



# God Sightings & Faith Talks

Teaching kids to spot God  
in everyday situations

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**For the parents of 1-4 year olds**

In a national study titled "The Most Significant Religious Influences" conducted by the Search Institute, teenagers were asked to identify what factors influenced them to have faith.

- #1 Mom
- #2 Dad
- #3 Pastor
- #4 Grandparent
- #5 Sunday School
- #6 Youth Group
- #7 Church Camp
- #8 Retreats

**Mom & Dad were two to three times more influential than any church program**

**vs.**

*So, how do we as church families rate when it comes to intentionally developing the spiritual lives of our kids?*

12 percent of church teenagers say they have regular faith discussions at home with mom.

5 percent of church teenagers say they have regular faith discussions at home with dad.

9 percent of church teenagers say they experience regular reading of the Bible and devotions in the home.

## **Deuteronomy 6:1-9:**

*6 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, <sup>2</sup> so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. <sup>3</sup> Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.*

*<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

God gave some very specific instruction for parents concerning the spiritual nurture of their children. He instructs parents to be the primary nurturer of their children's faith. He also instructs them to repeat what they know. (the word "Deuteronomy" literally means repetition of the law.)

We've got to be as intentional about the spiritual development of our children as we are about any other area of development.

## **Devotions With Toddlers? Are You Kidding Me?!**

- 1. Have a plan**
- 2. Keep it short**
- 3. Include prayer**
- 4. Pick the right time**
- 5. Spice it up**
- 6. Be consistent.**
- 7. START NOW!**



### **What should we include?**

**Life Application:** teach kids that the Bible has value in their lives today. Learn how to apply the scripture you've discussed in order to make it relevant to each family member.

**Prayer:** Praying together as a family is powerful. (It may be painful at first!) Learning to lead each other is important.

**Scripture:** Make sure that faith talks don't come a coaching session. Use scripture and learn to dissect it a bit.

**Slow down! Learn to practice the presence of God all day long. Model this behavior for young kids.**

**Car Time**

**Play Time**

**Meal Time**

**Friends**

**Praise Songs**

**Holidays**

**“When you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”**

**Deuteronomy 6:7**

# God Sightings:

## Learning to Spot God in the Everyday

**Slow down! Learn to practice the presence of God all day long. Model this behavior for young kids.**

**Car Time**

**Play Time**



**Meal Time**



**Friends**

**Praise Songs**

**Holidays**

**Nature**

**Sounds**

**Smells**



**Animals**

**“When you sit at home and when you walk along the road,  
when you lie down and when you get up.” Deuteronomy 6:7**

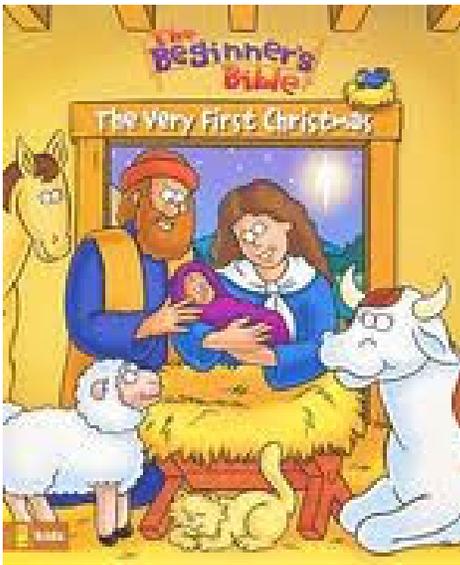
## Holiday Resources:



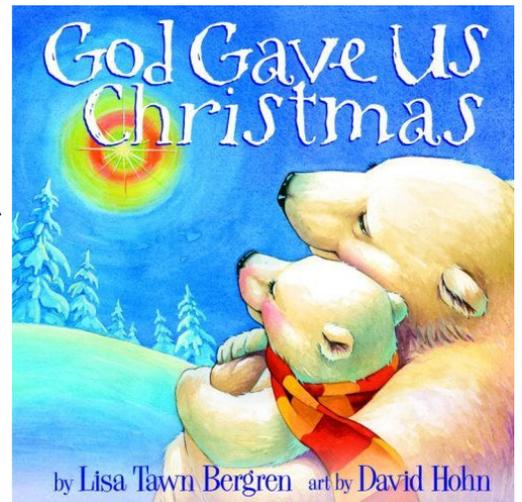
*Fisher Price Nativity Advent Calendar*



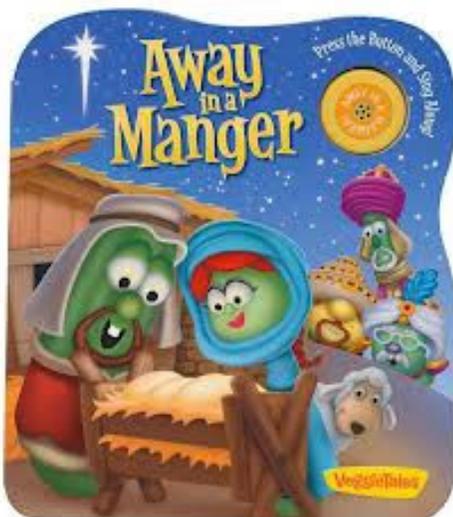
*Little People Nativity Set*



*The Very First Christmas: The Beginner's Bible*

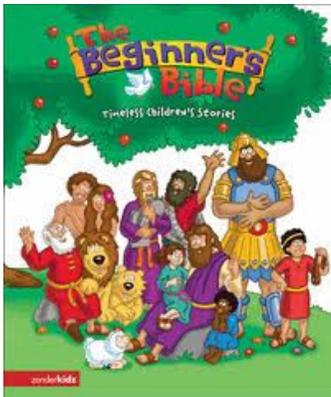


*God Gave Us Christmas*

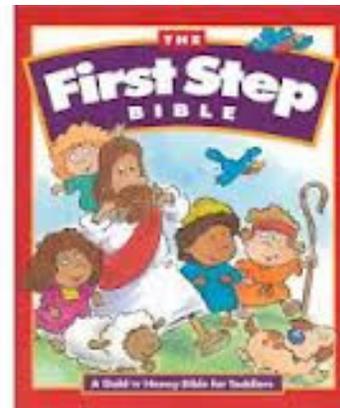


*Away in a Manger*

## Bibles:

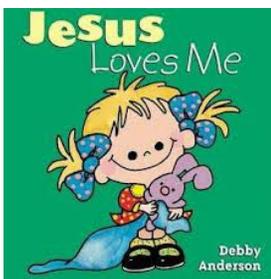


*The Beginner's Bible*



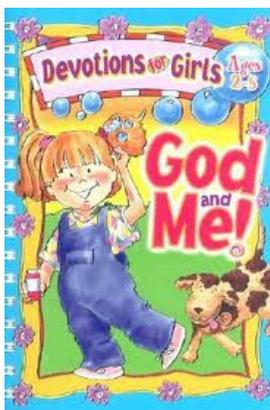
First Step Bible

## General Devotionals, Storybooks, and Toys:



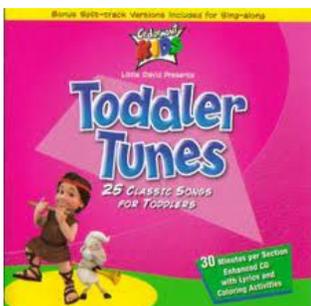
*Debby Anderson Board books, 3 Volumes*

*Tales of Glory Figurine Sets*



*God and Me/Gotta Have God  
Devotions for Kids (boys & girls)*

*Miss Patty Cake DVD's*



*Cedarmont Kids*

# Scripture for Toddlers?! YES!

John 13:34 **“Love one another.”**

Isaiah 9:6 **“To us a child is born”**

Genesis 1:1 **“God created the heavens and the earth”**

John 3:16 **“God so loved the world”**

John 14:6 **“Jesus said, I am the way”**

Ephesians 2:8 **“By grace you have been saved”**

Psalms 27:1 **“The Lord is my light”**

Proverbs 3:5 **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart”**

Philippians 4:13 **“I can do everything through Christ”**

I Thessalonians 5:18 **“Give thanks in all things”**

2 Timothy 3:16 **“All scripture is God breathed”**

Psalms 119:105 **“Your word is a lamp to my feet”**

Matthew 28:19 **“Go and make disciples”**

Psalms 23:1 **“The Lord is my shepherd”**



**Start children  
off on the way  
they should go.  
Proverbs 22:6**

## Key Spiritual Concepts for Toddlers:

**Praying at home and at church teaches our kids the value of talking to God.**

**Use “God sightings” often.**

**Have regular “Faith Talks” at home.**

**Memorize scripture as a family.**

- **God loves me**
- **I can talk to God**
- **Jesus is my friend**
- **I can count on God**

It **IS** possible for the youngest children to glean spiritual truth. We instill these by telling kids constantly that “Jesus loves you.” We also do this by showing them pictures and books that show Jesus loving others.