

# 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 expect their parents to know them—what they’re thinking, what they intend to say, and what they mean. Your child’s limited vocabulary can make this frustrating. Here are some tips to help you understand your child better:

- When you cannot grasp your child’s words, ask questions in a calm, soothing voice.
- If your child becomes frustrated with his communication, hold his hands. It lets him know you have time to listen.
- Ask your child to show you what he means. Once you understand, give your child words to use next time.

### Time with God

The loving hand that created your child also created you. God also knows you. God was present at every moment in your past. You are unique. You are complex, and God knows all about you. Psalm 139:16 says:

*Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me  
were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.*

— Psalm 139:16

God understands the depth of your personality and sees your full potential. He loves who you are right this minute. How amazing it is to be so intimately loved.

### Toddler Tickler

#### “Daddy, Phone Home”

A friend’s young daughter recently lost her father and missed him terribly. “Mommy, will you call Daddy on the phone? I want to talk to him,” she requested. Touched by her request, her mother answered, “I’m sorry, but I can’t call him, Honey. There aren’t any phones in heaven.” “Well then, Mommy,” she replied, “page him.”

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# Time with Your Toddler

## God Knows Us based on John 1:43-49

This week's Bible story is "God Knows Us." Toddlers like and need repetition to learn—so read the story many times during the week.

**The Bible tells us about Jesus and His friends.**

*(Hold hands open like a book.)*

**Jesus had a friend named Philip.**

*(Hold up one index finger.)*

**Philip had a friend named Nathanael. Philip told Nathanael, "Come and meet Jesus."**

*(Put your other index finger next to the first one.)*

**Jesus already knew all about Nathanael. Jesus told things about Nathanael that only God would know. God knew Nathanael. God knows us.**

*(Point to yourself.)*

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

1. Who knew Nathanael? (God)
2. Who knows us? (God)



*Look what I made!*



Today your child made a sand painting by coloring on paper with a glue stick and dipping the paper in sand. Ask your child how the sand stuck to the paper.