

Lesson 3

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.

At This Age

Two year olds love to be loved and to show love. Displays of love will help them begin to understand that they can love God. Here are some ways to show love:

- Encourage spontaneous hugs from your child. Don't forget to give a hug back.
- Telling your child what you like about him with your words builds up his self-image.
- Remind your child, often, that Jesus loves him. This helps build a foundation of trusting faith in God.

Time with God

Have you ever noticed how your two year old can seemingly put his whole heart and soul into doing something that seems insignificant? It creates such exuberance and joy to see that total commitment!

You can do the same thing—by loving God. God asks that you

*Love the LORD your God with all
your heart and with all your soul
and with all your strength.*

—Deuteronomy 6:5

By putting your heart and soul into responding to God's love, you will be filled with an inner joy. That joy will shine forth to show those around you. You'll be reflecting the love Jesus showed those around Him.

Toddler Tickler

"Boot Blackmail"

To solve the problem of shoes and boots being left in our small entryway, I decided to charge 25 cents per item that I had to put away. After collecting a few quarters from both my 2 1/2 and 5 1/2 year olds, imagine my surprise when, not being able to find my boots, my daughter announced, "Oh Mom, for 50 cents you can have them back."

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Time with Your Toddler



Interactive Bible Story

based on John 13:1-7, 34-35

Jesus was with His friends. He loved them.
(Hug yourself.)

Jesus helped His friends. Jesus ate meals with His friends.
(Pretend to eat.)

Jesus talked with His friends.
(Cup your hands around your mouth.)

Jesus washed His friends' feet.
(Point to your feet.)

Jesus said, "I love you."
(Point up, then hug your child.)

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

1. What did Jesus say? ("I love you.")
2. Who said, "I love you"? (Jesus)



Look what I made!

Today your child made and colored hearts. As you talk with your child about his masterpiece, ask your child to point to each heart.