

Lesson 4

Starting Steps



Faith Activities for Families with Toddlers

Starting Steps is for families to use at home. It encourages you in your faith-journey and parenting. Use the ideas here and on the *Starting Steps* calendar throughout the week to extend and reinforce what your child learned.

Time with God

Unless your two year old is sleeping, you may not have time to gaze at rainbows. Two year olds require your time, your hands, and your constant attention.

Psalm 136:5 tells us:

Who by his understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever.

When we look at the heavens and all that God created, we can see His love and understanding.

Amid your daily work, take time to gaze at rainbows and other wonders of God's creation. Take that busy little child with you. Together you can discover and reflect on God's love and greatness.

At This Age

Two year olds respond emotionally to people's facial expressions. They also listen to the tone and volume of voice. Here are a few ways to help your child understand emotions:

- A relaxed facial expression in an emergency will help calm your child.
- Try to control your voice when you are upset.
- If you do get angry with your child, take time to "cool down." Explain what made you upset. Apologize if the situation warrants it.

Toddler Tickler

"In It Together"

At the ages of 18 months and 3 years, my boys were known for the mischief they could create. Both were also reliable tattletales.

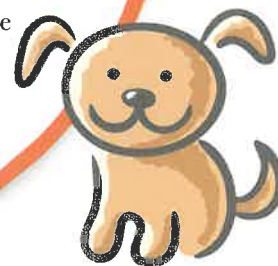
Then they discovered collaboration.

Following a resounding crash and toddler shrieks from the direction of their room one day, I waited with trepidation for one of them to come tumbling out to tell me what happened. Neither appeared. Rushing to assess the damage, I called, "What are you two doing back there?" Both greeted me with angelic smiles of practical innocence, while the oldest sweetly replied, "Hugging."

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Time with Your Toddler

Noah Saw God's Rainbow

based on Genesis 9:8-17

Today, your child heard the Bible story "Noah Saw God's Rainbow." Read the story from here and Bible storybooks many times—toddlers like and need repetition to learn.



Noah saw God's rainbow. It was sent from God. (Point up.)

The rainbow had many colors:

(Spread hands apart in an arc.)

Red, yellow, blue, and even green.

(Count the colors on your fingers.)

It was a promise from God.

(Hug self.)

God would never send so much rain again.

(Shake head no.)

Noah saw God's rainbow.



These questions can be used to help your child review the Bible story.

1. **What did Noah see?** (The rainbow)
2. **Who sent the rainbow?** (God)

Look what I made!



Today your child used a cluster of crayons taped together to create rainbows. As you talk with your child about his masterpiece, one question you could ask is, "How did you make all the colors in your rainbow?"

