

Unit 13 – This Is the Bible

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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. | Olivia shows the teacher what she remembers and understands from the Bible story. The three children move and clap to the Music Time song. |
| 9:05 Olivia becomes comfortable with the class room and begins to explore other activities. | |
| 9:15 The teacher uses a picture poster to encourage Olivia and her friend to discuss what they see. This leads the teacher and children directly into the interactive Bible story—the Bible Step. | 9:35 Olivia returns to play with the dolls. |
| 9:20 After the Bible Step, Olivia goes to play with the dolls while the teacher uses the picture poster to engage Daniel. | 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. |
| 9:30 The teacher goes to Olivia and two friends with story figures in the Bible Story Review. | 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
- Old shower curtain to protect the floor
- Paint shirts
- Teacher craft smock
- Dishpan, soap, and paper towels
- Chalk – white and colored
- Construction paper
- Cornstarch dough
- Cotton swabs
- Craft sticks
- Crayons
- Drawing paper
- Drinking straws
- Feathers
- Finger paint—washable
- Foam meat trays
- Foil
- Glue and glue sticks - nontoxic
- Index cards
- Margarine tubs
- Old newspapers
- Paper cups
- Paper plates
- Play dough – purchased or homemade



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 combination craft and take-home publication. Each week provides a refrigerator-ready frame for each child's favorite craft project. The other side is a family newsletter that 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.

The Bible Is a Very Special Book

BIBLE BASIS: HABAKKUK 2:2-3; 2 PETER 1:20-21

LESSON FOCUS: THE BIBLE IS A VERY SPECIAL BOOK.

STEP BY STEP

WHERE LEARNING HAPPENS

 Set up areas for play before children arrive.

BIBLE STEP

TALK TIME


Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids—
Photo Poster 1

BIBLE STORY TIME

Habakkuk 2:2-3; 2 Peter 1:20-21

BIBLE REVIEW STEP

BIBLE STORY REVIEW TIME


 Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids—
Story Figures 1, 2
Story Card 1; Story Mat

MUSIC TIME

"THE BIBLE SONG"

Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids—
CD; CD player

CRAFT STEP

 **FOIL PAINTING**
Starting Steps for Lesson 1
Washable finger paints, liquid dish
soap, foil, old newspapers, paint
shirts, tape, (optional: damp paper
towels, teacher craft smock)

Tip: At the beginning of each quarter, separate the pages for *Starting Steps* and store them by lesson.

Teacher Devotional

Books can stir all kinds of feelings in us. Sometimes we identify with a book's characters—we feel like we know them or want to know them. Or, it may be a setting that reminds us of a time or place in our own lives. What is your favorite book and why is it special to you? _____

God has given us a VERY special book—the Bible. Read 2 Peter 1:20-21. The Bible is God's inspired book to tell His story so that we can know Him in a deep, personal way. We have an active part in this book. It's not just an instruction book, a historical work, or a reference guide. It is a love story written with you in mind.

Curl up with a good book this week—God's special book. As you read God's Word this week, keep a journal of the special things He is saying to you in His very special book.

Understanding the Bible

God's Word was recorded by imperfect people. Nevertheless, God's Word "is truth" (John 17:17). God gave His truth through the Holy Spirit's perfect guidance. He used the writers' individual personalities and styles but gave the eternal truths He wanted human beings to know (2 Pet. 1:21).

By 1456 (the time of the first printed Bible) God's Word was only in 33 languages of the world. Since 1950 we have had more translations of the Bible into English alone than in all the languages of the world put together up until A.D. 1456! Aren't you glad you live in the Golden Age of the Bible?



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

Lesson 1 Focus:
The Bible is a
very special
book.

WHERE LEARNING HAPPENS



Your children will spend most of their time during class moving, exploring, choosing, and playing in the learning environment. The learning environment is simply the books, toys, blocks, music, stories, and activities your children interact with while they are in your room.

While the children are busy exploring and playing, you can gather a small group to hear the Bible story from *Habakkuk 2:2-3 and 2 Peter 1:20-21*.

1:20-21. You can also walk around the room, visit the children at different activities, and use your own *story mat* to present the *Bible Story Review*.

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

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 *Foil Painting in the Craft Step, page 10*.

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, *page 8. Today's story is "The Bible Is a Very Special Book" from Habakkuk 2:2-3 and 2 Peter 1:20-21.*

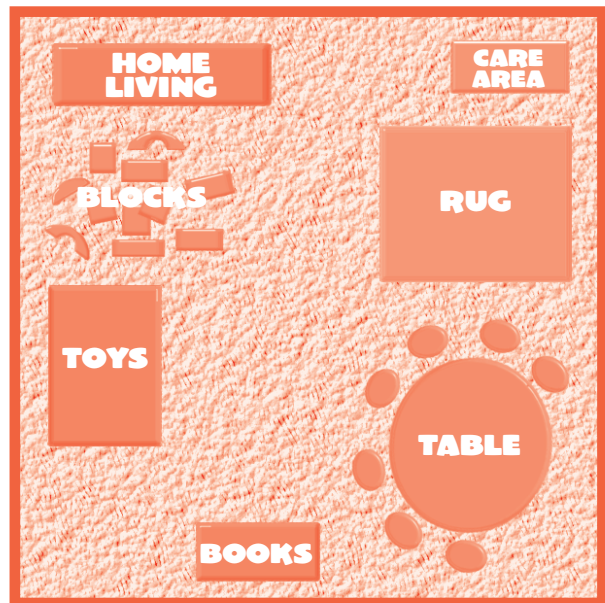
This is also a good place for sharing stories or movement and the Music Time, *page 9. Sing "The Bible Song."*

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. *Let children explore Bible story-books with colorful pictures to help them become involved with the Bible story "The Bible Is a Very Special Book."*

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.



HOME LIVING—Several baby dolls, blankets, play food, dishes, and utensils for children to imitate what they see in real life. *Encourage children to "read" Bible stories to the dolls. As they tell their "special" stories, they will begin to relate to today's Bible story from Habakkuk 2:2-3 and 2 Peter 1:20-21.*



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

In God's very special book, the Bible, we are told over and over that God loves us. An important way toddlers and twos learn is through repetition. Guide and encourage learning by reading a favorite Bible story several times to an individual child or the whole class. Allow the children to imitate what you read as they become familiar with the story.

Lesson 1 Focus:
The Bible is a
very special
book.

BIBLE STEP



TALK TIME

Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—Photo Poster 1

Toddlers love to look at photographs that show children. Sharing what they know about books helps them connect to the Bible story “The Bible Is a Very Special Book” from Habakkuk 2:2-3 and 2 Peter 1:20-21. Invite small groups (no more than four children) to the rug for Talk Time. Use this rhyme to help capture their attention.



Photo Poster 1

Pat your arms, (*Pat arms.*)
And tap your knees. (*Tap knees.*)
Now sit down quietly— (*Sit down.*)
And talk with me!

Show Photo Poster 1. Point to the child in the picture. **This child is reading with his grandpa. Can you find the book? Have each child point to the book. This is his favorite book to read with grandpa. What are your favorite books?** Encourage the children to talk about their favorite books. Be sure to give each child a chance to talk. Some children may tell the name of a story. **Point to the Bible. This book is a favorite book to read. It is the Bible. Today we’re going to learn that the Bible is a very special book.**

BIBLE STORY TIME Habakkuk 2:2-3; 2 Peter 1:20-21

Toddlers and two year olds love to look at different books and be read stories. Today’s Bible story introduces them to a very special book—the Bible. Have your Bible open to Habakkuk 2. **Our Bible story today comes from God’s special book, the Bible.**

This is the Bible.

(Teacher and children point to Bible.)

The Bible is a book.

(Hold hands open like a book.)

The Bible is a very special book.

We learn about God and His love for us in the Bible.

(Teacher and children point up.)

The Bible comes from God.

(Teacher and children point up.)

I’m glad God gave us a very special book.

This is the Bible.

The Bible is a very special book.

Ask the following questions to review the Bible story:

- 1. What is the Bible?**
(A very special book)
- 2. What book is very special?** (The Bible)

Whether you are telling the story to one child or a small group, repeat the Bible story. Repeating the actions with you will help the children learn and remember.

Lesson 1 Focus:
The Bible is a
very special
book.

BIBLE REVIEW STEP



BIBLE STORY REVIEW TIME

Materials: Creative Teaching Aids— Story Figures 1, 2, Story Card 1; Story Mat

Touching and moving things are good ways for toddlers to learn. Encourage the children to handle the figures of the Bible (Figure 1) and the storybook (Figure 2) as they help you retell the Bible story.

You can do the Bible Review Step anytime after you have done the Bible Step. Keep the small group you have at the rug or visit children at different activities and tell the Bible Review story.



Use a small towel or blanket as a story mat for the figures. Punch out the figures and story card for Lesson 1.

Lay the story mat on the floor in front of you and place the story card by your mat. The mat helps define where the story takes place and makes it easy to see and pick up figures.

Put the Bible and the storybook, Figures 1 and 2, on the mat before telling the story.

This is a book. Ask a child to point to either Figure 1 or 2. **This is a storybook.** Have a child point to the storybook, Figure 2. **This is a very special book.** Have a child

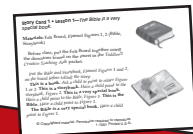
point to the Bible, Figure 1.

This is the Bible. We learn about God and His love for us from the Bible.

Have a child point to Figure 1.

The Bible is a very special book. Have a child point to Figure 1.

Repeat the story to to each child or group. Toddlers need to do things more than once.



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

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 energy! This song reinforces the Bible story, from Habakkuk 2:2-3 and 2 Peter 1:20-21, that the Bible is a very special book.

“THE BIBLE SONG”

The complete song is track 1 on the CD in the Creative Teaching Aids packet. The words and movements can be found on page 71 of this teacher’s guide.

Children like to sing a song many times. Repeat “The Bible Song” to help your class learn the music.

Lesson 1 Focus:
The Bible is a
very special
book.

CRAFT STEP



FOIL PAINTING

The process of doing a craft is one of the ways toddlers and two year olds learn. They discover how paints work by painting on foil. Encourage each child to create more than one Foil Painting, as time allows. All the things your children create are treasures. You can send them all home, but let each child choose one for you to place in the frame provided in *Starting Steps*.

Where: At the table

Materials: Washable finger paints
Liquid dish soap
Foil
Old newspapers
Paint shirts
Tape
Optional: damp paper towels

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. Add a few drops of dish soap to each color of paint for easier cleanup.
 2. Cover the table with old newspaper to protect the surface.
 3. Tear squares of foil for each child.
 4. Dampen paper towels to wipe paint off children's fingers.



Craft Time: Help the children put on paint shirts. You may want to wear a craft smock today.

Today we're going to paint on foil. The paint will look sparkly on the foil. Put a dab of finger paint on each child's foil. Encourage the children to smear the paint around the foil. Add other colors as desired. Some children may not want to touch the paint. Give them time to touch the paint.

As the children color, talk about the Bible story from Habakkuk 2:2-3 and 2 Peter 1:20-21. **We learn about God in the Bible. The Bible comes from**

God. The Bible is a very special book.

Let the children make more than one Foil Painting. Have each child choose his or her favorite painting. Write each child's name on a frame provided in *Starting Steps* for Lesson 1 and tape the drawing to the frame.



GOOD-BYE TIME

As they leave, tell all the children, individually, you are glad they came. As you say good-bye, ask, "What book is very special?" Send home the cover of *Starting Steps* this week. Families can enjoy the calendar activities. Send each child home with his or her very own *Starting Steps*. One side frames the Foil Painting. The other side connects each child's family to today's lesson with a devotional, parenting tips, an amusing anecdote, and more.