

Toddler/2

Sample Lesson

Includes links to all related resources

Teacher's Guide

God Keeps Us Safe | God Does Big Things | Jesus Told Stories



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Toddler Teacher's Guide
for ages 18-36 months
Can also be used for young 3s.

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Teacher–Student Relationships



Establishing, in the classroom, an atmosphere of trust and love that makes a student want to return is just as important as teaching good information. Adults sharing God’s love and grace to children and youth can help them stay firm in their faith. Here are a couple of tips for building strong teacher-student relationships.

TRUST

As the teacher, you have the opportunity to be someone students can count on to be present on a regular basis. Children and youth need to feel that they can talk to you in confidence and without ridicule or criticism. And while you sometimes have to discipline, showing grace in that discipline helps them see God’s love in you. As part of trust, students expect that what you present in class is accurate and useful.

ATTITUDE

Students like teachers who are positive, upbeat, confident, friendly, and willing to help. Leave your personal problems at home and give the students and youth your undivided attention. Nod, lean forward, and make eye contact when a student is speaking. Smile frequently.

FUN

While the subject matter you present is serious in nature, the atmosphere of the room shouldn’t be dreary. You don’t have to act silly or let chaos reign, but you can enjoy games with students, find joy in their discoveries, and maintain a happy classroom environment.

ACCEPTANCE OF FEELINGS

Children and youth often respond to situations with emotions rather than rational logic. Their reactions may seem childish because they have not learned how to control their feelings or how to think through situations. While you don’t need to agree with everything a student says, you can be a sounding board and a sympathetic ear. Be open to the Holy Spirit’s guiding as students share their feelings—stopping to pray with a student, give an affirming pat on the back, or even a quick hug may be just what they need.

PRAISE AND AFFIRMATION

Compliment and encourage children and youth frequently, mentioning specific actions you have observed. When students feel valued, they are more likely to participate in learning, and they begin to understand how God loves and accepts them.



Teaching the Toddler/2 Child

Toddlers ages 18 to 36 months have brains that are wired to “super absorb” information, but we must be clear on how they learn. Their minds may be sponges, but they still have very short attention spans. They use their senses to input information, so they must look at, touch, smell, hear, or taste things in order to learn. That’s why a Toddler/2 is constantly moving, touching, experimenting, and investigating.

Toddler/2s discover their world through play. Look for moments to present the Word of God to these children. Rather than stop the whole class for the story, invite one or a few children to meet with you to hear God’s Word. When they have finished, they return to exploring the room. Remember, it only takes a minute or two to tell these Toddler/2 versions of favorite Bible stories. This process is

repeated until all children have experienced the Bible Step a couple of times throughout the class.

Repetition is crucial for young children to learn. They can make the craft again at the Craft Step, hear a story at the Bible and Bible Review Steps, or sing a song time after time. As the teacher, you provide opportunities for children to participate in learning about the Bible story many times in many ways.

A Toddler/2 lesson does not follow a straight path. The events do not occur in a straight line and the lesson parts do not happen only once during the class time. A Toddler/2 lesson is more like a spiral where the teacher presents the parts of the lesson multiple times.

Olivia’s Sunday – A day in a Toddler/2 Sunday school class

Follow Olivia through a lesson. She is 2 years old. The order may vary every Sunday.

9:00 The teacher invites Olivia to join her and other children to play with toys.

9:05 Olivia becomes comfortable with the classroom and begins to explore other activities.

9:15 The teacher uses a picture poster to encourage Olivia and her friend Daniel to discuss what they see. This leads the teacher and children directly into the interactive Bible story—the Bible Step.

9:20 After the Bible Step, Olivia goes to play with the dolls while the teacher uses the picture poster to engage Daniel.

9:30 The teacher goes to Olivia and two friends with story figures in the Bible Story Review.

Olivia shows the teacher what she remembers and understands from the Bible story. The three children move and clap to the Music Time song.

9:35 Olivia returns to play with the dolls.

9:40 Olivia experiences the craft project by exploring how the crayons make colors on the paper. Her favorite paper is set aside for her to take home later.

9:55 Olivia asks to hear the Bible story again. Daniel joins Olivia, both doing the actions.

10:00 Olivia’s parents arrive to pick her up. She’s eager to share her craft project with them.

Supplies

- ☐ **Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids**
- ☐ **Starting Steps**
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ CD player
- ☐ Small blanket or towel for Story Mat
- ☐ Adhesive bandages
- ☐ Cardboard or heavy paper
- ☐ Chalk – white and colored
- ☐ Coins
- ☐ Construction paper
- ☐ Cotton swabs
- ☐ Cotton balls
- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Dishpan, soap, and paper towels
- ☐ Drawing paper
- ☐ Fabric—such as an old sheet
- ☐ Finger paint—washable
- ☐ Foam meat trays
- ☐ Foil
- ☐ Glue and glue sticks - nontoxic
- ☐ Margarine tubs
- ☐ Old newspapers
- ☐ Old shower curtain to protect the floor
- ☐ Paint—washable liquid tempera
- ☐ Paint shirts
- ☐ Paper clips—large
- ☐ Paper plates
- ☐ Plastic or rubber animals
- ☐ Play dough – purchased or homemade
- ☐ Rubber bands
- ☐ Sand
- ☐ Scissors for the teacher
- ☐ Shallow pan
- ☐ Sugar
- ☐ Tape—clear and masking
- ☐ Teacher craft smock
- ☐ Wooden blocks
- ☐ Yarn



Materials for Your Toddler/2 Class

Toddler Teacher's Guide

The easy-to-use lessons built around toddler versions of favorite Bible stories help you set up learning activities that provide ways to present the Bible story while the children move around, explore, and touch. Learning activities include the Interactive Bible Step, the Bible Review Step, and the Craft Step. Need one per class or teacher.

Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids

Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids provide you with essential resources for teaching and reaching toddlers: photo posters, story figures, story cards, and a CD with new, [fun songs](#) and an [audio version of each week's story](#). Need one per class.

Starting Steps

[Starting Steps](#) is a student take-home publication that is like a family newsletter. Includes a short devotional for the busy parent, age-level tips, an amusing anecdote, and the interactive Bible story to be told over and over at home. Need one per student.

God Told Noah to Save the Animals

Bible Basis: Genesis 7:1-5

Lesson Focus: God told Noah to save the animals.

Where Learning Happens



Set up areas for play before children arrive.

Bible Step

Talk Time

■ *Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids—*

[Photo Poster 2](#)

Bible Story Time

Genesis 7:1-5

Bible Review Step

Bible Story Review Time

■ *Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids—*[Story Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, Story Card 2](#), Story Mat

Music Time

[“God Kept Noah Safe”](#)

■ *Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids—*CD, CD player

Craft Step



Animal Tracks

■ Washable paint, plastic or rubber animals, construction paper, masking tape, foam trays, paper towels, newspapers, paint shirts, craft smock for teacher (*optional*)

■ [Starting Steps for Lesson 2](#) for Goodbye Time

Teacher Devotional

God asked Noah to do something that opposed all logic. Noah trusted God. He obeyed God even though all outward circumstances indicated it was foolish. Obedience was critical to Noah's relationship with God.

God may ask you to do something that doesn't make sense to you or those around you. What will you choose to do?

Sometimes following God defies the world's logic. Like Noah, your obedience is critical in your relationship with God. When you place your trust in God and are obedient to His commands, you receive a promise:

“The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them” (1 John 3:24).

Understanding the Bible

The ark Noah built was a unique vessel. He partitioned the interior of the ark and coated the exterior with a tarlike substance to make it more watertight. The dimensions of the vessel make it clear God designed it for floating, not sailing or navigating (Gen. 6:14-16).

Some think the ark was flat-bottomed and rectangular in construction, being square on both ends and straight up on the sides. The vessel had three stories, with a door in its side and probably an opening for light below the roof. The external size and internal volume of the ark accommodated every type of creature existing at that time.



This symbol appears whenever preparation takes more than five minutes. A list of classroom supplies for the quarter is included on page 5.



Children spend all of their time in this lesson moving, exploring, choosing, and playing in the learning environment. The learning environment is simply the books, toys, music, stories, and activities your children interact with from the moment they arrive until they go home. While children explore and play, gather a small group to hear the Bible story from Genesis 7:1-5. You can also walk around the room, visit children at different activities, and use the story mat to present the Bible Story Review.

This lesson is designed to allow toddlers and two year olds to play independently, freeing you to present the Bible Step, Bible Review Step, and Craft Step to individuals or small groups throughout the class time.

Where Learning Happens

Table—

The table can be used for a free-play activity, snack, or the craft. For directions on setting up today's craft activity, see *Animal Tracks in the Craft Step, page 15*.

Rug—

This is the place to gather children together for small group activities, depending on the size of your group. Invite them to the rug for the Bible Step. *Today's story is "God Told Noah to Save the Animals," from Genesis 7:1-5, page 13.*

This is also a good place for sharing stories or movement and the Music Time. *This week sing "God Kept Noah Safe," page 14.*

Care Area—

Take time for each child's physical needs, including rest room breaks and diaper changes. Provide water and a snack when appropriate.

Books—

A choice of books to explore pictures and words. Two year olds love to look at pictures of animals. *Set out animal picture books to help children understand what God told Noah to save in Genesis 7:1-5.*

Blocks—

Blocks of different sizes and shapes for building and creative play.

Toys—

A variety of toys appropriate for two year olds to encourage play. *Put out stuffed and toy animals and simple animal puzzles to help children connect to Genesis 7:1-5, where God told Noah to save the animals.*

Home Living—

Several baby dolls, blankets, play food, pots and pans, and utensils for children to imitate what they see in real life.

When Teaching the Bible to Toddler/2s...

In today's Bible story from Genesis 7:1-5, God told Noah to save the animals. Toddlers love to hold and pet animals. Sometimes this is much more enjoyable for the child than the pet! Practice ways to care for animals with stuffed animals. Show how to gently hold animals, pet, and care for them.



Lesson 2 Focus: God told Noah to save the animals.

Bible Step

Talk Time

■ Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—[Photo Poster 2](#)

Toddlers love to look at photographs that show children. Sharing what they know about animals helps them connect to the Bible story “God Told Noah to Save the Animals,” from Genesis 7:1-5. Invite small groups (no more than four children) to the rug for Talk Time. Use this rhyme to help capture their attention.

Wiggle your fingers.

Pat your knees.

Fold your hands,

And look at me.

Show Photo Poster 2. Hold Photo Poster 2 so the children can see it. Point to the bunny. **This is a bunny rabbit. What can you tell me about bunny rabbits?** (They are small, furry, have big ears, etc.) **Can you name some other animals?** Encourage children to talk about animals they know. Because of having a small group, you can give all the children an opportunity to share, even those with limited verbal skills. **I’m glad God gave us animals. Today we’re going to talk about how God told Noah to save the animals.**



Photo Poster 2

Bible Story Time

■ Genesis 7:1-5

Young children can usually identify animals. Today’s Bible story uses familiar animals to teach them how God told Noah to save the animals. Have your Bible open to Genesis 7. **Today’s story is from God’s special book, the Bible.**

God told Noah to save the animals.

Animals came on the boat two by two.

(Hold up two fingers and move them as if walking.)

Birds, lions, and kangaroos.

(Flap arms like birds.)

Monkeys, sheep, and bears, too.

(Act like monkeys.)

Into the boat they came two by two.

(Hold up two fingers and move them as if walking.)

Safe and sound with rain all around.

God told Noah to save the animals.

Repeat the Bible story to help the children learn and remember. You can also read this story from *The Toddler’s Bible* (on the CD in your CTA packet).



Story Questions

Ask the following questions to review the Bible story:

1. What did God tell Noah to save? (The animals)

2. Who told Noah to save the animals? (God)



Bible Review Step

Bible Story Review Time

■ Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—[Story Figures 1, 2, 3, 4](#), [Story Card 2](#), Story Mat

Touching and moving things are good ways for toddlers to learn. Encourage the children to handle the figures of Noah (Figure 1), the ark (Figure 2), the pair of lions (Figure 3), and the pair of sheep (Figure 4) as they help you retell the Bible story.

Anytime after you have done the Bible Step, you can do the Bible Review Step. Keep the small group you have at the rug or visit small groups at different activities and tell the Bible Review Story.



Story Mat with Story Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, and Story Card 2

Punch out any new figures for the lesson and Story Card 2. Lay the story card next to the story mat.

Set the lions and sheep, Figures 3 and 4, on the floor in front of you. Put Noah, Figure 1, on the mat.

God told Noah to save the animals. Two by two the animals got on the boat. Put the ark, Figure 2, on the mat.

(Child's name), **can you put two lions by the boat?** *Have a child put Figure 3 on the mat.*

(Child's name), **can you put two sheep by the boat?** *Have a child put Figure 4 on the mat.*

God told Noah to save the animals.

Even if you tell the story to just one child, repeat it to each child or small group. Toddlers and two year olds need to hear and do things more than one time.

Music Time

■ Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—CD, CD player



Music filled with energy and action is perfect for toddlers. They learn the way they like best—using their whole bodies and lots of energy! This song reinforces the Bible story from Genesis 7:1-5, where God told Noah to save the animals.

"GOD KEPT NOAH SAFE"

The complete song is on the CD in the Creative Teaching Aids packet. The words and movements can be found on page 71 of this teacher's guide. Take time to learn the song and actions before teaching it to your class. Knowing the actions before you teach them will help the children follow what you do.

To help children learn the song, repeat "God Kept Noah Safe" as many times as it holds the children's interest.



Lesson 2 Focus: God told Noah to save the animals.

Craft Step

Animal Tracks

The process of doing a craft is one of the ways toddlers and two year olds like to learn. They discover how paint works by stamping with it. Encourage each child to create more than one Animal Tracks print, as time allows. All the things your children create are treasures. You can send them all home.

Materials: Washable paint Plastic or rubber animals
Construction paper Masking tape
Foam trays Paper towels
Newspapers Paint shirts
Craft smock for teacher (An oversized man's short-sleeved shirt, large apron, or lab coat from a thrift store would work.)



Before Class: 1. Fold a paper towel and place in the bottom of the foam tray. Spread a small amount of paint on the towel to make a stamp pad. 2. After covering the table with newspapers, set a piece of construction paper on the table for each child.

Craft Time:

This week's craft could be messy. Help the children put on paint shirts. You may want to protect your clothing by putting on a craft smock. **Today we will make animal footprints or tracks.** Give each child a plastic or rubber animal. Instruct the child to dip the animal's feet into the paint and then press or walk it across the paper. Allow them to try different animals on the same paper to compare the tracks.

As the children work, talk about the Bible story from Genesis 7:1-5. **God told Noah to save the animals. Two by two the animals got on the boat. The animals were safe there.**

Encourage each child to make more than one Animal Tracks print.



Goodbye Time

As they leave, tell all the children, individually, you are glad they came. As you say goodbye, ask, "Who told Noah to save the animals?" Send each child home with his or her very own [Starting Steps](#). One side connects each child's family to today's lesson; the other side includes a devotional, parenting tips, and an amusing anecdote.