

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

Singing is a natural response for two year olds. They will often sing even when they don't know the right words.

Here are some tips:

- Singing should be a joyful time, so don't hesitate to combine it with clapping and laughter.
- Since children learn through repetition, be prepared to sing a favorite song repeatedly.
- Play various types of music for your child to enjoy.

Time with God

Has a song ever found its way to your lips while you were scrubbing the floor or straightening up a room? Sometimes when your hands are busy, your soul longs to sing, regardless of where you are or what you are doing. Psalm 98:1 says,

*Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

God's Word is an amazing place to begin singing to God. So many psalms beg to be sung aloud. This week, let God free you to sing to Him. It will be beautiful music in His ears.

Toddler Tickler

"Joy to the World"

At the beginning of Advent, our minister brought a bag filled with items to share with the children on their "walk on the path to Christmas." They were invited to extract items, the meanings of which were discussed. A rather shy little girl pulled out a white dove to represent peace. A rambunctious young boy removed a string of bells—to portray joy—which he jingled constantly as the other children took their turns. When the "Dove of Peace" could stand it no longer, she piped up for all to hear, "We have too much joy!"

Hannah Rex, Oregon City, Ore.
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Time with Your Toddler

Interactive Bible Story

based on Psalm 98

We can sing to God. He has done great things.

(Sing the word "La.")

We can shout for joy to God. He has done great things.

(Shout, "Praise God!")

We can clap hands to God. He has done great things.

(Clap hands.)

We can blow a trumpet to God. He has done great things.

(Pretend to blow a trumpet.)

Everyone can sing to God. He has done great things.

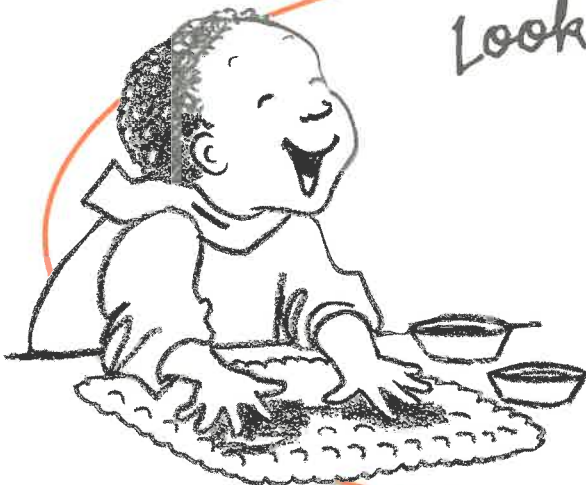
(Open arms wide.)

We can sing to God.

(Sing the word "La.")

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

1. **What can we do?** (Sing)
2. **Who can we sing to?** (God)



Look what I made!

Today your child made a print after finger painting to music. As you talk with your child about his masterpiece, ask your child what the paint felt like.