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## Introduction

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The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the [grace] of God was upon him.

—Luke 2:40

Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites.

—Acts 2:38–39, CEB

Welcome to *Growing in Grace & Gratitude for Toddlers (Ages 1–3)*.

Children nurtured in the love and grace of God learn the story of who and whose they are by watching, listening, tasting, smelling, playing, and exploring holy things in the context of a faith community. As a caregiver and spiritual guide, you welcome the children as God’s beloved who will seek to follow Christ.

Children receive and give messages very simply and very directly. Your actions will communicate to the youngest among us that the faith community welcomes their participation, respects them as individuals, and wants to establish the basis for a long-term relationship with them. Your ministry is indeed a very special one!

To ensure a pleasant, safe, and grace-filled time for you and the children, preparation and planning for the group are essential.

*Growing in Grace & Gratitude for Toddlers (Ages 1–3)* includes basic information and resources to assist you with this responsibility. It consists of four helpful resources:

- Caregiver’s guidebook
- *Stories & More*, fifty-two Bible story cards plus additional helps for the caregiver
- Enrichment activities
- At-home resource sheets (on compact disc)

**Jesus Christ 20**

**Jesus Goes to the Temple**

Lesson 2: 4:15-52

Young Jesus loved to go to church with his family.

He liked to sing and pray.

He liked to meet other children and grown-ups.

He liked his teachers and always paid attention.

He liked to think about God very much.

*Do you like to sing and pray?*

*Do you like to meet other children and grown-ups?*


*Do you listen to your teachers?*


*Do you like to think about God?*

I love coming to church, and I like that you come to church.

**Theme: I See God's Love at Church**

Action poem by E. M. Ripston about Jesus' "Coming to Church at Galilee. At Home 20"




**Adapted Poem** 7 

**How's Stomping Poem**


*How the children stand up stomp their feet along with you to you the words.*

Big stomp in Pind.  
I'm going to Jamaica.  
Gonna find water Chachacha.  
Put them in Pind.  
Oh, and Oh, and  
I'm getting down the road  
I'm gonna run away!  
Jama, wanna wet help!  
I wish I had you!  
You Yeah! You Yeah!

Big stomp in \_\_\_\_\_ (Give the children wet feet their stomp.)  
Jama wanna wet help! (Give the children.)  
Jama wanna stomp help! (Give the children.)  
(Give the children about ten stomp following the response.)  
I wish I had you!  
How-yeah! (Repeat!)



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**Division Office - Marikina City**


## Dance

**29**

### I Can Dance

I can dance to the music,  
and you can, too.  
Let's wave our arms,  
and move our bodies, too.  
Dance with your hands.  
Dance with your feet.  
Twirl 'round and 'round,  
and don't miss a beat.  
God gave us music  
to sing and dance for God.  
God gave us music  
so raise your hands to God.



**Song** 61 

**Two Fish, Five Leaves**


*Sing to the tune of "Pishiki, Tashiki, Little Rose"*

Two fish, five leaves, form a child (hold up two fingers, then five fingers)  
braght to swim, and be asked. (Hold palm up as if fringing something. Smile and point to your mouth with both index fingers.)

Two fish, five leaves swim together (hold up two fingers, then five fingers; place hands "spread out with palm up"),  
shared with all, who would have guessed? (Move right hand, palm up, from left to right. Hold both hands, with palms up, and face and smile broadly.)

Two fish, five leaves, all were cheerful. (Hold up two fingers, then five fingers. Clap hands.)

Twelve whale huggers then were filled. (Hold up arms, one as if holding a large huggie.)



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[illegible]

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## Go and Tell

Where is (*name*)?  
Where is (*name*)?  
There you are!  
There you are!  
Go and tell the others, Jesus is alive!

*Group version:*  
Where are my friends?  
Where are my friends?  
There you are!  
There you are!  
Go and tell the others, Jesus is alive!



Genesis 1:1—2:3



## The Story

God made water; God made bread;  
God made blue and green and red.  
God made dogs, and God made cats,  
God made horses that run real fast.  
God made flowers; God made trees,  
God made you, and God made me.  
Can you name something that God made?  
(Name something that God made.)

## Finger Play

### Creation

One is for God. (Hold up 1 finger.)  
Two, for God's world. (Hold up 2 fingers.)  
Three, for the sky, (Hold up 3 fingers.)  
where four birds fly. (Hold up 4 fingers.)  
Five, for green grass (Hold up 5 fingers.)  
that six animals eat. (Hold up 6 fingers.)  
Seven, for the flowers, (Hold up 7 fingers.)  
eight colors so neat. (Hold up 8 fingers.)  
Nine, to remember (Hold up 9 fingers.)  
God our Creator. (Hold up 10 fingers.)

## Friends

God made my friends.  
God made me.  
God loves my friends.  
God loves me.  
We are all friends.  
God loves my friends and me.



## Praying Together

Thank you, God, for the world and all of the people. We love you. Help us to be kind to one another. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Mealtime Prayer

God is great. God is good. Let us thank God for our food. Amen.







## Story Card 1

### God Made You and Me

Genesis 1:1–2:3

God made water; God made bread;  
 God made blue and green and red.  
 God made dogs, and God made cats.  
 God made horses that run real fast.  
 God made flowers; God made trees.  
 God made you, and God made me.

*(Name something that God made.)*



**Themes: God Made Me;  
 The World God Made and Loves**

Art 11: “Bird Feeders”

Art 20: “Make a Nature Collage”

“Growing in Grace & Gratitude: At Home 1”