

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

If you are expecting a baby in the family, your child will need some help adjusting to the new arrival at your house. Here are a few beginning tips to help avoid feelings of jealousy or unhappiness:

- Make good plans for his comfort and security while you might be gone. As much as possible, keep your child's routine.

- Even though a new mom is very busy, try to spend special times alone with your toddler or two year old.

- Encourage your family and friends to give special attention to other children in the family when visiting the new baby.

Time with God

The Book of First Samuel begins by telling us about Samuel's mother, Hannah. Hannah had been childless for many years and was greatly distressed. One day Hannah went to the tabernacle to pray for a son. First Samuel 1:10 states,

In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. Hannah came honestly before the Lord and expressed her despair.

Sometimes as a parent you might feel frustrated, sad, angry, or in despair. Instead of dwelling on that feeling, go to God and tell Him about your needs. God really is there. He will listen to you and comfort you.

Toddler Tickler

Origin-ality

Instead of waiting for curious people to ask, I have begun to automatically introduce my tri-racial family this way:

"This is Johnny. This is Sarah, she is adopted from Korea; and this is Benjamin, he is adopted from the Chicago area."

On one occasion when Johnny was feeling left out, he piped up: "And I'm adopted from my mom's tummy."



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Time with Your Toddler



God Loves Babies based on 1 Samuel 1:1-23

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

Hannah was very sad because she didn't have a baby.

(Pretend to cry.)

Hannah loved babies.

(Hug yourself.)

So Hannah prayed to God.

Hannah asked God for a baby.

(Fold your hands.)

God gave Hannah a baby boy.

(Pretend to rock a baby.)

The baby's name was Samuel. God loved Samuel.

God loves babies.

(Point to heaven, then pretend to rock a baby.)

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

1. What did God give to Hannah? (A baby)
2. Who loves babies? (God)



Look what I made!



During craft time your child glued construction paper to make a blanket for a baby. As you talk with your child about his masterpiece, ask "Who is in your picture?" and "Who loves babies?"