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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)*.

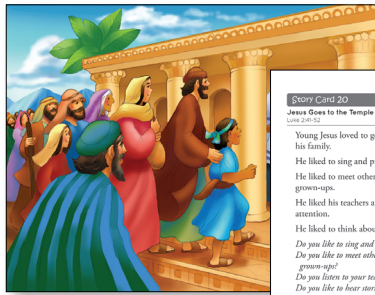
Children nurtured in the love and grace of God learn the story of who and whose they are by watching, listening, tasting, smelling, playing, and exploring holy things in the context of a faith community. As a caregiver and spiritual guide, you welcome the children as God’s beloved who will seek to follow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



Story Card 20
Jesus Goes to the Temple
 Luke 2:29-32

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 hear stories 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: "I Listen About Jesus"
 "Coming to Church & Outside: At Home 20"

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.

Action Poem
Paul's Stomping Poem
 Help the children stomp up and stomp just as you say the words.

My name is Paul.
 The spirit is in me.
 Come and meet Christ.
 Oh, oh, oh, oh!

I'm going down the road.
 Jesus walks with me.
 I will help Jesus!
 Yes, Paul! Yes, Paul!

Who says to... (Have the children call out their names.)
 Jesus calls your name. (Point to the children.)
 Jesus names you holy. (Point to the children.)
 (Have the children shout out the following line together.)
 I will help Jesus!
 Hoo-rah! Hoo-rah!

Dance
I Can Dance
 29

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.
 Twist '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
Two Fish, Five Leaves
 Sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Two fish, five leaves from a child (Hold up two fingers, then five fingers) brought to Jesus, and he said, (Hold palm up as if holding something.) Smile and point to your mouth with both index fingers.)
 Two fish, five leaves Jesus blessed (Hold up two fingers, then five fingers) five leaves spread us with palms up.
 Shaved with all who would have guests? (Move right hand palm up from the right. Hold both hands, with palms up and face, and lift shoulders.)
 Two fish, five leaves, all were shaved. (Hold up two fingers, then five fingers.) Clap hands.
 Twelve whole heads there were King. (Hold arms, and as if holding a large basket.)

Moore
 Exodus 2:1-10

The Story
 Moses was a baby like baby David but very much.
 The king was very mean.
 Moses was very mean to his Mamma from the north side.
 She was happy to have a baby to help her.
 She put him in a basket to keep him dry. She thought she would be the first.
 Moses' name means love for baby brother very much.
 She watched the basket float on the river.
 Moses was someone coming down in the river. It was the pharaoh!
 The pharaoh was very mean.
 She heard the pharaoh, and she pulled the basket out of the water!
 She called the baby Moses, huggable boy, and took him home to his mother.
 Home someone who love and helps the babies at church.

Moore
 Moses was a baby like baby David but very much.
 The king was very mean.
 Moses was very mean to his Mamma from the north side.
 She was happy to have a baby to help her.
 She put him in a basket to keep him dry. She thought she would be the first.
 Moses' name means love for baby brother very much.
 She watched the basket float on the river.
 Moses was someone coming down in the river. It was the pharaoh!
 The pharaoh was very mean.
 She heard the pharaoh, and she pulled the basket out of the water!
 She called the baby Moses, huggable boy, and took him home to his mother.
 Home someone who love and helps the babies at church.

Praying Together!
 Thank you, God, for loving us. Thank you for people who love and care for the sick and the need care for others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Readtime Prayer
 God is our God. Jesus is our God. Let us thank God for our food. Amen.

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.



Story Card 6

Moses Leads

Exodus 14:21-22

The people were afraid of the mean king. They prayed to God. God sent Moses to help them. Moses led them away from the mean king.

Moses and the people came to the Red Sea. They had to stop. There were no bridges or boats. The people were afraid of the water.

They prayed to God. God opened the water, and all the people walked on the dry ground. The people could go to the other side. They were safe from the mean king.

When you and I are afraid, we can pray to God. God will help us.

God was with Moses and with the people, and God is with us . . . always!

*(Name something that makes you afraid.
Share a prayer for God's help.)*



Theme: People at Church Help Me

Game 32: "Follow the Leader"

"Growing in Grace & Gratitude: At Home 6"

Follow the Leader

Play Follow the Leader. Be the leader first, and have the children follow simple steps or actions. Invite a child to be the leader, and encourage the others to follow. Change leaders often so that everyone who wants to lead has the opportunity to do so.



Exodus 14:21-22



The Story

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They prayed to God. God opened the water, and all the people walked on the dry ground. The people could go to the other side. They were safe from the mean king.

When you and I are afraid, we can pray to God. God will help us.

God was with Moses and with the people and God is with us . . . always!

(Name something that makes you afraid. Share a prayer for God's help.)

Song

Miracle

Sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

M - I - R - A - C - L - E

God does special things indeed.

God makes you, and God makes me.

God makes flowers; God makes trees.

M - I - R - A - C - L - E

God does special things indeed.

M - I - R - A - C - L - E

God is there for you and me.

Led the people, set them free.

God helped them go through the sea.

M - I - R - A - C - L - E

God is there for you and me.

Game

Follow the Leader

Play Follow the Leader together. Let your child be the leader. When your child leads, point out what made him or her a good leader.

PRAY

Praying Together

Dear God, help us remember that you are always with us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer

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