Table of Contents

Introduction
Meet the Children
Age and Stage Readiness
Differently Abled Children
Preparing the Space 10
Guided Play 12
Multiple Intelligences 16
Getting Ready for the Children to Arrive 17
Toys
Greeting Children and Families 21
Sample Schedules 23
Play
Group Time with Children 32
Talking with Children 34
Praying with Children
Feeding Children 38
Hygiene 40
Sample Themes
Responding to Special Times 46
Saying Good-bye 49
Cleanup 50
Stock Your Closet with These Items 51
Forms
First Aid 56
Indices 58



Introduction

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.

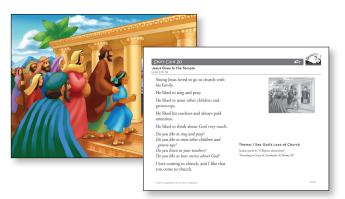
Children receive and give messages very simply and very directly. Your actions will communicate to the youngest among us that the faith community welcomes their participation, respects them as individuals, and wants to establish the basis for a long-term relationship with them. Your ministry is indeed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

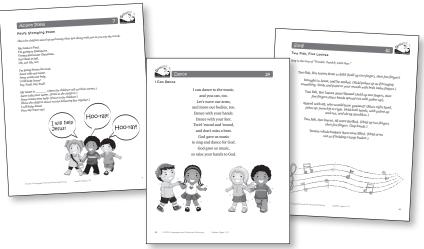
- Caregiver's guidebook
- *Stories & More,* fifty-two Bible story cards plus additional helps for the caregiver
- Enrichment activities
- At-home resource sheets (on compact disc)





Select from fifty-two Bible story cards to teach your children about the love and grace of God. Each story is adapted from the Bible in age-appropriate ways. The stories are indexed (see p. 58) according to several helpful themes.

Age-appropriate activities enrich your time with the children. Activities are noted on each Bible story card.



Moses	At Home 5
Exedus 2:1-10	
The Story	Mosee' since watched him there,
Mosee was a haby. His family loved him very much	floating in the water.
	Pharaoh's daughter found him there, found
The king was very mean.	him there, found him there. Pharaoh's dauehner found him there.
Moses' mother wanted to hide Moses from the mean kine.	Pharaon schaoghner tound nan there, floating in the water.
She wrapped haby Moses in a Manket to keep	Pharaoh's dauehter took him home, took him
hin warn.	Pharaon's daugneer took han home, took han home, took him home.
She put him in a basket to keep him dry. She	Pharach's daughter took him home.
figared the basket in the river.	took him from the water.
Moses' sister Miriam loved her baby brother very much	
much. She way had the backet floor on the river	Family Time
Mirian saw someone coming down to the river.	Make a picture book of people who love your child. Take pictures of people who love and
it was the princess!	care for your child-yourselves, shilters,
The princess was very pice.	grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends, and
She heard haby Moses crying, and she pulled the	caretakers-and put them in a small photo album. On each picture, write the name of the
hador out of the water!	amura. On each perture, write the name of the person with a permanent marker. On the last
She picked up haby Moses, hugged him, and took him home to live with her.	page, write, "God losses me." Your child will enj looking at these pictures.
Name someone who loves and helps the babies at	
durch.	PRAY
Song	Proying Together
Moses Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."	Thank you, God, for losing us. Thank you for people who take care of us. Holp us to lose and care for others. In Jesus' name, we otay. Amen.
Moses was a baby boy, haby boy, baby boy.	Care of Galeria in John Lane, he puty-Marea
Moses was a baby boy,	Mealtime Prayer
floating in the water.	God is great. God is good. Let us thank God for our food Amen.
Moses' since watched him there, watched him there, watched him there.	our tood. Amen.
© 2018 Compregational Minichran Rukhlung Permission to reconduct this asser is another to construct a	Trainine (Ages 1

At-home resource sheets may be found in the back of this book and on the Data CD. Each resource sheet is keyed to a particular Bible story card and is provided in digital format. At-home resource sheets may be e-mailed home or printed and distributed to parents as they collect their children from the nursery.



1

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!



Toddlers (Ages 1-3)

God Made You and Me

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.





Grace A Gratitude

0

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"