



# We come to church

## Psalm 122:1

### Faith formation for twos

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"* (Psalm 122:1). What a wonderful invitation! As children enter your room, remember that you are welcoming them to God's house, perhaps for the first time. Twos need nurture, love, and support as they experience God in the church setting. You, as a caring leader, can provide that.

"Jesus loves me," a foundational song for twos, is used in every session of this module. Sing it, play it, listen to it, hum it. While you may get tired of it, twos cannot hear this message too often!

### Preparation

- Place a bookmark in your Bible at Psalm 122.
- Attach present-day story figures to blocks or containers so they stand upright. (See p. 26 for figures to use.)
- Find and prepare cloth for storytelling:
  - 1 square of neutral-colored cloth (about 20 x 20 inches / 50 x 50 cm)
  - 2-3 strips of brown cloth (each about 4 x 15 inches / 10 x 38 cm)
- Practice telling the Bible story using story figures and cloth.
- Prepare a healthy snack.
- Prepare the activity cards, folding them in half on dotted line.
- Gather supplies for Responsive play.

### Environment for twos

Create an atmosphere of worship. Let music, silence, laughter, prayer, play, and stories fill the room. Give children time and space to explore the world using all their senses. Maintain a simple, uncluttered space, and speak gently and calmly. Honor the image of God that is in every child.

#### AT A GLANCE

##### Gather

- Welcome
- Snack or "Build and paint" activity
- Song ("Jesus loves me")

##### Share the Bible story

- Name song ("We are here at church")
- Song with the Bible ("Jesus loves me")
- Story (Psalm 122:1)
- Prayer (smile prayer; clapping prayer)
- Let's move!
- Activity card: "Come to God's house"

##### Responsive play

##### Sending

#### SUPPLIES

- *Wee Wonder* CD
- CD player
- Bible
- Snack
- For "Build and paint" Gather option: bin of craft sticks, 4-5 containers of various sizes (large yogurt container, shoe box, plastic bowls, etc.), paintbrushes (1 per child)
- Present-day story figures: 2 men, 2 women, 2 children
- For telling story: neutral-colored fabric square, brown cloth strips
- For activity card: crayons or markers
- Responsive play materials (see p. 28)

# Gather

1. As children enter the room, welcome each one by name.
2. Choose one of these options for children to do as they enter the room:
  - Option 1:** *Snack.* If you do not offer snack right now, plan to serve it just *before* Responsive play.
  - Option 2:** *Activity, “Build and paint”*—Set out a bin that is partially filled with craft sticks. Provide a variety of plastic, wooden, or cardboard containers. Invite children to fill the containers with sticks, stack the containers, put sticks on top of them, or stack the sticks. Talk about wood as a building material. Add several small paintbrushes so children can pretend to paint the wood or containers. (*Add these materials to the Create area during Responsive play.*)
3. When you are ready to share the Bible story, play “Jesus loves me” from the *Wee Wonder* CD. As the song plays, join hands with the children and walk toward the worship area. Continue holding hands in a circle until the song is finished.



track 1

# Share the Bible story

1. Invite children to sit down. Give each one a loving smile. Slowly sing the following name song to the tune of “Mary had a little lamb.” Gently pat your legs in time to the music, inviting children to copy the motion. Sing verse 2 until you have named each child.

*Verse 1*

**We are here at church today  
Church today, church today  
We are here at church today,  
We sing and read and pray.**

*Verse 2*

**(Child's name)'s here at church today  
church today, church today  
(Child's name)'s here at church today  
To sing and read and pray.**

2. Sing “Jesus loves me” with the *Wee Wonder* CD. Hold up the Bible, with today’s story marked. Say,

**“This is the Bible.”**

Open the Bible to the story and point to the words.

**“Here is the story.”**

Carefully set the open Bible to the side.

3. Share the Bible story.

**Present-day story figures:** 2 men, 2 women, 2 children

**Story props:** neutral-colored cloth, strips of brown cloth

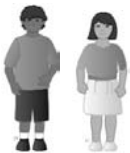
**Set the scene:** Place neutral-colored cloth on floor in front of you. This represents “God’s house.” Then place strips of brown cloth leading to neutral cloth. These are “paths.”

**Tell the story.**

## MODULE 1 THEME SONG

### Jesus loves me

Jesus loves me, this I know  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;  
They are weak, but he is  
strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
The Bible tells me so.



Figures 30,  
31, 32, 33,  
36, and 37



## BIBLE STORY: Psalm 122:1

Come!  
Let's go to God's house.  
I smile! I want to come. (*Walk one woman figure on path to "God's house."*)

Come!  
Let's go to God's house.  
I clap my hands. I want to come. (*Clap hands, then walk one child to "God's house."*)

Come!  
Let's go to God's house.  
We smile! We want to come. (*Walk one man and one woman figure together.*)

Come!  
Let's go to God's house.  
We clap our hands. We want to come. (*Clap hands, then walk remaining man and child figures together.*)

Look! (*Point to story figures, then to children in group.*)  
We are all together in God's house.

4. Carefully place the story figures and cloth in the Tell-It-Again box. Then lead children in two short prayers. Say:

**Children, let's give God a smile prayer. Watch.** (*smile and point to your smile*)  
**Let's smile. We are glad to be at church today.**

**Children, let's give God a clapping prayer. Listen.** (*clap hands with excitement*)  
**Let's clap! We are glad to be at church today.**

5. Let's move! Invite children to stand up. Choose one or more of these movements to enjoy together. Say:

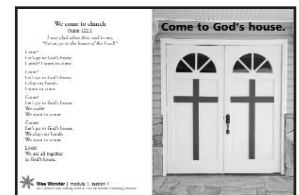
**Let's walk to God's house!** (*walk in place*)

**Let's crawl to God's house!** (*crawl around*)

**Let's dance to God's house!** (*wiggle and dance*)

6. Activity card: "Come to God's house." Give each child a card. Help children explore the card and open the door. Provide crayons for children to color the people. Say, "Look! The people are all together in God's house."

*Offer snack now, if you did not at the beginning of the session.*



### Responsive play (See p. 28.)

Using the suggestions, set up areas for "free play" around the room. After Share the Bible story, provide ample time for children to play alone or with others in the areas they choose.

### Sending

Hold left hand flat, palm up. "Walk" two fingers from right hand on the left hand:

**You came to church. Now you're going home.**

Cross arms over chest:

**God loves you at church. God loves you at home.**

*Option:* Sing "Holding hands together" from the *Wee Wonder* CD, while holding hands.



track 13

# Responsive play

## CONNECT

Gather several worship items that you use in your church service. Invite children to explore the objects.

**Faith Link:** “We come to God’s house. We sing, we read the Bible, and we pray.”

**Supplies:** Offering plate, board book story Bibles, instruments

**Tip:** Twos love instruments. Choose instruments that involve shaking, tapping, and rubbing.

## BUILD

Provide small blocks and people figures. Include pieces of cloth like those used during “Share the Bible story.”

**Faith Link:** “Let’s build together. We can build a church. We are in a church. People built this church.”

**Supplies:** set of blocks (small wooden or cardboard), people figures, strips of cloth

**Tip:** Use short phrases to describe what children are doing. For example: “You used 2 blocks. One, two.” Recognize that each child uses materials differently. Older twos may want to make buildings or towers. Others will tap blocks together or put them in a line. Value each child’s response.

## TELL-IT-AGAIN

Set out the day’s story items for children to retell the story in their own way.

**Story figures needed:** present-day story figures (2 men, 2 women, 2 children)

**Additional storytelling items:** neutral-colored cloth, strips of brown cloth

**Tip:** If you have photos of children that are on craft sticks, add them to this area. (See *module introduction*, p. 23.) Children will enjoy moving their own photos on the cloth paths.

## EXPLORE

Set out play dough on a low table, along with wooden or plastic people figures.

**Faith Link:** “We come to God’s house. We come with our family and friends.”

**Supplies:** play dough, wooden or plastic people figures

**Tip:** Provide adequate supervision so that children do not put play dough in their mouths.

## CREATE

Use water to “paint” items that could be used to build a church.

**Faith Link:** “We can paint/work together. We are in a church. People built this church.”

**Supplies:** Paintbrushes of various sizes; heavy bowls with small amount of water; towel to place on table; building materials—a brick, sticks or twigs, craft sticks, larger piece of wood; smocks

**Tip:** Place hand towel on work surface to absorb spills. Be sure children will not get splinters from the wooden materials you choose.

## READ

Enjoy books about church experiences (*singing, praying, reading the Bible*).

*Loving God Together* by Donna Scorer

*Play and Pray: Toddler Prayers* by Deb Lund

*Psalms for Young Children* by Marie-Helene Delval

*Sing, David, Sing* by Donna Scorer