

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

Happy two year olds often bring smiles to the faces of people. Here are some tips for keeping your child happy, yet under control:

- Enjoy your child's happiness by joining him in playing, moving, and singing.
- If your child begins to get out of control, you may want to touch or hold her briefly. Touching her lovingly will calm her down and help her relax.
- Making funny faces with your child is another way to enjoy each other.

Time with God

God's love brings a joy that begins deep within the soul and rises to the face. Unlike God's happiness, the world's happiness begins with a smile and tries to work into the heart. God's joy is not a worldly facade. It is based on love.

In John 15:11-12, Jesus says,

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

God's continuous example of love allows you to love others and experience His pleasure. Take time today to smile because God loves you!

Toddler Tickler

"Tough to Swallow"

My husband and I have been trying to teach our two year old daughter, Elizabeth, to finish all the food on her plate. After lunch one day I heard her say, "All done." I saw all four crusts of her peanut butter and jelly sandwich piled neatly beside her plate and said, pointing, "Aren't you going to eat those?" "Oh, no," she said. "Those are the bones."

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Time with Your Toddler



I'm Happy Because God Loves Me

based on Luke 19:1-6

The Bible story "I'm Happy Because God Loves Me" was taught in Sunday school today. Read the story from here and Bible storybooks many times—toddlers like and need repetition to learn.



Lots of people came to see Jesus. Zacchaeus couldn't see Jesus because he was little.

(Hold hand low to the ground.)

So Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus.

(Put one hand over the other and repeat.)



Jesus loved Zacchaeus. He said, "Zacchaeus, come down!"

(Hug self; put both arms up in the air and slowly bring down.)

Zacchaeus was happy God loved him. I'm happy because God loves me!

(Hug self.)



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

1. Who loved Zacchaeus? (Jesus)
2. Who does God love? (Me)

Look what I made!



Today your child colored while listening to a song about God's wonderful love. You may want to ask your child, "What did you listen to while you colored?"