

Palm Sunday

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

A two year old's emotions can range from shouts of joy to cries of anger very quickly. Here are some tips to help your child cope with a wide variety of emotions:

- Make sure your two year old gets adequate sleep at night and keeps to his nap schedule.
- Keep healthy snacks on hand when you are in public.
- Make sure you get plenty of sleep so you don't overreact.
- Remain calm. Give your child the opportunity to respond to your calmness.

Time with God

Parents can easily become confused as two year olds try on emotions to see what feelings and actions work in each situation. Although a screaming child in public can be embarrassing, such scenes are no reflection of your parenting skills. Proverbs 22:6 says,

*Start children off on the way
they should go,
and even when they are old they will
not turn from it.*

Don't dwell on the scenes your child makes. Instead, try to work through these situations showing patience, firmness, and God's love. Eventually two year olds do outgrow this phase.

Toddler Tickler

"Spell It Out"

The other night at the supper table my husband and I were talking about a personal matter. We began spelling some words so that our two-year-old son would not hear. He had recently begun learning about the alphabet and apparently he did not appreciate being left out of the conversation. He turned to us and nonchalantly asked, "Have either of you seen my L-M-N-O-P?"

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Time with Your Toddler



Jesus Is King! based on Matthew 21:1-11

This week's Bible story is "Jesus Is King!" Read the story from here and Bible storybooks many times—toddlers like and need repetition to learn.

The Bible tells us many things about Jesus.

(Hold hands open like a book.)



One day Jesus rode on a donkey. Jesus is King!

(Hold hands as if you are riding an animal.)

People saw Jesus riding on the donkey. Jesus is King!

(Point to your child.)

The people waved palm branches in the air to praise Jesus. Jesus is King!

(Wave hands in air.)

They shouted, "Hosanna!"

(Shout "Hosanna!")

Jesus is King!

(Wave hands.)



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

1. **What did the people shout?** (Hosanna)
2. **Who is King?** (Jesus)

Look what I made!



During craft time your child made a "palm" branch with paper strips and a paper plate. Ask your child to show you how to wave his branch.