



## Worship & Devotions with Very Young Children

“From the lips of children and infants  
God has ordained praise” Psalm 8:2

Even very young children can praise God and worship him, even if they can't fully understand or participate like older children and adults.

Simply by being present in a worshipful environment, infants and toddlers learn and grow. Teachers and staff who create a loving, safe environment which includes the word of God and who gladly share the good news with the children in their care are teaching them to trust and love God.

*Simply speaking words like “God loves you and so do I.”, leaves an impact. The same effect can happen by holding babies up to a mirror and saying something like, “There is ... (child's name). I'm so glad God made you.” As teachers walk around the room with them looking at pictures and objects, saying things like, “God made ... puppies, pretty flowers, or whatever it is,” they're pointing these little ones to God as the Source of all things. Praying with short phrases of adoration and thanksgiving to God and singing words of praise, suggests God must be Someone special.*

*(<https://trainbibleteachers.com/blog/learning-about-worship.htm> )*

Very young children are incredible learners. They are constantly picking up cues from the world around them and copying the words and actions of the people caring for them.

As children move out of the infant stage and become toddlers, they start to learn how the world works – the rules, how to play and relate to other people.

Establishing regular routines is possible at this age, and you might like to have a regular quiet time where the children can hear a very simple story from a children's Bible and learn to fold their hands to pray. This could be just before naptime, as children are relaxing into sleep.

**“Train up a child  
in the way he  
should go; even  
when he is old  
he will not  
depart from it.”  
Proverbs 22:6**

At other times, you could experience the joy of the Lord by dancing and playing simple instruments (pots and pans, bells, shakers, drums) to some children's worship music.

**Many of the ideas in the Guides to Devotions and Worship in the Early Years will apply to very young children as well.**



## Sacred Spaces

Consider decorating your spaces with posters, artwork, and objects to play with which share a simple Bible verse or connect to a Bible story. Creating an environment which encourages staff in their faith also encourages the children in your care.

In a toddler room, you may like to create a quiet corner with cushions and a special mat to sit on when it's time to hear a Bible story.

## Rituals and Routines

Very young children respond well to routines. Incorporating some God time into your regular routines is an easy and fun way to introduce the children to faith.

This could include

- a short, simple Christian song to start the day (like [This is the day](#) or [Jesus Loves Me](#)), or to soothe children to sleep
- folding hands and bowing heads to pray
- simple mealtime prayers
- blessing the children as they leave to go home



Children may like to hear the same Bible stories or songs over and over again. That's fine! It's all part of how children learn and retain information.

## Bible Story Resources

We have prepared a whole set of Bible Story resources. There are sections which include simple questions for younger students and video and music suggestions which you might enjoy sharing with the children.

In addition, consider developing a selection of Bible storybooks which staff can share with the children at story time. Even if the children don't understand all the elements of the story, you are teaching them that God loves them and that the Bible is worth hearing about. Toddlers will enjoy choosing which story they want to hear.



Have fun! There are lots of fun toys which can be part of an interactive display. Think about an ark with lots of animals to play with when you share the story of Noah's Ark, or a manger and a baby Jesus doll when you hear about the Christmas story.

Don't forget outdoor and messy play opportunities connected with the Bible stories. Sand trays or sand pits can make great deserts, and there are lots of stories about water and the sea to act out on a sunny day.

## Additional Resources for Very Young Children

- [Everyday a Blessing](#)
- [The Jesus Storybook Bible](#)
- [A Child's First Bible](#)
- [The One Year Devotions for Preschoolers \(Little Blessings\)](#)
- [My Best Friend Jesus: 180 Devotions and Worship Activities for Preschoolers](#)
- [The Beginner's Bible](#)



**Lutheran Tract Mission** has a good range of Bible stickers, table-top displays, magnetic nativities etc which you may enjoy sharing with the children. These are very inexpensive and are easily ordered at <https://www.ltm.org.au/>

*“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.” Mark 10: 14b*