

# 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

Young children love to communicate with the adults closest to them. Talking together helps your child develop early language skills. Here are a few hints to help you “talk” with your child.

- Let your child initiate a conversation.
- Wait for a response from your child when you ask a question even though language may be limited.
- Simplify your language without using “baby talk.” Instead of saying, “It’s time to wash our hands and have a snack” say, “Let’s wash hands. It’s snack time!”

### Time with God

In Ruth chapter one, you can learn about a young lady who chose to stand beside her mother-in-law, Naomi. When Naomi moved back to her homeland, Ruth told her,

*“Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”* Ruth 1:16

Something about Naomi made Ruth want to be just like her. Spend some time thinking of ways you can inspire this kind of loyalty in your child so that someday he will say, “Your God will be my God.”

### Toddler Tickler

#### Going Ape

On a visit to my parents’ house, my two year old, Victoria, found one of her stuffed animals we keep with some other toys at their house. She held on to that small gorilla the entire visit. When we were leaving, I told Victoria to tell her gorilla goodbye. She turned to my father and said, “Goodbye!”

Cindy Burns, Marlin, Texas  
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# Time with Your Toddler

## God Loves Families based on Ruth 1—4

The Bible story “God Loves Families” was taught in Sunday school today. Read the story from here and Bible storybooks many times—toddlers like and need repetition to learn.

**God loves families. The Bible tells us about a family.**

*(Hold hands open like a book.)*

**The baby in the family was Obed.**

*(Rock a baby.)*

**The mommy in the family was Ruth. The daddy in the family was Boaz. The grandma in the family was Naomi.**

**The Bible tells us about a family.**

*(Hold hands open like a book.)*

**God loves families.**

*(Stretch your arms out wide and then hug yourself.)*

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

1. Who was in a family? (Obed, Ruth, Boaz, Naomi)
2. Who loves families? (God)



## Look what I made!



Today your child made a picture of a family by tearing and gluing magazine pictures. As you talk with your child about her masterpiece, ask who the different people are in the picture.