



## Moment Two: Families of Faith

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### Junior and Senior Infants (P1–P2)

#### Background for Teachers

[N]o family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love. ... All of us are called to keep striving towards something greater than ourselves and our families, and every family must feel this constant impulse. Let us make this journey as families, let us keep walking together. (*Amoris Laetitia*, 325)

Pope Francis is the Bishop of Rome and the visible head of the Roman Catholic Church. According to recent Vatican figures, Pope Francis ministers to over 1,285 million Catholics across the world.<sup>1</sup> To keep in touch with all his flock, the Pope uses a variety of mediums. He addresses weekly audiences in person, he tweets, he broadcasts, and he writes documents and letters.

In 2016, the Pope wrote an apostolic exhortation, which is a document highlighting for Catholics the teaching of the Church. The title of this document is *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*). It teaches on love in the family. It recognises that all families experience challenges and difficulties, and significantly that no family is perfect! 'Perfect families do not exist ... This is a great legacy that we can give to our children, a very good lesson: we make mistakes, yes; we have problems, yes. But we know that is not really what counts. We know that mistakes, problems and conflicts are an opportunity to draw closer to others, to draw closer to God.'<sup>2</sup>

In August 2018, World Meeting of Families will be celebrated in Dublin, and throughout Ireland. The World Meeting of Families, which is held every three years, celebrates family life and the Church's commitment to supporting families. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for World Meeting of Families 2018 is The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World.

Catholic Schools Week 2018, in preparation for this unique jamboree, will celebrate the family. Pope Francis reminds us in *Amoris Laetitia* that the Church is a family of families. This week we will celebrate love in the family at home, the school family, the parish family and the universal family.

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1. *The Pontifical Yearbook 2017 and the Annuarium Statisticum Ecclesiae 2015*, 06.04.2017.

2. Pope Francis' address to Festival of Families, Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, 27 September 2015.



## From the Curriculum: Level 1

### Christian Faith

#### Mystery of God

- God is our loving Father and Creator (Gn 1:26–7)
- God loves us like a mother loves her child (CCC 239; Is 66:13; Ps 131:2)
- God loves and cares for every family

#### Mystery of Jesus Christ

- Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 1:1; Mt 16:16–17; 27–54; Jn 20:31; CCC 422, 441–6, 454)
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth (Lk 2:4, 2:39–40; CCC 422, 531)

#### Creation

- God cares for all creation (Wis 8:1; CCC 303)
- God’s creation is good (Gn 1:31; CCC 299, 339; CSRE 1b)

#### Mystery of the Church

- God is in every home and family (GDC 133)
- Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the Holy Family of Nazareth (CCC 437, 532–4, 564, 583, 1655)
- The Catholic Church as the family of God (CCC 747, 759, 777–8, 959, 1655, 2233)
- Mary is the Mother of Jesus, God’s Mother and Our Mother (Lk 1:26–38; Gal 4:26–8; Jn 19:267; CCC 495, 508–10, 723, 744, 963, 967–71, 973–5; LG 53)
- The Saints: God’s special friends who are part of the family of the Church in heaven (CCC 828, 956–7, 960–2, 1195, 2013, 2030, 2683, 2692)
- The way of life of the parish involves caring, sharing, and praying together (CCC 2179; CSRE 2a)
- The church is a special place where God’s people gather to pray
- Our family helps us become friends of Jesus

### Word of God

#### Jesus’ Birth and Youth

- Jesus’ birth (Lk 2:1–20; Mt 1:18–25)
- Jesus is presented in the temple (Lk 2:22–40)

#### Jesus’ Public Life

- Love one another (Jn 13:34)

### Prayer and Liturgy

#### Prayer

- God always hears our prayers
- The church is God’s house, where his family comes together (CCC 1180; LG 6; 1 Tm 3:15)
- God’s family gathers in the parish church to pray and celebrate (CCC 1069–71, 2179)
- The church is a holy place where people go to pray and talk to God (CCC 1181)

#### Formal Prayer

- Hail Mary (CCC 2676)
- Our Father (CCC 2759)

#### Additional Prayers

- Prayer to the Holy Family
- Prayer for Parents and Families

#### Liturgical Year (CCC 1168–73, 1194–5)

- Sunday is a day of rest for the Church family (CCC 2184–7)

#### Mass

- The parish family gathers to celebrate with Jesus and with one another at Mass
- We gather together to listen to stories about Jesus
- Special times and places the Church family gathers to pray and celebrate Mass (e.g. Christmas Day)
- On Sunday Catholics gather together to celebrate the Mass (CCC 1167, 1343)

### Christian Morality

#### Human Dignity

- God gave me people (e.g. families) who take care of me and show me how to love

#### RSE in a Christian Context

- Jesus was part of a family. God gave me my family
- Honour your parents/godparents/guardians (fourth commandment)
- Stories of saints that convey Christian moral values



## Monday: Our Family at Home

### Reflective Quote

I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfil their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way. The Synod's reflections show us that there is no stereotype of the ideal family, but rather a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems. (*Amoris Laetitia*, 57)

### Consider

We all belong to a family. Some families are big and have lots of people in them and some families are small and only have two people in them. Even though families are all different they share one thing: love.

➤ Share the names of all the people in your family.

- Who is the eldest?
- Who is the youngest?

At home, in our family we have special names for all the people we love.

- What are the different names for grandmother (e.g. nanny, granny, etc.), grandfather, mother, father, aunt, uncle?

### Prayer

Loving God, hear our prayer.  
Keep our family in your loving care,  
Today and always.  
Amen.

### Explore

Jesus had a family too.

- Can you recall the birth of Jesus?

**Note:** Resources available in *Grow in Love*, Junior Infants/P1, p. 90; Senior Infants/P2, p. 100.

Jesus lived in Nazareth with his mother, Mary, and her husband, Joseph.

➤ Look at and explore the picture of the Holy Family.

- Can you name all the people in the picture?
- Who do you think is the eldest in the Holy Family? Who is the youngest?
- What name do you think Jesus called Mary? (mam, mummy, etc.)
- What, do you think, is Joseph doing?



Families do many things together. In this picture we see Joseph reading to Jesus.

- How do you know that Jesus is listening?
- Who reads to you in your family?
- What is your favourite story?

What other activities do family members do together? Do you think the Holy Family did these things too?

- Where do you go shopping? Where, do you think, did Jesus go shopping?
- Who do you shop with? Who did Jesus shop with?
- Who brings you to school? Who do you think brought Jesus to school?
- What is your favourite activity in school? What do you think was Jesus' favourite activity in school?
- What job(s) do you do around the house? What jobs do you think that Jesus did around the house?
- What is your favourite food? Who helps to prepare meals in your family?
- When do you pray? When do you think Jesus said his prayers?

### Activity

Draw a picture of your family on Monday's activity page and pray the Prayer to the Holy Family.

Read Luke 2:22–40, Jesus is Presented in the Temple.

Or

**Song:** 'When Jesus was a Boy' (*Grow in Love*, Junior Infants and Senior Infants/P1 and P2, Theme 4: The Holy Family, p. 132)



## Monday: Our Family at Home

Activity Page

God loves my family

**Prayer to the Holy Family**  
Holy Family guide our way,  
Help protect us every day.





## Tuesday: Our School Family

### Reflective Quote

Schools do not replace parents, but complement them. This is a basic principle: 'all other participants in the process of education are only able to carry out their responsibilities in the name of the parents, with their consent and, to a certain degree, with their authorization.' (*Amoris Laetitia*, 84)

### Consider

Remind the children of yesterday's lesson. Recall the Holy Family and the different activities that our family and the Holy Family engaged in as a family.

Our school is like a family. We all belong together in a special way. We call each other by name, we chat to each other, we listen, we laugh, we help, we tidy up after activities. Sometimes we do activities by ourselves, sometimes in groups, sometimes as a class and, at other times, as a school.

Consider the following list of activities and decide with the children if they are class activities or whole-school activities. (Include examples that are specific to your own class.)

- PE
- Litter-pick
- Singing
- Golden Time
- Assembly
- Eat lunch
- Art
- Pray

We care for each other and for the environment around our school. We help and share, we take turns and always show respect.

- What are the different ways we care for each other in our school family?

### Prayer

(Repeat after teacher)

Loving God, hear our prayer.

Keep our school family in your loving care,

Today and always.

Amen.

### Explore

List some of the people in our school family (pupils, teachers, principal, secretary, caretaker, parents, etc.). All of these people have different jobs in our school.

- Can we think of what they do?

They all make up our school family. We care for all the members of our school family the way we care for those in our family at home. Think of some of the ways we treat each other.

- When are we kind to others? Helpful? Generous? Chatty? Attentive? Playful?

We care for each other because God loves us. When we care for each other we show our love for God.

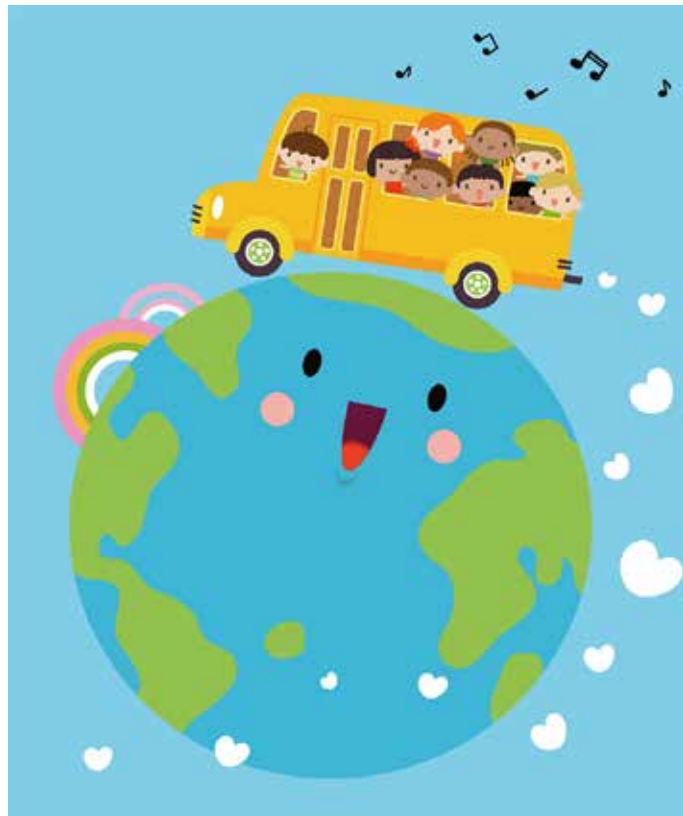
Just like in our family at home, our school family also prays. Sometimes we pray for ourselves and sometimes we pray for others.

- Think of the times when we pray in school.
- Who will we pray for today?

### Activity

Create a banner that reads 'God Bless my School Family'.

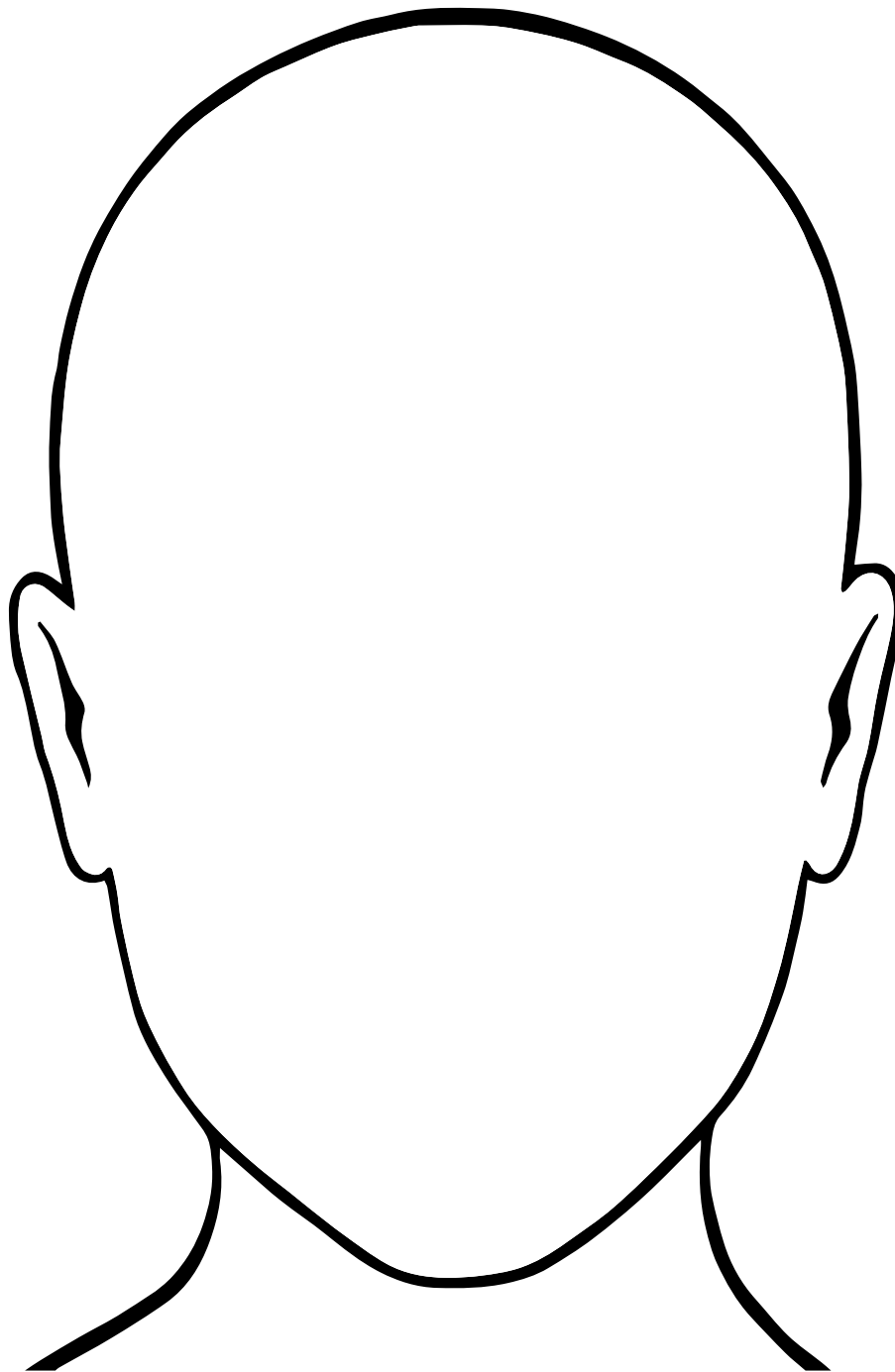
Provide each child with a copy of Tuesday's activity page, which has a face that they can colour/ decorate/collage/paint to resemble themselves or another member of the school family. Display all the artwork under the banner.



## Tuesday: Our School Family

Activity Page

God Bless my School Family







## Thursday: Our Parish Family

### Reflective Quote

The main contribution to the pastoral care of families is offered by the parish, which is the family of families, where small communities, ecclesial movements and associations live in harmony. (*Amoris Laetitia*, 202)

### Consider

Today is a very special day in our school, in our parish and all across Ireland. Today we celebrate a very special person called St Brigid. (See *Grow in Love*, Senior Infants/P1, Theme 5: St Brigid and the Spring, p. 135)

Brigid lived a long time ago. When she was young she lived with her father and mother in a big fort. Brigid had lovely clothes, pretty shoes and beautiful cloaks. Brigid had lots of delicious food to eat and she always had fresh, clean water to drink. Brigid was always very kind and helpful and did many jobs in her father's fort. Brigid also learned to pray at home and always remembered to thank God for the wonderful gifts that he shared with her and her family.

- Do you think Brigid liked living in the fort?
- What kind of clothes do you think she wore?
- What kind of food do you think she ate?

### Prayer

(Repeat after teacher)

God our Father,

Thank you for all the beautiful gifts you share with my family and me.

Thank you for always being with us and helping us.

Amen.



### Explore

Brigid's mother was a very kind, loving and generous woman. Brigid learned how to be just as kind, loving and generous as her mother. As Brigid grew older, she noticed that many of the people who lived near her did not have the same lovely things that she had. Brigid did not think this was fair. She often got into trouble for giving away food, clothes and other things from her father's fort. In fact, one day she gave away her father's sword to a poor man who would sell it to buy food.

When Brigid was a young woman she left her family home to make a new home for people who were poor and sick. She travelled to Kildare and there she built a big church. All people were welcome to come and visit the church. They could chat and share and pray. Brigid fed the people who were hungry, she helped those who were sick and she always prayed to God. After a while, other kind, generous people joined Brigid to care for those who came to the church. In this place, everyone was treated like a member of a special family. It was a special place for God's family.



Today, in our parish/village/town we have a place where God's family comes together and remembers just how much God loves us. In this special place we chat and share and pray.

- What do we call the special building where God's family comes together?
- Ask if the children have attended a Baptism? Wedding? Funeral?
- What day is a special day for our family and other families to visit and pray in the church?
- What does God's family do in the church?

### Activity

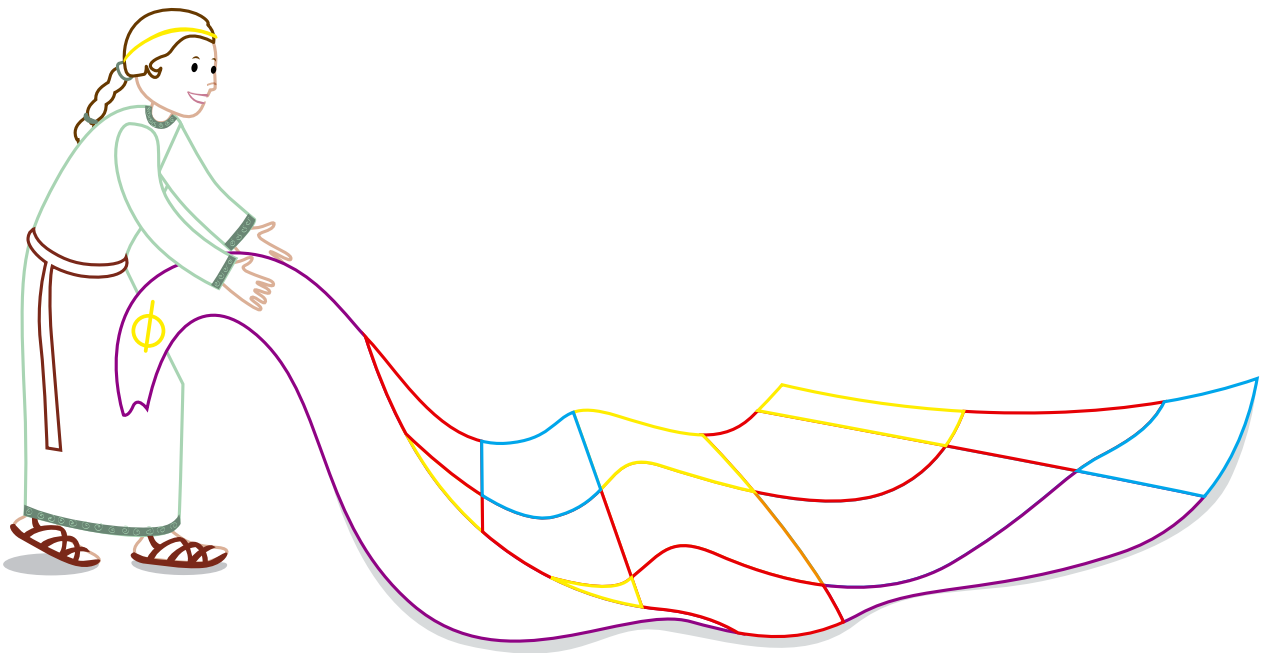
Colour the picture of St Brigid on Thursday's activity page.

**Song:** 'The Church' (*Grow in Love*, Junior Infants/P1, Theme 7: The Church, p. 190; Senior Infants/P2, Theme 8: The Church, p. 226) or 'We Sing a Song to Brigid' (*Grow in Love*, Senior Infants/P2, Theme 5: St Brigid and the Spring, p. 151)



## Thursday: Our Parish Family

Activity Page



Loving God, hear our prayer.  
Keep our parish family  
in your loving care,  
Today and always.  
Amen.



## Friday: Our World Family

### Reflective Quote

The better we live on this earth, the greater the happiness we will be able to share with our loved ones in heaven. The more we are able to mature and develop in this world, the more gifts will we be able to bring to the heavenly banquet. (*Amoris Laetitia*, 258)

### Consider

This week we remember that there are lots of different families. We talked about our family at home, our school family and our parish family. Pope Francis tells us that the world is one big family. He wants us to remember to care for everyone and everything in the world just like we care for those in our family.

Pope Francis likes to keep in touch with all the people in the world. Sometimes he phones people, sometimes he sends messages on his phone, sometimes he uses his computer to send messages and sometimes he writes letters. Last year he wrote a letter to all of us, saying that God loves us and reminding us that our family is very special. He wrote about all the love God has for everyone in our family. He asks us to share that love with everyone in our family.



### Prayer

*(Repeat after teacher)*

God our Father,  
Thank you for the beautiful world we live in.  
Bless all the people in the world.  
Amen.



## Explore

As part of our world family, we have to care for the world we live in. Our family can care for God's world.

- Think of all the things you do to protect and care for the earth.

**Note:** This is an excellent opportunity to revise/review the school's current Green School's theme.

- What do you do with litter?
- Do you leave the taps running?
- When you leave a room, what do you do with the lights?
- Do we leave electronics plugged in?
- Why should we walk instead of always using a car?

## Activity

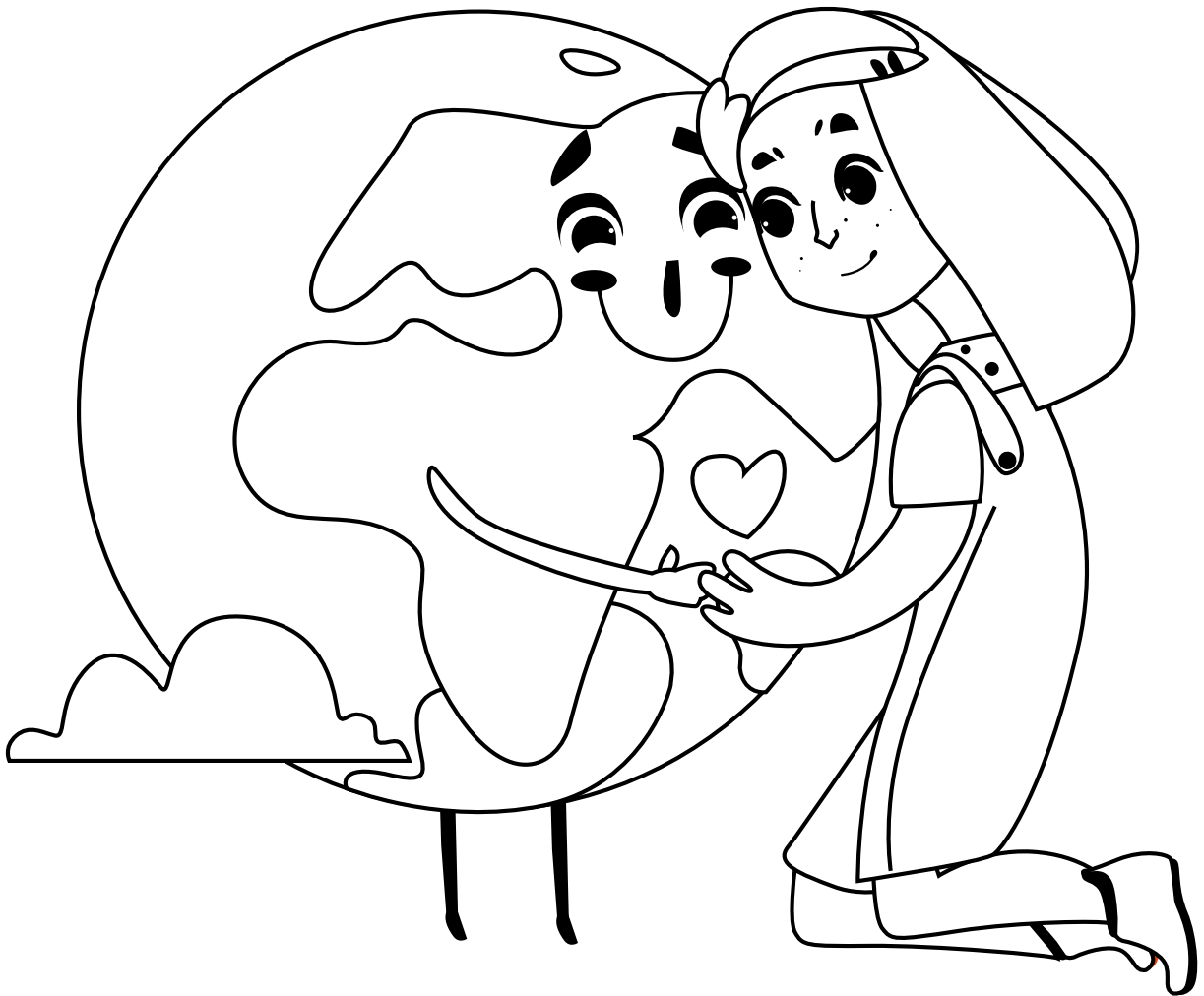
Colour the picture on Friday's activity page. Display them in your classroom or around the school to remind everyone that we are part of a world family and it is important that we care for our world and everyone with whom we share it.





## Friday: Our World Family

Activity Page



We care for our world family

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