

# 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

Spending time one-on-one is important to a child at any time. That special time will help him or her feel valued and loved. Below are some ideas on spending special times alone with your young child.

- Set up a time once a week, or every other week, to take your child out for a special meal.
- Set aside a “Mommy” or “Daddy” time when your child can cuddle in your lap as you spend 10 or 15 minutes together reading, singing, or talking.

### Time with God

It’s easy to look at your child and know that God made your child in a wonderful way. It’s not always easy to look at yourself the same way. However, God put these important words in Psalm 139:13-14:

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

These verses tell you that God made YOU in a fearful and wonderful way. You are God’s creation. You are as precious to Him as your child is to you. Take some time to thank God for creating you and loving you.

### Toddler Tickler

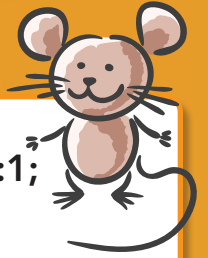
#### Wessons Fwom Kwisten

Even though my children are only 16 months apart, James has looked up to his big sister, and Kristen has been a mother hen to her little brother. When James was 2, I asked him if he’d washed up for dinner. He showed me his hands. “They’re keen,” he said. “Not keen,” corrected his sister. “It’s kween. Kwwween.”



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# Time with Your Toddler



**God Made Our Hands** based on Genesis 1:27-30; Psalms 47:1; 100:3; 119:73; 139:13-14

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

**The Bible tells us that God made us.**

*(Hold hands open like a book.)*

**God made us special. God made our hands. God made our hands to touch and hold and clap.**

*(Wave your hands in the air.)*

**We can clap with our hands.**

*(Clap your hands.)*

**God made us special from our head to our toes.**

*(Point to your head, then your toes.)*

**God made our hands.**

*(Wave your hands in the air.)*

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

1. **What did God make?** (Our hands)
2. **Who made our hands?** (God)

*Look what I made!*



Today your child used the hands God made to discover finger paint and how to make handprints. As you talk with your child about her masterpiece, ask how the paint felt on her hands.