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Dedication

To my wife

Mary

and our four children

Dana Ruth

Deborah Lynn

David Eugene

Diane Elizabeth

He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.

Proverbs 18:22

... Children are a heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them ...

Psalms 127:3,5

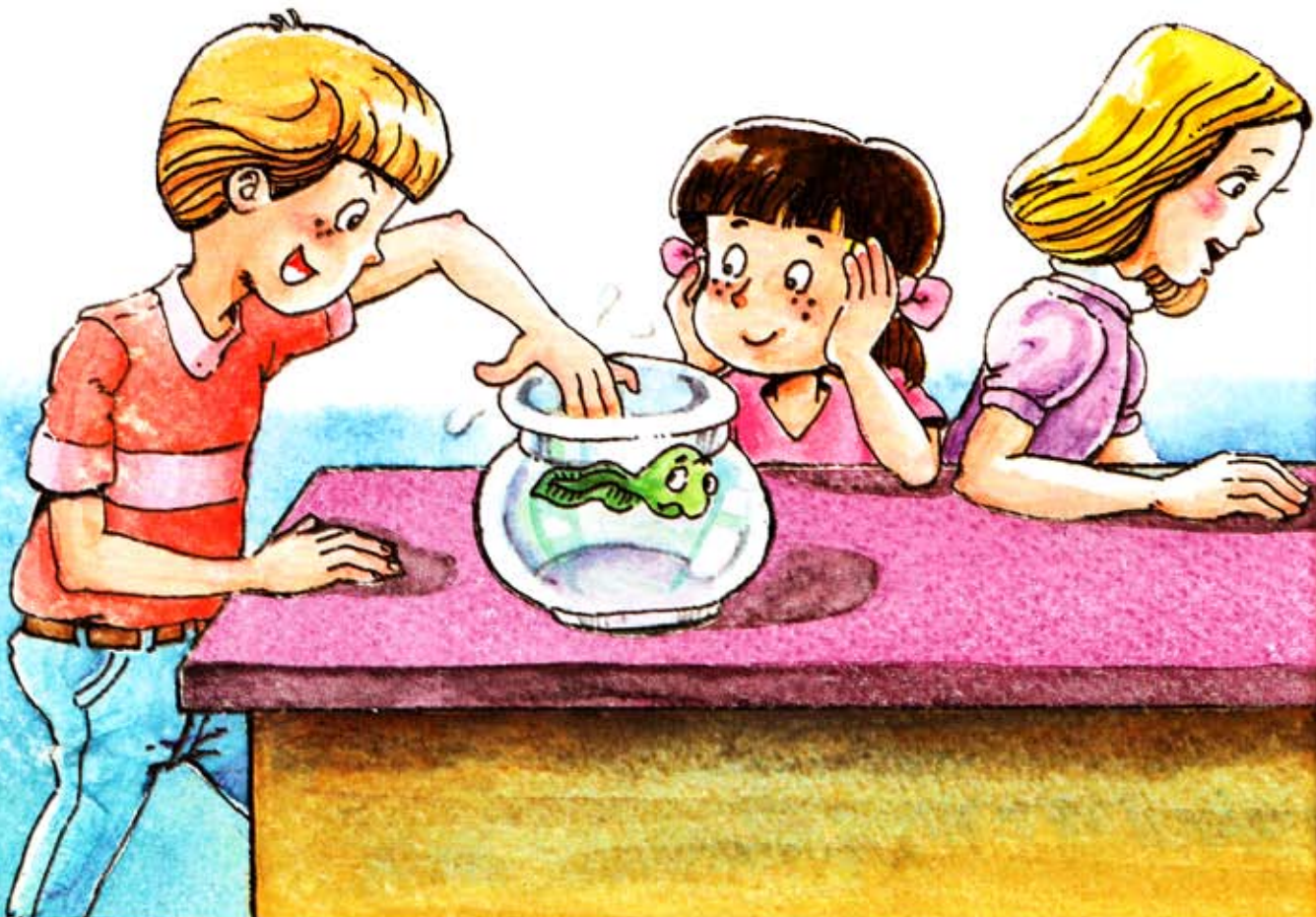
Chapter 1

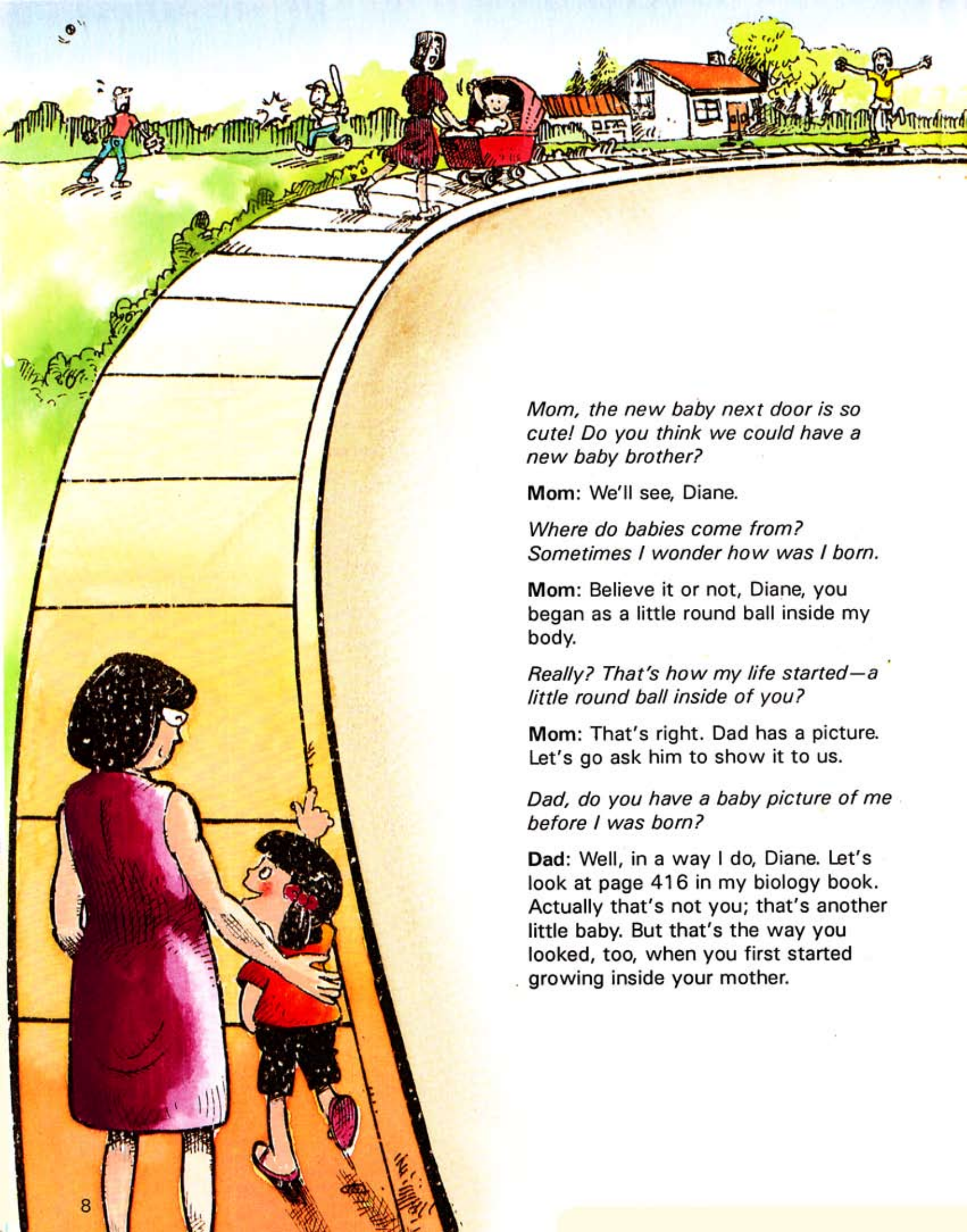
Knit Together

Did you ever wonder where babies come from, or what you looked like while you were growing inside your mother? Well, the Bible and biology (*by oll' oh jee*) tell us a lot about those things. The Bible tells us that each of us started as a plan in the mind of God. The tools of biology let us see how God knit us together inside our mothers.

I'm a biologist (*by oll' oh jist*)—a scientist who studies life. My children asked me how babies grow, so I took them to my lab. There I could show them pictures and models and live tadpoles to help them understand what happens.

Would you like to come along? You're welcome to join us. My name is Dr. Gary Parker, my wife is Mary, and our four children are Dana, Debbie, David, and Diane. Our adventure begins with an important question Diane asked her mother.





Mom, the new baby next door is so cute! Do you think we could have a new baby brother?

Mom: We'll see, Diane.

*Where do babies come from?
Sometimes I wonder how was I born.*

Mom: Believe it or not, Diane, you began as a little round ball inside my body.

Really? That's how my life started—a little round ball inside of you?

Mom: That's right. Dad has a picture. Let's go ask him to show it to us.

Dad, do you have a baby picture of me before I was born?

Dad: Well, in a way I do, Diane. Let's look at page 416 in my biology book. Actually that's not you; that's another little baby. But that's the way you looked, too, when you first started growing inside your mother.



That's it? I didn't look like much! You mean that little ball is really a baby, like me before I was born?

Dad: That's right. Besides that, this picture is over 1,000 times bigger than the baby really is when it gets started. The real you was only about the size of a dot here on this page (.)!

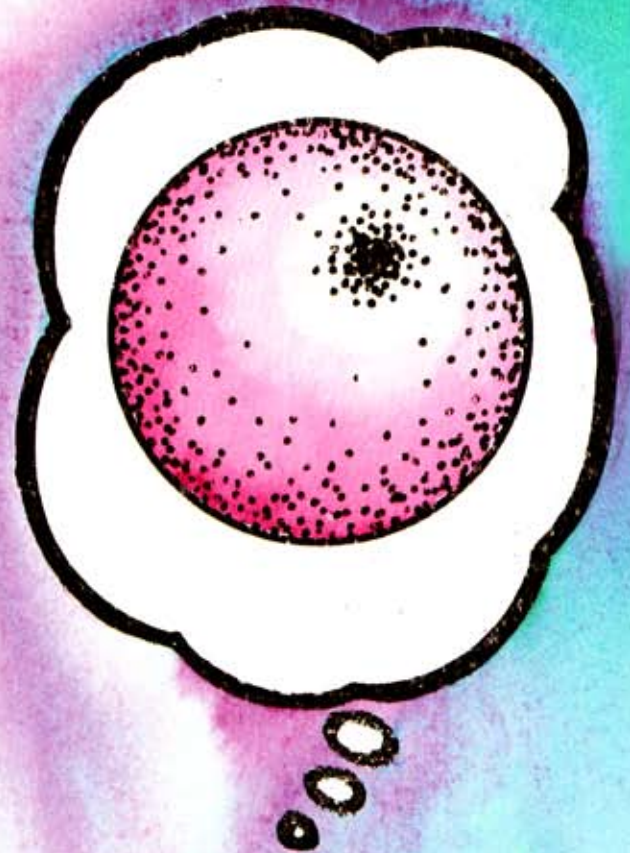
Mom: That special little ball you started from is called an egg cell.

Did I hatch from an egg like a chicken?

Dad: No! A chicken egg has a chicken egg cell in it. It also has a thick shell and is full of stored-up food (the yolk and the white).

Mom: You were just a single cell, Diane—with no shell. You got the food you needed from my body.

Dad: Like all cells, your egg cell was alive. That means your first cell was able to grow, react to its surroundings, and to reproduce.



Scriptures Relating to Parents and Children

Children are Blessed by Jesus

Mark 10:13–16

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

God's Promises

Proverbs 3:1–8

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Proverbs 8:17

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Proverbs 8:32

Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.

Proverbs 23:15

My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

Isaiah 40:11

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 54:13

And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

Matthew 18:4–5

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Matthew 18:10

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 19:14

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

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