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TAKING
FAITH

home

DISCIPLESHIP
FOR
TODDLERS



**AS PARENTS WHO BELIEVE WE ARE LOVED BY GOD,
WE WANT TO DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP OUR CHILDREN
RECEIVE THAT SAME LOVE THROUGH A RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD THAT LEADS TO A SPIRIT FILLED LIFE.**

The question is, how do we do this? Research shows that we cannot delegate the important task of mentoring our children towards discipleship. Parental influence is by far the most important factor in our children's faith development. In other words, we need to take faith home.

This pamphlet is a brief guide and idea resource on how you can share your faith with your toddler in those formative years from birth to 3 years old. We hope that these ideas can be a starting point for you and your family as you begin your faith journey together at home.



FOUR AIMS

FOR PARENTS OF 0 TO 3-YEAR-OLDS
ALONG WITH SOME PRACTICAL TIPS:

HELP YOUR
CHILD KNOW
THAT THEY
ARE LOVED
BY GOD

- Find time each day to play with your child. Don't be too stressed. Smile, relax, and enjoy time together, because your baby's experiences now will shape their picture of God in the future and their ability to have an open and trusting relationship with him.
- Cherish your relationships. If you are married, take time together each week to stay close. If you are a single parent, be intentional about maintaining relationships with other adults. This will positively affect the loving environment your baby or toddler experiences.
- Start family faith traditions now. You may not think your baby or toddler is noticing, but they are! Welcome the Sabbath by lighting candles, singing, and reading a child's worship book. Other traditions might arise around Christmas, birthdays, and Easter.



HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL WELCOME IN THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

- Your baby is never too young to start going to church. In fact, the earlier you form the routine, the better your child will enjoy Sabbath school, and the church community will love to see your child.
- You may feel tired as a parent, and it is tempting to rest up, but we all need our faith community, and most of the time you will be glad you made the effort.
- Consider having your child dedicated at church. Contact your local pastor to make arrangements for this special occasion of thanksgiving for and blessing of your child.

HELP YOUR CHILD BE FAMILIAR WITH BASIC BIBLE STORIES

- There are many great story books for children, but perhaps the greatest is the Bible. Start reading bible story books and spiritual bedtime stories as soon as possible. By doing so, you will create some great times together and at the same time lay the foundation for later faith development.

HELP YOUR CHILD PRAISE GOD

- Babies and toddlers love music and song. Invest in some good Christian music for toddlers. They'll soon be joining in!
- Sing songs with your baby or toddler. Remember, they think you're brilliant! Moreover, the interaction will introduce them to active praise.
- Remember to pray with and for your child. Get into the routine of praying at bedtime and at the start of the day. Say a blessing over your child while he / she sleeps. If you can, pray together as parents for your baby / toddler.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU ON YOUR WAY:

Gracelink: Beginner Sabbath school lesson – basic Bible stories for 0 to 3-year-olds. Each story is repeated over a 4-week period.
At Sabbath School, the child will recognise the story from home.
www.gracelink.net/beginner

Our little friend (where the Gracelink stories are found)
www.ourlittlefriend.com

Great bible story books for babies and toddlers:
My First Bible

Devotional books:

Love Letters, by Rosanne C. Tetz
Little Hearts for Jesus, by Sally Pierson Dillon
Books about Jack, by Janice Mathews

Family worship ideas:
100 quick Worship Ideas for Kids, by Karen Holford

Christian Parenting:
52 Ways to Parent Happy Children, by Karen Holford

DVD:
Tiny Tots for Jesus, by 3 ABN

Music:
Little Voices Praise Him
Playful Worship – Loving Experiences Through Music, by Kylie Stacey
www.playfulmusic.org



A BLESSING

TO SAY OVER YOUR BABY OR TODDLER:

(Name of child), may the Lord keep you
from all harm as you trust in Him.

May he watch over your life, your coming and
your going, both now and forevermore.
Amen.

PSALM 121:7–8