



1 See God's Image in All

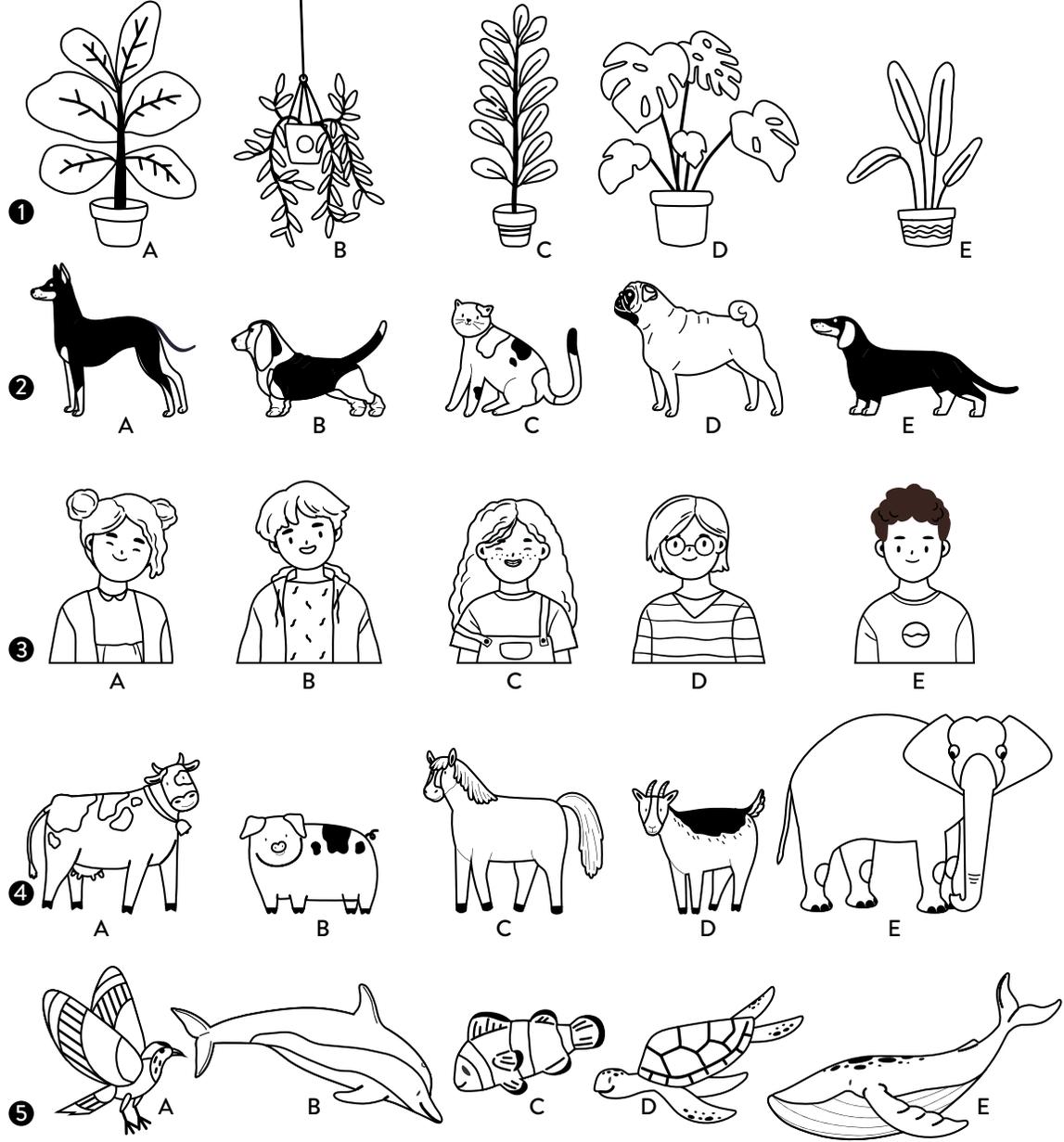
WAYS TO PRACTICE AT HOME

God is bigger than our language can ever describe. When we limit God, we restrict God's creative expression in the world and who we are made in the image of God. Each person, with all they are, is a reflection of the creative nature of God. Diversity is what creation is all about and is to be celebrated.

- Go to a zoo, aquarium, botanical garden, forest, beach, park, or anywhere you can see the vast diversity of God's creation. Look for the big and small and in between. Notice what's wildly creative in color, shape, size, or other features. Praise God for such an amazing world!
- Make a list of differences and similarities in your family. Take turns having a family member choose one difference and one similarity to celebrate each day. It might be a favorite food or game to play. It could be that everyone loves the color green and the day is spent celebrating green things! Be creative.
- Read *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox (Clarion Books, 2006) or watch the YouTube video "Read-Aloud of Whoever You Are by Mem Fox" (bit.ly/FMWhoeverYouAre, 3:07). Talk together about the things that may be different and the things that are the same about people and wonder why differences and similarities are each important in our world.

God of us all, thank you for the gift of creation and the vast diversity you gave the world, its creatures, and us. May we appreciate and celebrate our differences and similarities. Amen.

Can you find the similarities in each row? Which one(s) in each row is different?



1. plants, B is hanging; 2. pets, C is a cat; 3. children, C has freckles, D wears glasses, E has dark hair; 4. animals, E does not live on a farm; 5. creatures, A lives above water.



BIBLE STORY

Based on Genesis 1:1–27

At the beginning of time, God created the world. Before God created the world, there was nothing but darkness, and a wind from God swirled around. In this darkness and wind, God decided that there should be not just darkness, but also light. At first it was just dark, dark and bright light, but then the dark began to soften and there were shadows and dusk and twilight. The bright light had shades like white and yellow and pink and was dawn and noontime. God liked the dark and the light and everything in between. It was all good.

God separated waters and sky, and then the waters from the waters, and dry land appeared. At first it was just lots of sky, but then there were clouds, sometimes long and thin, and other times fluffy and round. The waters became seas and oceans, rivers and streams, and raindrops and puddles. The dry land became tall mountains and flat plains, hot deserts, and cold tundra. The waters and the lands mixed and were estuaries and bayous and swamps. God liked it all, the waters and sky and lands and everything in between. It was all good.

God said that things should grow on the lands and in the waters, and then there were jungles and wheatfields, seaweed and moss. God liked all the growing things, the tiny seeds and the giant trees and everything in between. It was all good.

God set the sun and the moon and the stars and the planets and the comets and all that is in space to light up the day and the night and the in-between times. God liked all the big and the small lights in the heavens and everything in between. It was all good.

God created living creatures—fish that could swim, birds that could fly. God created every kind of different animal to walk the earth that you could



even imagine! The fish and the birds and the animals were of every size and shape and color. Some had beaks and some had paws and some had wings and some had fins. God liked all the variety, the big and the small, the quiet and the loud, the swimmers and the fliers and the crawlers and everything in between. It was all good.

God created humans, people with all sorts of skin colors and hair colors and eye colors; tall people and short people; boys and girls and everything in between. God made people in God's own image, not that God looked like people or people looked like God, but that people were as creative and thoughtful and loving as God. God loved each person exactly how they were created because God loved all the variety God had placed in the world. It was all very good.