

Lesson 1

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

Children rely on their parents' support, affirmation, and love. They need to feel these as well as hear them expressed in words. This gives them feelings of security and strength. Think of affirming phrases you can say to your child when appropriate. Here are some examples:

- I'm glad you're mine!
- You are such a good helper (or singer, walker, painter).
- I love you; Grandpa loves you; God loves you.
- You are wonderful!

Time with God

When Samuel (a man who became one of Israel's greatest prophets) was a child, God called to him. Samuel's response was, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Sam. 3:10). Samuel was eager to listen to God.

We may not respond as eagerly. God may call us to make a new friend, help an elderly person, help at church, or parent a challenging child. Remember that God can use challenges to bring you into a closer relationship with Him. He may use you to bring about His will in the lives of others.

Pray that you will respond, "Speak, for your servant is listening" to God's next call.

Toddler Tickler

"If the Price Is Right"

When my son Scott was two and a half, most of the other children in the church nursery had just gotten over the chicken pox. These children were talking among themselves about their experiences with the illness.

The teacher saw Scott felt left out of the conversation and asked, "Did you have the chicken pox, Scott?" "No," he answered confidently, "but my mommy's going to buy me some!"



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Time with Your Toddler



God Gives Us Clothes

based on 1 Samuel 1:20, 26-27; 2:18-19, 26

This week's Bible story is "God Gives Us Clothes." Read the story from here and Bible storybooks many times—toddlers like and need repetition to learn.

Hannah had a baby named Samuel.

(Pretend to rock a baby.)

Samuel's family loved him. He grew and grew.

(Hug self; stretch up.)

Every year Hannah made a new coat for Samuel.

(Pretend to put on a coat.)

God helped Hannah care for Samuel.

(Point up.)

God gave Samuel clothes. God gives us clothes.

(Point to your own clothes.)



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

1. What did Hannah make for Samuel? (A coat)
2. Who gives us clothes? (God)

Look what I made!



During craft time, your child used pictures of clothes and a glue stick to create a collage of clothes. Talk with your child about the craft. Ask what made the pictures stick to the paper.