



Tips for three-year-olds

- They experience the world as new each day.
- They experience creation through all their senses.

The Mountains Are Calling Genesis 1:1—2:4a

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

This Is Good

(based on Genesis 1:1—2:4a)

(Stand in a circle. Encourage children to copy your actions and repeat the bolded response after you.)

God made the day. God made the night *(move arms in a wide arc around body)*.

And God said... **"This is good!"**

God made the sky, the land, and the sea *(wave movement for water)*.

And God said... **"This is good!"**

God made tiny seeds and big trees *(crouch low then grow tall and stretch arms up high)*.

And God said... **"This is good!"**

God made the sun, the moon, and the stars *(wiggle fingers for stars)*.

And God said... **"This is good!"**

God made fish, and turtles, and birds *(flap arms)*.

And God said... **"This is good!"**

God made animals, and people too *(point to children)*.

And God said... **"This is good!"**

God looked all around the whole world *(cup hand over eyes and look around)*.

And God said... **"This is good!"**

Then God took a rest *(lie down on the floor together)*.

Optional activity after the story

Sing "God Made a World" (tune: "Farmer in the Dell")

God made a world for me,
God made a world for you,

God made a world for everyone,
God made a world for us.

(Other verses: God made the sky for us, the stars, the trees...)

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 6.

- Nature walk** Ensure safety and obtain parent permission to go outdoors.

- Creation windows** Distribute a set of creation pictures and a single sheet of construction paper to each child. Encourage them to glue the pictures randomly on the paper.

- Star dough** Use very pliable play dough.



Tips for three-year-olds

- They share their love easily with others.
- They feel empathy when someone is hurt or ill.

Sacrifice

Matthew 9:35—
10:8

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

Called to Follow

(based on Matthew 9:35—10:8)

(Place several dolls or soft toys around the room. Have children place their name cards in front of them.)

“John, I would like you to go to the next town and teach the people about God’s love.”

“Peter and Andrew, follow this other road until you get to another town. Please help the people there who are sick. Show God’s love.”

“Sarah and Mary, please go to the people who live by the river. Tell them God loves them. Share the good news.”

Jesus called out the names of all the friends.

(Invite children to hold up their name cards. Call out each child’s name in turn.) “(Child’s name), go and show God’s love.”

And that’s what everyone did. Some of Jesus’ friends went to heal the sick. Some of his friends went to help people who were sad. And some went to be with people who were lonely and afraid.

Jesus had many, many friends who wanted to help show God’s love to everyone. Jesus calls us to do that, too!

Jesus and his friends were doing so much travelling. They walked from town to town. They talked a lot, and they cared about the people they met.

Some of people they met were very sick. Some people were feeling sad. Some people were worried, and some were lonely and afraid.

Jesus worked very hard to love and care for everyone. But there were so many people who needed help.

Jesus turned to the friends and said, “There are too many people. I can’t help them all by myself. Can you help me, help them?” Jesus began to call out the names of the friends.

Optional activity after the story

Sing “Hello Everybody!” (*Seasons Growing Faith Songbook*, p. 10)

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 12.

- Talking Mask** Cut out the mask (and the hole for the mouth), and paste it to the plate prior to the session. When the face is “done,” help children attach the tube.



Tips for three-year-olds

- They have a strong desire to please.
- They need understanding, tolerance, and acceptance.

Solidarity Matthew 10:24–39

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

God Loves Us So Much

(based on Matthew 10:24–39)

(Scatter paper birds [sparrows] around the room.)

One day, Jesus and his friends were sharing stories while they ate a snack together. *(Share snack of bread and fruit.)* They remembered how they had helped Jesus when he made sick people feel better. They remembered Jesus' stories about God's love.

Peter, one of Jesus' friends, said, "I'm thinking about all the people who need to hear about God's love too."
"Me too," said Andrew, "there are so many people!"
"We know how to sail boats," said Peter. "We know how to catch fish. We know how to fix the fish nets when they are broken. But I'm not sure I know how to tell people about God's love."

Jesus listened and said, "Don't worry, I'll help you with this new job. And even when people don't want to listen to you and you're having a bad day, always remember that God's love is with us everywhere."

As Jesus was talking, some little sparrows flew down to eat the bread crumbs. *(Invite children to find the birds in the room and "fly" them to the story area.)*

Jesus pointed to the sparrows. "God loves all these little sparrows," he said. "And if God loves little sparrows, imagine how much God loves you."

Everyone stopped to think about that. What wonderful news!

Sharing God's love would not always be easy. But they knew that God would be with them every day.

Optional activity after the story

Game Gather in a circle to play a game about God's love. Ask the child beside you, "How much does God love you?" and have them hold out their arms. Say, "Even more!" and join hands. Then ask the next child, "How

much does God love you?" Have them hold out their arms. Say, "Even more!" and join hands. Continue until everyone is holding hands. Say, "How much does God love us? This much!" and raise hands together.

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 18.

- Cards** Help children glue in the bird figures.
- Pinwheels** Prepare pinwheels ahead of time, inviting children to decorate the paper tubes; make a sample.
- Bird feeders** Help children with the "painting" and adding birdseed.



Tips for three-year-olds

- They can connect to God's love through the tenderness and compassion they receive from others.
- Some will be ready to share what is theirs, while others will still be very hesitant.

Choosing a Braver Faith Matthew 10:40–42

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

A Kind Welcome

(based on Matthew 10:40–42)

Step, step, step. Jesus and his friends walked along the road.
(Make stepping movements with feet.)

Jesus had been helping his friends learn more about loving others. But sometimes that wasn't easy. Now everyone was tired and thirsty.

Suddenly one friend said, "Look over there. I think those people are asking us to come and visit them."

"Let's go and see them," another friend said. "It would be good to sit down."

"Welcome," said the woman, "please come and rest under this tree. We will bring you some cool water."

When Jesus and his friends were feeling rested and no longer thirsty, Jesus said, "Dear friends, these people have been very kind and welcoming to us. They are showing God's love."

Jesus' friends looked at each other. "Let's remember to show God's love, too!"

Then everyone said goodbye to their new friends in the village and started down the road again – ready to show God's welcoming love to others.

Optional activity after the story

Poem "Knocking, Knocking"

Knocking, knocking at the door.

(Knock on palm of opposite hand.)

Welcome friend, come and play.

Caring, sharing – one, two, three.

(Tap hand three times over the heart.)

Welcome friend, let's dance today.

(Dance around the room.)

(Add other endings: "...let's sing...jump...hug...today.")

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 24.

- Welcome signs** Some children may feel a little unsure about leaving your meeting space. Invite some parents or other familiar adults to accompany you.
- Mobiles** Instead of making mobiles, distribute a set of pictures to each child and a piece of construction paper. Talk about the pictures and encourage them to glue the pictures randomly on the papers.
- Welcome necklaces** Use drinking straws with large holes and blunt plastic needles.



Tips for three-year-olds

- ❑ They are discovering that choices mean saying yes to one thing while saying no to another thing.
- ❑ They are developing logical reasoning skills as they play.

A Love that Makes Neighbours

Genesis 24:34–38,
42–49, 58–67

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

Rebekah Makes a Choice

(based on Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67)

(Have figures of Isaac and Rebekah nearby.)

One day, Abraham called to his helper, Eliezer (*ehl-ee-EE-zuhr*) to go and find a wife for Isaac, his son. *(Show Isaac figure.)*

So Eliezer got ready for a long trip. He took food. He took water. He took many gifts. He put everything on the backs of the camels and started walking. Humpity, bumpity, snuffling and snorting, the camels walked down the road. It was a long way. *(Invite children to imitate camels walking.)*

Finally Eliezer arrived near a city and stopped at a well. He was thirsty. The camels were thirsty. Eliezer said a prayer and just then a young woman named Rebekah came to the well with a water jar. *(Show Rebekah figure.)* Eliezer asked for a drink of water. Rebekah lowered her jar down into the well. *(Invite children to imitate scooping water with a bucket.)*

Rebekah gave Eliezer a drink of water. She gave the camels a drink of water, too. “Rebekah is a kind woman,” thought Eliezer. “She would be a good wife for Isaac.”

So Eliezer talked to Rebekah’s father. “Can Rebekah be Isaac’s wife?”

“Yes,” said Rebekah’s father.

Eliezer asked, “Rebekah, will you be Isaac’s wife?”

“Yes,” said Rebekah.

Eliezer gave Rebekah and her family lots of gifts. The next day, Eliezer and Rebekah and the camels left to travel back. *(Invite children to imitate camels walking.)* Humpity, bumpity, snuffling and snorting, the camels walked down the road to Abraham and Isaac. *(Place Rebekah and Isaac together.)*

Rebekah knew that God had helped her make a good choice. She knew that God would always be with her.

Optional activity after the story

Poem “God Is Here”

God is here *(bend down and touch the floor).*

God is there *(reach both hands up high).*

God is everywhere *(reach arms out wide).*

God loves me *(hug self).*

God loves you *(hug each other).*

God loves people everywhere *(reach arms out wide).*

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 30.

- ❑ **Game** Children take turns being a leader, choosing an action (such as twirling around, crawling, clapping, jumping) for everyone to follow.

- ❑ **Activity sheet** As you talk about each picture, encourage children to make a smiling or frowning face rather than drawing it on the activity sheet.

- ❑ **Collages** Put white glue in small containers and use craft sticks as spreaders, encouraging them to use only little dots of glue.



Tips for three-year-olds

- ❑ They often have difficulty understanding what they feel but learn by watching others express feelings.
- ❑ They may not yet have learned the meaning of words such as “angry,” “lonely,” or “sad.”

Love that Disrupts Genesis 25:19–34

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

Esau and Jacob

(based on Genesis 25:19–34)

(Have figures of Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob nearby.)

Isaac (*show Isaac figure*) and Rebekah (*show Rebekah figure*) had two little babies. (*Hold up two fingers.*)

First Esau was born. (*Point to one finger.*) Then Jacob was born. (*Point to the other finger.*)

The two boys were twins but they were very different. Esau had dark curly hair. Jacob had very little hair.

Esau had darker skin and Jacob had lighter skin.

Esau was born first and that meant that one day Esau would be the family’s leader. Then Esau would have all the things his father, Isaac, owned.

When Esau grew up, he liked to be outside. (*Show Esau figure.*) He became a good hunter and found food for the family to eat.

When Jacob grew up, he liked to be inside. (*Show Jacob figure.*) He liked to cook good food for the family.

One day, Esau came into the house while Jacob was cooking bean soup.

Esau said, “I’m hungry! Give me some soup!”

Jacob and Esau didn’t always speak nicely to each other.

Jacob wanted something that Esau had, so he decided to trick him.

“OK. I’ll give you some soup and bread,” said Jacob. “But you must promise me that one day I will be the family’s leader.”

Esau was very hungry. All he could think about was getting food to eat. Esau said, “Who cares? I need to eat. Yes, I will promise. You can be the leader of the family. Now give me some soup!”

Jacob smiled. He had tricked Esau. Jacob knew he had done something wrong. But Jacob didn’t care because he wanted to be the family leader. He wanted to get most of his father’s gifts.

I wonder how his brother Esau felt when he later found out that he was tricked by Jacob.

Optional activity after the story

Sing “Sing to God” (*tune: “Frère Jacques” or “Are You Sleeping?”*)

Are you angry? Are you angry? (*Shake fist.*)

You can sing. You can sing (*spread arms out*).

Tell God all about it (*cup one hand around mouth*).

You can even shout it (*cup both hands around mouth*).

Feel God’s love. Feel God’s love (*hug self*).

(*Create other verses such as happy, lonely, sleepy, sad...*)

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 36.

- ❑ **Prayer circle** Enlarge the paper figures before distributing them to the children. Encourage them to use the markers or crayons before gluing on extra decorative material.

- ❑ **Drawings** Help children decide what to draw, and to fold the finished pictures.

- ❑ **Torn paper art** Have children act out “angry” and “happy” with their faces and bodies before art project; help them choose the colours of paper to use.



Tips for three-year-olds

- Talk about dreams as being a way of thinking about things in their sleep.
- Some may be able to recall dreams and want to share. Remind them that it helps to talk about scary dreams with someone we love.

Prescence Genesis 28:10–19a

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

Jacob's Dream

(based on Genesis 28:10–19a)

(Have figure of Jacob nearby.)

Jacob had been walking by himself all day. (*Show Jacob figure.*) He was tired and hungry and lonely.

So Jacob stopped. He drank some water. He ate some food. Now it was time to sleep. There were no beds to sleep on. So Jacob put a large stone under his head and lay down on the soft grass to sleep. (*Encourage children to lie down and close their eyes. Use a quieter voice to tell the dream.*)

During the night Jacob had a good dream. In his dream, Jacob saw a ladder. It went up, up, up into the sky, so high he couldn't see the top of the ladder. In his dream, Jacob saw angels climbing up and down the ladder. "What kind of ladder is this?" thought Jacob.

Then in his dream, Jacob heard a voice. "I am with you, Jacob," said the voice.

What was that voice?

And then the voice said, "Jacob, I promise that you will live in this land and be a blessing to many people. This promise is for you and your children and your children's children. I have a wonderful plan for the whole world. And your family is part of it. Bless you, Jacob. You are not alone. I shall be with you always."

Jacob listened and listened. But the voice did not speak anymore. Jacob looked around. The ladder was gone. Jacob was awake now. (*Invite children to "wake up" and sit up.*)

"Maybe it was just a dream," thought Jacob. But deep down and all around, Jacob knew. He just knew that God had spoken to him. "This is a holy place," said Jacob.

Jacob still had to walk a long way. But he no longer felt alone. Jacob knew God was with him.

Optional activity after the story

Chant "One, Two, Three"

(Have children clap as each number is said.)

The sun is shining. 1, 2, 3
The birds are singing. 1, 2, 3

God blesses (*name a child*). 1, 2, 3

God blesses me. 1, 2, 3

(Repeat for all children in the group.)

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 42.

- Activity sheet** Invite children to choose bright, happy colours to decorate Jacob's dream bubble. Encourage them to talk about their own dreams and remind them that God cares about their dreams.
- Decorated pillowcases** Use unscented permanent markers and protective aprons or covers.
- Special stones** Use medium-sized stones to provide more surface for decorating.



Tips for three-year-olds

- In order to feel God's love, they depend on repeated experiences of being loved, understood, and accepted.
- They are discovering the church to be a place that knows them personally and cares for them deeply.

Subversive Silence Genesis 29:15–28

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

Jacob Meets Rachel

(based on Genesis 29:15–28)

(Have figures of Jacob and Rachel nearby.)

Jacob was walking. (*Show Jacob figure.*) He walked over the hills.

He walked around the mountains. He walked through the rivers. Jacob was happy. Jacob knew God cared for him and loved him.

Jacob was looking for Uncle Laban's house. He asked some shepherds who were looking after sheep, "Do you know where my uncle Laban, lives?"

"Yes, we know your uncle Laban," said the shepherds. "His daughter, Rachel, will be coming soon to get some water for her sheep."

Jacob sat down and waited. Soon Rachel came. (*Show Rachel figure.*) Rachel's sheep were thirsty. But Rachel needed help removing the big flat stone that covered the water in the well.

"Please, help me," Rachel said to Jacob.

So Jacob helped push the stone off the top of the well. Jacob gave a drink of water to all of Rachel's sheep.

"Thank you," said Rachel. "I haven't seen you before. Who are you?"

"I am Jacob, your cousin," said Jacob. Jacob was so glad to see her.

Rachel was glad to see Jacob, too. She ran to tell her father.

Rachel's father, Laban, was happy to see Jacob. "Jacob, you are welcome in my house," Uncle Laban said. "You must come and stay with us."

And that's how Jacob met Rachel. And one day, a long time after, Jacob married Rachel.

Optional activity after the story

Sing "God's Love Is with Us" (tune: "London Bridge Is Falling Down")

God's love is with us every day, every day, every day.

God's love is with us every day.

This is happy news.

(Other verses: "God's love is with us when we're sad...all the time...shout hooray.")

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 48.

- Activity sheet** Guide each child's finger along the path to the well. Encourage them to use bright colours when decorating the whole page to show how Jacob must have felt when he met Rachel.
- Celebration snack** Squeeze on the simple facial features yourself, encouraging them to embellish the faces with the other decorative foods.
- Response centre** You may have to help children decide what materials to use.



Tips for three-year-olds

- ❑ They are beginning to recognize and name emotions.
- ❑ They need the comfort of familiar adults nearby as they explore their emotions.

Face to Face Genesis 32:22–31

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

Jacob's Struggles

(based on Genesis 32:22–31)

(*Show Jacob figure.*) Jacob wanted to go home to see his brother, Esau. Jacob was sorry

that he had been mean to his brother. So Jacob and his family packed up all their belongings. They collected all their animals and they started travelling. It would be a long journey.

One night, Jacob lay down to sleep. (*Lay Jacob figure on the floor.*) While he was sleeping Jacob started to toss and turn on the ground. (*Move figure restlessly.*) It felt like he was fighting with someone! All night long he tossed and turned, and tossed and turned. Then Jacob heard a voice say, "What is your name?"

Jacob said, "My name is Jacob."

The voice said, "Now your name won't be Jacob anymore. You will be called Israel. Bless you."

When Jacob woke up he had a sore leg. Jacob didn't know if it was a dream or if something had really happened. But deep down and all around, Jacob knew that God had always been with him – when Jacob was happy; when Jacob was sad, God had stayed with him.

Much later, when Jacob met his brother Esau, Esau wasn't angry with Jacob anymore. (*Place Esau and Jacob figures together.*) Esau hugged and kissed Jacob, and they both cried. The two brothers became friends.

Optional activity after the story

Action poem "God Loves Us"

(Use appropriate actions for the bolded words.)

God loves us when we're **angry**.

God loves us when we're **sad**.

God loves us when we're **silly**.

God loves us when we're **glad**.

God listens to our feelings,
each and every day.

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 54.

- ❑ **Messages** If it becomes too complicated to take the children into the sanctuary, encourage them to take their messages home and hide their messages in surprising places for their families to find.

- ❑ **Storytelling** It will be easier for the children to place the figure on the floor and simply roll the pencil back and forth with one hand.
- ❑ **Musical response** Have the children sit in a circle and listen to the music first. Then give each child an instrument. Play the music again and encourage children to play their instruments, first making quiet sounds and then joyful sounds.



Tips for three-year-olds

- ❑ They often find times of separation from loved ones very difficult to manage.
- ❑ Hearing their names spoken aloud fosters a feeling of connectedness, of being known and recognized.

Dreaming Big Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

Meet Joseph

(based on Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28)

(Each time you hold up the figure of Joseph, encourage children to repeat after you the bolded words.)

Jacob had many children. One child was Joseph. Jacob loved Joseph very much. *(Hold up Joseph figure.)* **Hello, Joseph, a son.**

Joseph worked hard for the family. Joseph's brothers also worked. Sometimes Joseph helped the brothers – sometimes he didn't. *(Show brothers figure.)* **Hello, Joseph, a brother.**

One day, Jacob gave Joseph a special coat. *(Place striped coat on Joseph.)* **Hello, Joseph, with a special coat.** It was a beautiful coat with long sleeves. Joseph's brothers were angry. They wanted beautiful coats too.

Joseph had dreams from God. When Joseph told his brothers about the special dreams, the brothers got angrier. *(Hold up Joseph figure wearing striped coat.)* **Hello, Joseph, the dreamer.**

Joseph liked to tell stories. Sometimes Joseph was a tattletale. This made his brothers even angrier. *(Hold up Joseph figure wearing striped coat.)* **Hello, Joseph, the tattletale.**

One day, Jacob sent Joseph to go and see his brothers. *(Show brothers figure.)* They saw Joseph coming. They thought about all the things that made them angry. The brothers took Joseph's beautiful coat away from him. *(Remove coat.)* Some travellers came along. The brothers had an idea. "Let's give Joseph away. These people will take him far, far away. We won't have to see him again."

So that's what the brothers did. Joseph went far away from his brothers. Joseph must have been very sad. *(Hold up Joseph figure.)* **Hello, Joseph, very sad.**

But God had a plan for Joseph. Joseph was far from home, but God was with him. And Joseph's brothers would see Joseph again. *(Hold up Joseph figure.)* **Hello, Joseph, loved by God.**

Optional activity after the story

Sing "I'm a Special Person" (tune: "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a special person,
you are too.
God loves me,

and God loves you.
When we get together let us say,
God is with us every day.

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 60.

- ❑ **Headbands** Use only markers, crayons, and self-adhesive stickers so that the children can wear their hats immediately and not have to wait for the glue to dry.
- ❑ **Booklet** Practice the phrases with the children so they may be able to remember them and "read" them to their families.
- ❑ **Sewing card** Instead of punching holes around the edges of the cards, provide children with small craft materials – such as small paper shapes, stickers, feathers – for decorating their name cards.



Tips for three-year-olds

- They grow and develop best when they are in a secure and consistent environment.
- They have many stories to share of family life.

Subversive Forgiveness Genesis 45:1–15

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

Together Again

(based on Genesis 45:1–15)

(Sit around a tray or low box of sand. Have figures of Joseph, the striped coat, the Egyptian robe, and the brothers nearby.)

Long ago, Joseph and his family lived in a land that was mostly desert. *(Walk fingers through sand. Invite children to do the same. Place figures of the brothers and Joseph wearing striped coat on one side of the sand.)* Joseph and his brothers did not get along. One day, the brothers gave Joseph away and he was taken to Egypt. Joseph was very sad. But he knew God was with him. *(Remove coat and move Joseph figure to other side of sand box.)*

Joseph became an important person in Egypt. *(Put Egyptian robe on Joseph.)* Joseph looked after all the food in Egypt. After the people had lots of food to eat, Joseph saved the extra food for later.

Joseph's brothers and their families did not do well. They had no food. When they heard that there was food in Egypt, the brothers decided to go there to get some food. *(Move figure of brothers slowly across sand to Joseph.)*

The brothers arrived in Egypt. Guess who they met? Joseph! The brothers were so surprised. Then they felt afraid. Would Joseph be angry with them for giving him away? But Joseph gave them a big hug. Joseph was so happy to see the brothers.

Joseph said, "Bring all your families and animals. Come and live in Egypt with me." Everyone was happy! They were together again! Joseph showed God's love to his family.

Optional activity after the story

Poem "God's Love"

(As you say each line, invite children to copy your actions.)

God's love is here *(point to self)*

God's love is there *(point to another person)*

God's love surrounds us everywhere *(hug self)*.

God's love is high *(stretch up)*

God's love is low *(squat down)*

God's love is with us wherever we go *(spread arms out wide)*.

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 66.

- Greeting cards** Help children make at least two cards to take home.
- Mosaics** Simplify the message to: "I show God's love to others." Have the optional craft materials ready for the children in case they find it difficult to tear small enough pieces of paper to decorate their hearts.
- Friend circles** Tape the figures to your work surface to make it easier for the children to decorate their figures.



Tips for three-year-olds

- They may have experience of older siblings caring for them.
- They love helping look after babies.

Cunning, Compassion, and Courage Exodus 1:8—2:10

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

(Have a baby doll hidden somewhere in your room. Begin the story by whispering, "Listen. A baby is crying. Let's go and find the baby." When the baby is found, bring it back to the story area and begin rocking the baby, inviting children to imagine that it is baby Moses. Have them repeat the bolded phrases after you.)

Long ago in Bible times, there was a baby named Moses. His family loved and cared for him. *(Invite children to make rocking motions.)* **Go to sleep, baby Moses.**

Every day Moses' sister, Miriam, played with baby Moses. Every day, Mother fed baby Moses and rocked him to sleep. *(Invite children to make rocking motions.)* **Go to sleep, baby Moses.**

But there was a mean king who wanted to hurt baby Moses. God helped Moses' mother make a plan to keep her baby safe. She found a basket and made it into a little boat. She wrapped the baby snug and warm. She put the baby in the basket and hid him in the reeds at the edge of the river. *(Invite children to make rocking motions.)* **Go to sleep, baby Moses.**

Baby Moses

(based on Exodus 1:8—2:10)

Miriam, Moses' sister, stayed and watched the basket as it rocked gently in the water. *(Invite children to make rocking motions.)* **Go to sleep, baby Moses.**

Suddenly, Miriam heard footsteps. The princess, the king's daughter, was coming to the river. The princess saw the little basket. The princess heard Moses cry. She opened the basket and saw baby Moses. She wanted to help take care of the baby. *(Invite children to make rocking motions.)* **Go to sleep, baby Moses.**

Miriam was very brave. She walked up to the princess and said, "I will get somebody to look after this baby for you. Just until he grows big enough to come and live with you." The princess thought that was a great idea.

So Miriam ran home. She came back with her own mother – the baby's mother. And the princess let Moses' mother take the baby home. Now baby Moses was safe. And when baby Moses grows big enough, he will go and live in the palace with the princess. *(Invite children to make rocking motions.)* **Go to sleep, baby Moses.**

Optional activity after the story

Activity Provide some baby dolls for children to rock and play with.

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 72.

- Storytelling** Enlarge figures and have the children colour these first, and then cut out each child's set. Prepare papers ahead of time, with "water" strips already glued on.

- Baby basket** Draw faces onto the clothes pegs/pins ahead of time.
- Flowers** Use only one filter per child; tape edges to table surface so these are easier to decorate. Make a sample flower.



Tips for three-year-olds

- They know what it is to be called by name.
- They enjoy using their imaginations.

Holy and Humble Curiosity Exodus 3:1–15

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

A Surprising Call

(based on Exodus 3:1–15)

(Long ago in Bible times, God's people worked hard for a mean king. But God wanted to help

them. God asked Moses for help.

Moses knew about the king. Moses had run away from the king and was living in the desert, caring for sheep.

One day Moses decided climb a mountain.

(Set out the poster board bush with red, orange, and yellow crayons or markers. Invite children to colour the outline of the burning bush as they listen to the rest of the story.)

On the mountain Moses saw something amazing – a bush. The bush was on fire, but it didn't burn up!

Imagine hearing that fire crackle.

Imagine smelling the branches burn.

Imagine feeling heat from the burning bush.

Imagine seeing a fire that just keeps burning.

Then Moses heard a voice call to him: "Moses, Moses!"

Moses answered, "Here I am."

The voice told Moses to take off his shoes, because he was in a very special place.

Moses took off his shoes.

Then Moses heard the voice say, "I am God. I need your help, Moses." Moses listened carefully to God.

God said, "I want you to help the people get away from the mean king. I want you to take them to a new home."

Moses didn't know what to think. He said, "How can I do that?" God said, "I will be with you."

Moses felt God's love all around him. Moses knew he would do what God called him to do.

Optional activity after the story

Sing "Moses Heard God's Call" (tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Moses heard God call his name,
call his name, call his name.

Moses heard God call his name
beside the burning bush.

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 78.

- Love necklaces** Prepare pipe cleaners by forming into heart shapes ahead of time.
- Puppets** Make a sample puppet. Help children decorate the faces and glue onto the bags.
- Art response** Tape papers to table surface to make it easier to paint over them.