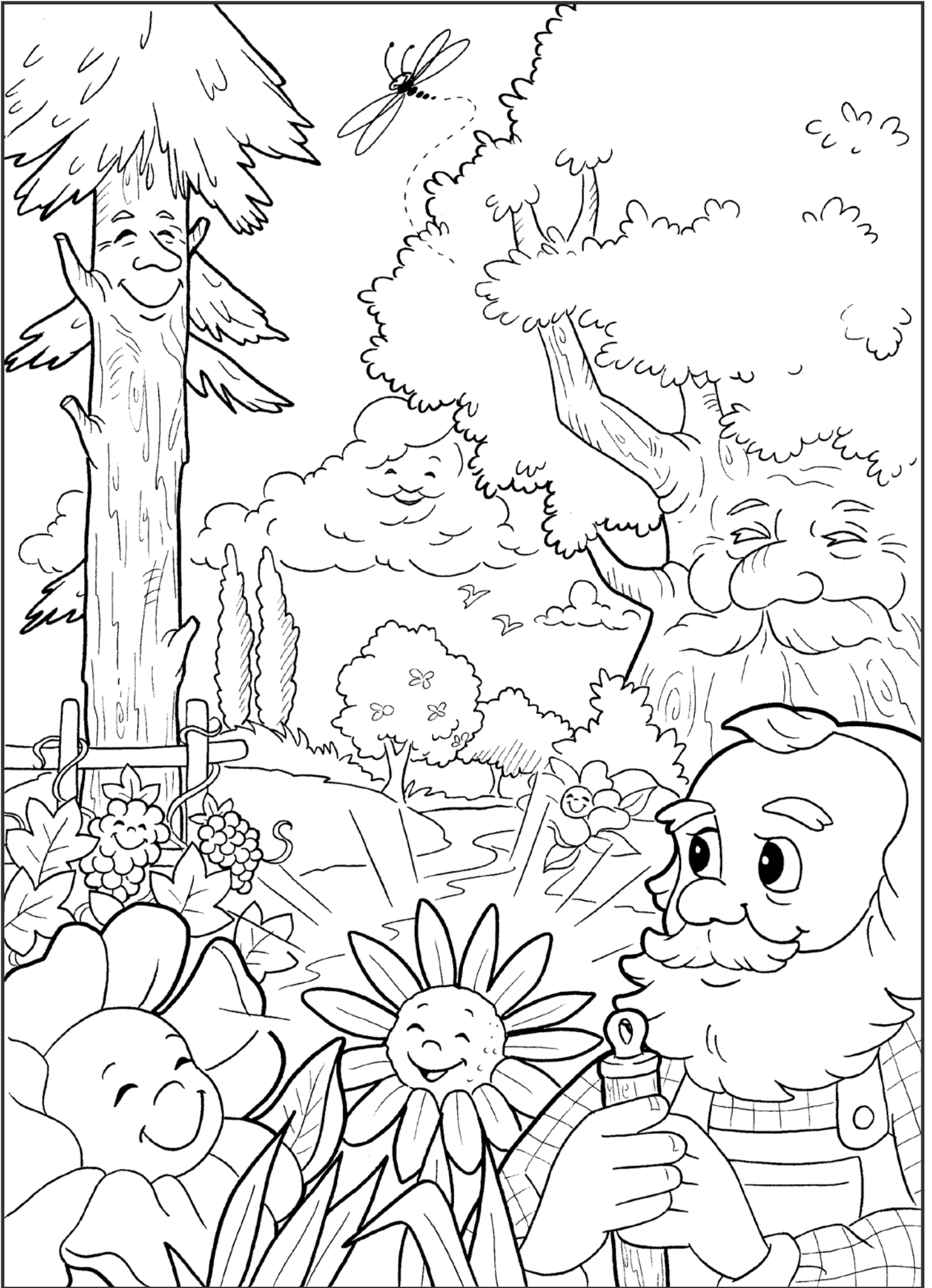
Well, my flowers and trees,  
I think you ought to be ashamed!  
See, this Daisy so small, although she's so tiny,  
She's not sad and whiny,  
But more grateful and glad than you all!

It's best to be happy with all that you have,  
And not try to be what you're not.  
Instead of comparing with others around,  
Remember what this story's taught:  
Cheer up and be happy! Be the best that you can be,  
And be thankful for what you have got!

All the plants who'd complained said:  
"No, never again will we grumble and gripe and  
protest.  
Instead of objecting to how we were made,  
We'll cheer up and all do our best,  
And be thankful for how we've been blessed!"



- What do you think the garden would have looked like if the flowers and trees were all the same?
- Talk about what you think is special about each different thing in the garden and how each one is blessed.
- Imagine if everyone in the world looked the same. Wouldn't that be boring? How does God make us all different?



# Prayer and Praise

Thank You for teaching me that comparing with others is not wise. When I'm tempted to compare myself with others, help me to remember to count my blessings and be thankful for all that I have. Amen.

# Memory Fun



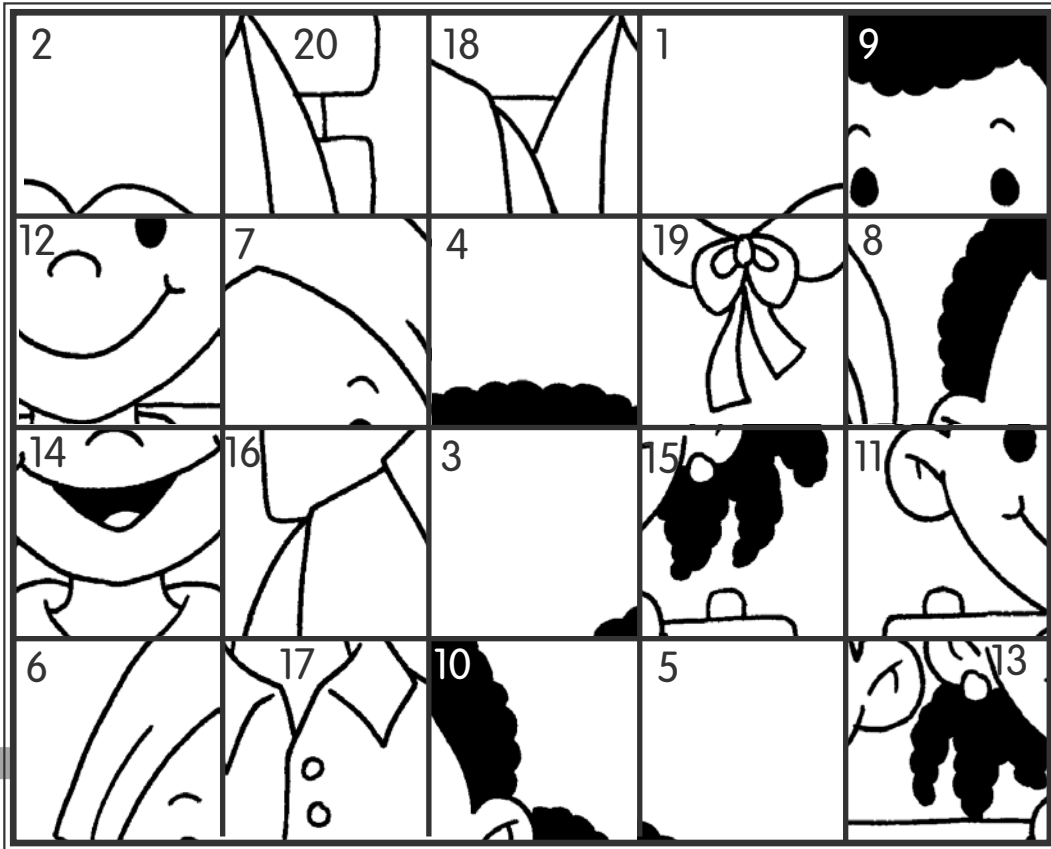
But they, in comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

2 Corinthians 10:12

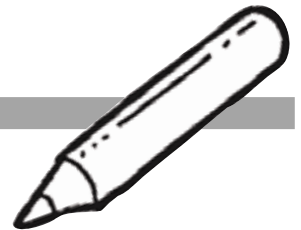


# Pencil Page

## Complete the Puzzle



Copy the drawing in each numbered square into the empty square with the same number. Squares 12 and 13 have been done for you.



We are all different, but God can use each of us in our own special way.





# Pencil Page

## Alphabet Quiz



Do you know the alphabet? Write the letter that follows each set of letters on the line next to it in order to find the missing words in the poem below.

- |          |       |         |       |          |       |
|----------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| ABCDEF G | _____ | WXYZAB  | _____ | NOPQRS   | _____ |
| UVWXYZ   | _____ | ABCDEFG | _____ | ABCDEFGH | _____ |
| IJKLMNOP | _____ | YZABCD  | _____ | UVWXYZ   | _____ |
| IJKLMNOP | _____ | YZABCD  | _____ | FGHIJKLM | _____ |
| STUVWX   | _____ | LMNOPQ  | _____ | DEFGHIJ  | _____ |
|          |       |         |       | YZABCDE  | _____ |
|          |       |         |       | NOPQRST  | _____ |
|          |       |         |       | DEFGHIJK | _____ |

It's best to be \_\_\_\_\_ with all  
 that you have,  
 And not try to be what you're not.  
 Instead of comparing with others  
 around,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ up and be happy!  
 Be the best that you can be,  
 And be \_\_\_\_\_ for what  
 you have got!





# Make and Do

## Your Own Glad Garden

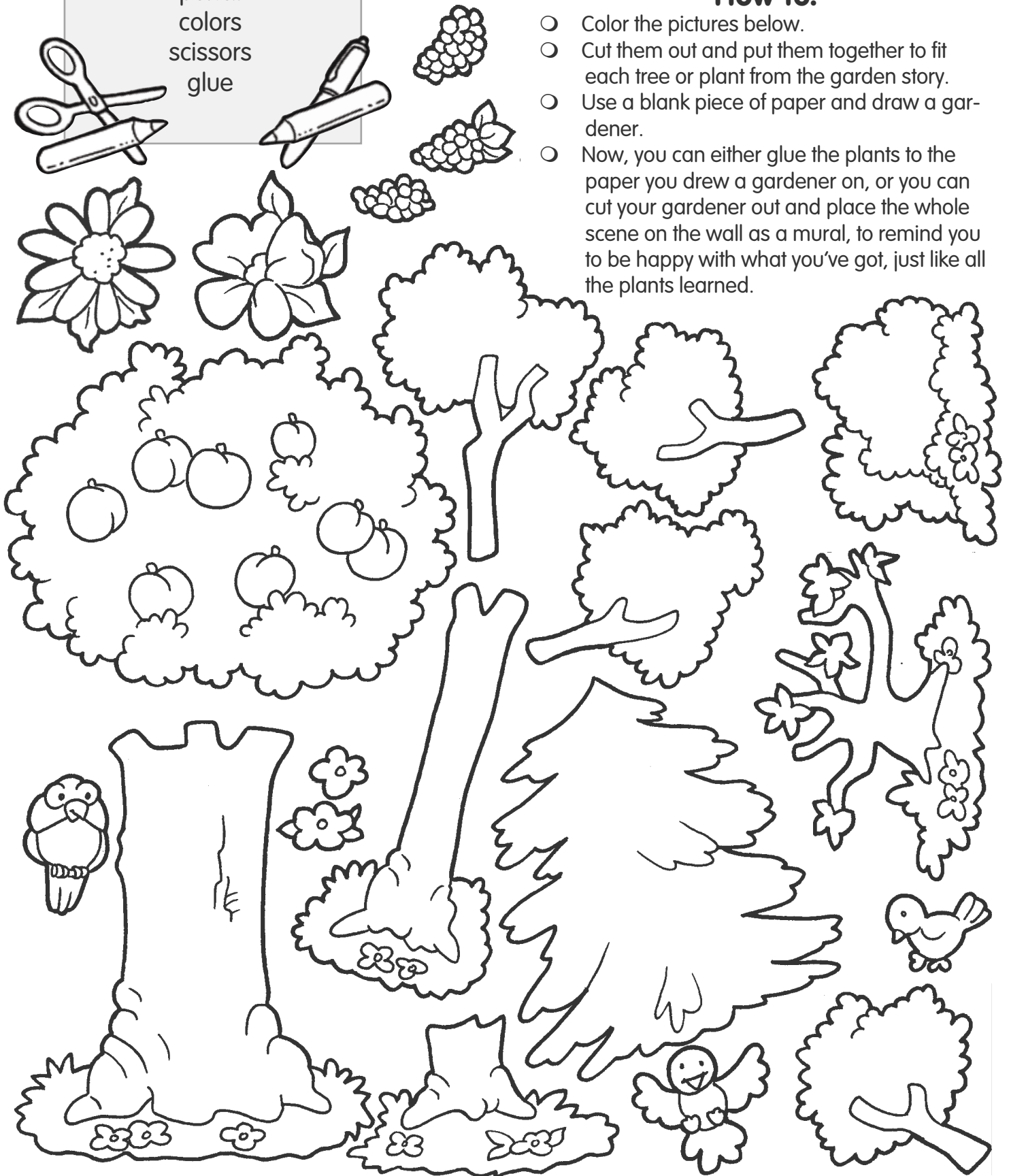
### You will need:

paper  
pencil  
colors  
scissors  
glue



### How to:

- Color the pictures below.
- Cut them out and put them together to fit each tree or plant from the garden story.
- Use a blank piece of paper and draw a gardener.
- Now, you can either glue the plants to the paper you drew a gardener on, or you can cut your gardener out and place the whole scene on the wall as a mural, to remind you to be happy with what you've got, just like all the plants learned.



(This page intentionally blank)

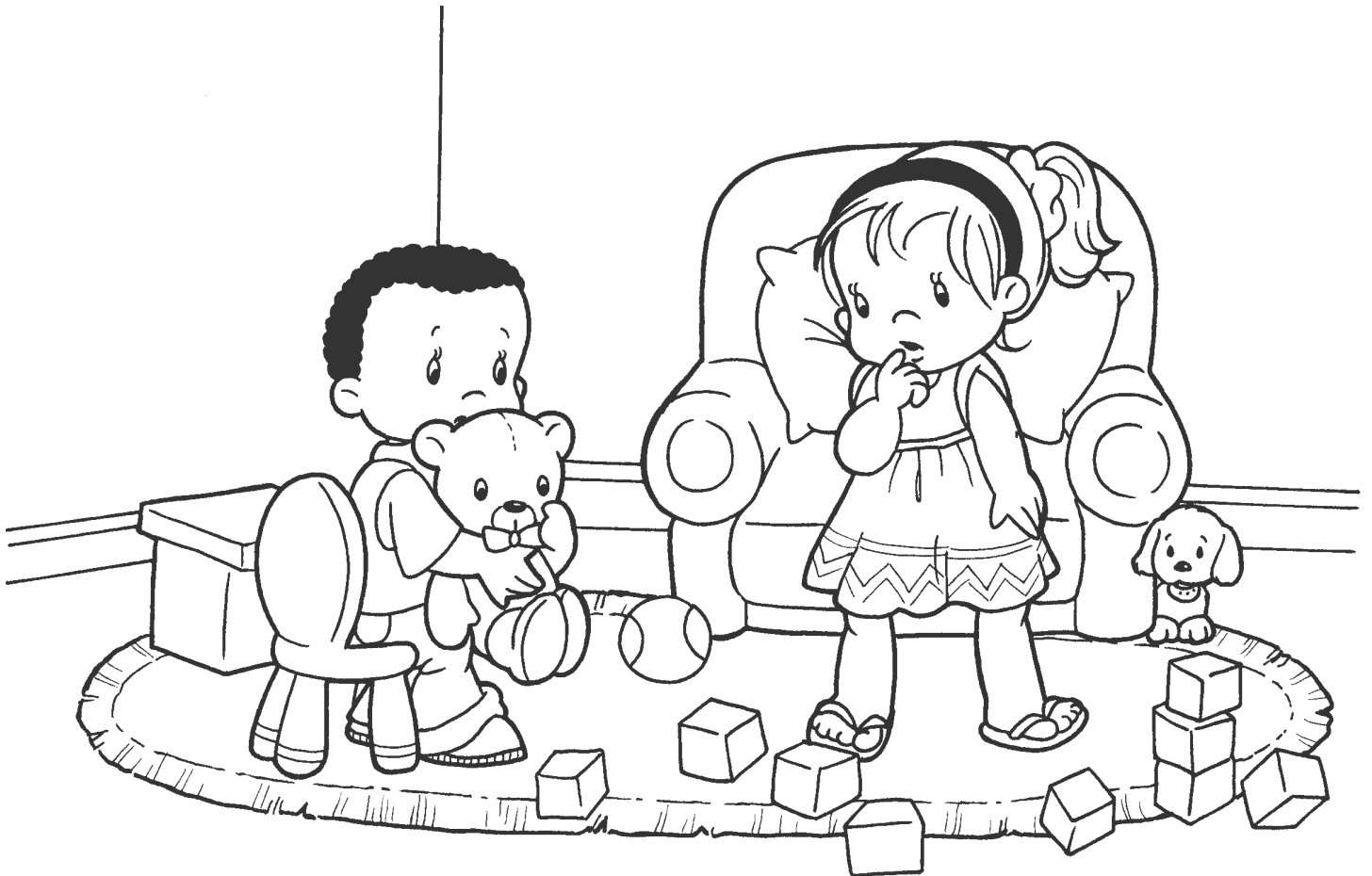
# From Jesus—with Love



Have you ever really wanted something someone else had? Maybe one of your friends got something that you didn't, like a nice new toy or a new dress, and you started to feel badly that you didn't have something like that. Has that ever happened to you?

Well, if you'll just stop for a few minutes and count the good things around you, you'll find that there are so many ways that I bless you too.

Maybe someone else got a new toy, but maybe I will bless you with extra time with your mommy or daddy, or maybe you'll get to go somewhere or do something special. Your friend may be getting to do something really fun because it's their turn, but you'll get your turn later to do something special too! I love each one of you dearly.



# THE STEPS PROGRAM

## Character Building Series

**Help your children build character and sound values through the 20 *Character Building* lessons in this course.**

The **STEPS** Character Building series is a unique life-skills learning program intended for use at home, camp, or classroom, by parents, counselors, caregivers, and teachers alike. Each booklet in this series focuses on developing a personal or interpersonal skill, social value, or quality of character necessary for positive self-esteem and to live a happy, rewarding, fulfilling life, in peace and harmony with others.



**aurora**

[www.auroraproduction.com](http://www.auroraproduction.com)

