

I Pray at Church

Lesson 2

Scripture: Psalm 122:1

Focus: ♥ I pray at church.

Bible Words: "I am happy at church" (based on Psalm 122:1).

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Think about how much you enjoy talking with good friends. The conversation just naturally flows, and you can catch up on news, even if you haven't spoken in a while. If you're happy, they are happy for you. If you're feeling blue, you can confide in them and know they will sympathize with you. Prayer is talking to our best friend, God. Even if it's been awhile, He is right there, waiting for your call. Help the children begin to understand that prayer is talking to their best friend!

Lesson 2 at a Glance

ACTIVITY TIME

Use one or more of these activities to help children *explore the theme, I pray at church.*

Note: You can find the CD, visual sheets, and board books in the *Toddlers & 2s Teacher's Classroom Pack.*

First Hour Unit 1 Activities



Fun with Blocks



Look What I Can Do

Materials

- sheet 1 unit 1 poster, sheet 5 song poster, *I Am Happy at Church!* book, books and puzzles, CD, CD player

- large blocks

Extra Hour Unit 1 Activity



Walking to Church



"I Fold My Hands"

Materials

- masking tape, sheet 3 church building

- CD *Family Together Time* issue 2 printable file

BIBLE TIME

Help children *know that we pray at church.*

Bible Time can be done several ways and whenever best fits your schedule. If you do the longer Bible Time story, you will need more items.

- hand mirror, Bible, CD, CD player, baby doll, sheet 3 church building, empty glue bottle

Bible Time can be done several ways. If you do one of the other story options, you will need different items.

- hand mirror, Bible, CD, CD player, *I Am Happy at Church!* book

DISCOVERY TIME

Use one or more of these activities to help children *continue exploring the theme, I pray at church.*



Calling All Friends



Going to Church



Praying Children

Saying Good-bye or Transition to Extra Hour

- real or toy phones, CD, CD player

- riding and push/pull toys, CD, CD player

- CD Praying Children coloring page printable file, large crayons, happy face stickers

- blocks, modeling dough, CD *Family Together Time* issue 2 printable file



Puppet Fun
You Can Pray



Getting Babies Ready



Peekaboo Pictures



Praying Hands

Saying Good-bye

- Teddy the bear puppet

- toy food, baby dolls and bottles, washcloths, sheet 3 church building

- peekaboo picture board from lesson 1

- construction paper, large crayons, stickers

- CD *Family Together Time* issue 2 printable file

Activity Time (25–30 minutes)

Do these activities with individual children or a few children at a time to help children **explore the theme, I pray at church.**

Focus

♥ I pray at church.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Do check-in procedures you follow (name and security tags, etc.).
- Play songs softly in the background (Optional—tracks 13 and 14).
- Lead each child to an activity.

Unit 1 Activities

Use these activities anytime during your session. Children will enjoy doing them each week.

Poster: Before class, display the unit 1 poster in your room. Ask children to point to the child who is praying. SAY: ♥ **We can pray at church.**

Books and puzzles: Use the *I Am Happy at Church!* book and other books and puzzles that show children at church. Look at books with interested children and help children do puzzles. Talk about how church is a happy place.

"I Am Happy at Church" song: Before class, display the unit 1 song poster in your room. Play "I Am Happy at Church" from the CD. Sing with individual children or small groups of children. Encourage children to clap their hands and sing along.

Fun with Blocks

Set out blocks and let children have fun with them. Stack a few blocks and SAY: **Who can help me build a church building?** Encourage children to help you. After you've completed a wall or two, SAY: **One thing we do at a church building is pray.** As children stack blocks and knock them over, say often, **Church is such a happy place! We play with our friends. We sing and we pray.** Sit "inside" one of the block structures. SAY: ♥ **I can pray at church.** Fold your hands, bow your head, and say a short prayer. Invite older children to imitate your actions and say a prayer.

1s will stack blocks and knock them over.

2s will do the above, sit inside a block structure, and possibly say a prayer.

Look What I Can Do

Sit with a few children on the floor. SAY: **Look what I can do with my hands. I can clap with my hands.** Do the suggested actions and encourage the children to do them too. **I can wave with my hands. I can wiggle my fingers really fast. I can hold my hands up high. I can fold my hands.** ♥ **I can pray at church.** Fold your hands and bow your head. Invite the children to do this also. (You may want to let the children use their hands to pray before eating a snack. Remember to check all food allergies.) PRAY: **Thank You, God, for all the things we can do with our hands. In Jesus' name, amen.** Invite verbal children to pray "thank You, God."

1s will try to imitate the finger movements and possibly fold their hands.

2s will do the above and pray.

Bible Words

"I am happy at church"
(based on Psalm 122:1).

Materials

sheet 1 unit 1 poster, sheet 5 song poster,

I Am Happy at Church! book, books and puzzles, CD track 2, CD player



Materials

large blocks



Something More!

Encourage children to look at the suspended mobile. Sing the song suggested in the Jump for Joy Mobile activity in lesson 1.



Read Friends at Church in the CD Unit 1 Special Needs Helps file to understand the importance of church friends for children who have special needs.

Materials

(optional: snacks)



Have an adult helper offer hand-over-hand assistance while sitting behind the child who may have difficulty mimicking even the simplest of movements.

Transition to Bible Time

- Use a cleanup song or signal to transition to Bible Time.

Focus

♥ I pray at church.

Bible Time (shorter version: 5-10 minutes)

Use this Bible Time or the longer version found on the unit 1 pages to help children **know that we pray at church.**

Materials

hand mirror, Bible, CD track 1, CD player, baby doll, sheet 3 church building, empty glue bottle



Tips About Bible Time

Encourage verbal children and other helpers to sing the songs with you!

The song "Oh, I Love to Pat the Bible" is recorded on the CD.



Read Special Needs Tips in the CD Special Needs folder for how to use Bible Time with children who have special needs.

Read Show Me the Church in the CD Unit 1 Special Needs Helps file for ideas you can use to help children with special needs understand more about the church.

After children have gathered for Bible Time, sing this song several times: (tune: "The Farmer in the Dell")

**I like to go to church. I like to go to church.
With all the other boys and girls,
I like to go to church.**

At the end of the song, clap and ask everyone to clap. **We're so glad to be at church! We're glad you're at church today!** Hold the mirror in front of each child. **We're so glad ____ is at church today. And we're so glad ____ is at church today.** Do with each child, using each child's name.

Show your Bible and ASK: **What is this?** Children should say "Bible." **We love our Bible. It tells us about God. Let's pat our Bible.** Hold the Bible in front of each child. Let each pat the Bible while singing "Oh, I Love to Pat the Bible" (track 1) several times:

(tune: "Did You Ever See a Lassie?")

**Oh, I love to pat the Bible, the Bible, the Bible.
Oh, I love to pat the Bible, for it is God's Word.**

The Bible tells us that church is a happy place. Show children the baby doll. **This little girl is ready to go to church. She likes to go to church.** Let children touch and hold the doll while singing this song:

(tune: "The Farmer in the Dell")

**I am happy at church. I am happy at church.
I can pray at my church. I am happy at church.**

Stand up the church building. **The little girl is going to church.** Walk the doll to the church building. **She is happy at church. She likes to pray at church. ♥ We can pray at church too. It's good to fold our hands when we pray. I'm going to put some special "glue" on my hands to help me fold them.** Take the glue bottle and pretend to glue your hands together. Show children your folded hands.

I'm going to put some special glue on your hands to help you fold your hands. Touch each child's hands with the glue bottle and pretend to put on some special glue while singing this song:

(tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

**I can pray at church. I can pray at church.
I can pray at church. I can pray at church.**

The Bible says that you (point to children) **are happy at church and I** (point to self) **am happy at church. Yay! Clap hands. Who is happy at church?** Encourage verbal children to say the Bible Words with you. Hold the mirror in front of each child as you SAY: ♥ **You can pray at church, ____.** PRAY: **Dear God, thank You that we can pray at church. In Jesus' name, amen.** Encourage verbal children to say "thank You" or "God."

Discovery Time (15–20 minutes)

Do these activities with individual children or a few children at a time to help children **continue exploring the theme, I pray at church.**

Focus

♥ I pray at church.

Calling All Friends

Set out some phones or use the phones in the family living center. Give a phone to a child and keep one for yourself. Call the child on the phone while playing the phone sounds on the CD. SAY: **Hello, _____. This is _____. Would you like to come to church with me?** Encourage the child to respond. ♥ **I pray at church. I am happy at church!** Invite verbal children to say with you, **I am happy at church!** Also encourage the children to call each other and say the Bible Words.

1s will listen on a phone and enjoy being spoken to.

2s will do the above, call other children on the phone, and say the Bible Words.

Going to Church

Set out several riding toys and push/pull toys children can play with. SAY: **It's time to go to church. Follow me!** Play the car sounds from the CD as you lead the children around the classroom while they either ride their vehicles or push/pull their toys. After a short walk, SAY: **Here we are at church. ♥ We can pray at church. Let's pray and thank God for a safe trip.** Say a short prayer and encourage the children to pray with you. If children are interested, do the activity again and let one of the older children be the leader.

1s will enjoy riding or pushing/pulling a toy and may follow you.

2s will do the above, possibly say a prayer, and possibly be the leader.

Praying Children



Before class, print copies of the coloring page.

Give each child a copy of the coloring page. SAY: **Look at the children. What are they doing?** Encourage verbal children to respond to questions. **They are praying to God. They know that ♥ they can pray at church.** As children scribble-color the page, ASK: **Do you like to come to church? Can you pray at church?** Allow children who have trouble grasping small objects to use bingo daubers or stampers to color their pages. Give children a few happy face stickers to press onto the page. Some children may enjoy gluing small pieces of fabric onto the clothes. **Church is a happy place. I am happy at church! Are you happy at church?** Invite verbal children to say the Bible Words with you.

1s will scribble-color and press on stickers.

2s will do the above, respond to questions, and say the Bible Words.

Saying Good-bye

For children who are leaving, give parents craft activities and copies of *Family Together Time* issue 2 from the CD. Tell parents something their children enjoyed. Tell each child, **Good-bye. See you next time!** Note: *Family Together Time* is also available online for families to download. See www.21stcc.com.

Materials

real or toy phones, CD track 9, CD player
(optional: family living center)



Read Friends at Church in the CD Unit 1 Special Needs Helps file to understand the importance of church friends for children who have special needs.

Materials

riding and push/pull toys, CD track 8, CD player



Read Drive Me Crazy in the CD Unit 1 Special Needs Helps file to adapt this activity for children who have special needs.

Materials

CD Praying Children coloring page printable file, large crayons, happy face stickers (optional: bingo daubers or stampers, fabric)



Transition to Extra Hour

- Have at least one adult greet new children and at least one adult engage children in activities away from the door.
- Continue Discovery Time choices children are enjoying.
- As children play with blocks or balls, SAY: **Church is such a happy place!**
- Let children play with modeling dough. SAY: **It's fun to play with dough. I am happy at church!**

Focus

♥ I pray at church.

Extra Hour Activity and Bible Time

(25–35 minutes)

Do these activities with individual children or a few children at a time to help children **explore the theme, I pray at church.**

Bible Words

"I am happy at church"
(based on Psalm 122:1).

Materials

masking tape, sheet 3
church building



Materials

CD *Family Together Time*
issue 2 printable file



Materials

hand mirror, Bible, CD
tracks 1 and 2, CD
player, *I Am Happy at Church!*
book



Tips About Bible Time

Encourage verbal children and other helpers to sing the songs with you!

The songs "Oh, I Love to Pat the Bible" and "I Am Happy at Church" are recorded on the CD.



Read Special Needs Tips in the CD Special Needs folder for how to use Bible Time with children who have special needs.

Welcome

- Welcome new children by name.
- Do check-in procedures you follow (name and security tags, etc.).
- Check and change diapers and/or have restroom time.

Unit 1 Activity Walking to Church

Before class, make a long line on the floor with the tape. Put the church building at one end. Invite the children to walk on the line to church. SAY: **I like to go to church. ♥ We can pray at church!**

"I Fold My Hands"

Do the rhyme from *Family Together Time*. Invite children to clap their hands with you. Use a cleanup song or signal and transition to Bible Time.

Bible Time

Use this Bible Time, the one from first hour, or the longer version found on the unit pages.

Sing this song several times:

(tune: "The Farmer in the Dell")

I like to go to church. I like to go to church.

With all the other boys and girls, I like to go to church.

Clap and ask everyone to clap. **We're so glad to be at church! We're glad you're at church today!** Hold the mirror in front of each child. **We're so glad ____ is at church today. And we're so glad ____ is at church today.**

Show your Bible and ASK: **What is this?** Children should say "Bible." **We love our Bible. It tells us about God. Let's pat our Bible.** Hold the Bible in front of each child. Let each pat the Bible while singing "Oh, I Love to Pat the Bible" (track 1) several times:

(tune: "Did You Ever See a Lassie?")

Oh, I love to pat the Bible, the Bible, the Bible.

Oh, I love to pat the Bible, for it is God's Word.

Read *I Am Happy at Church!*, showing the pictures as you read. Then sing "I Am Happy at Church" (track 2) and encourage children to clap: (tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It"; also sing—"I can sing.)

I am happy at church, *I'll clap my hands.

I am happy at church, *I'll clap my hands.

I am happy at church. I am happy at church.

I am happy at church, *I'll clap my hands.

The Bible tells us that you (point to children) **are happy at church and I** (point to self) **am happy at church. Who is happy at church?** Encourage children to say the Bible Words. Hold the mirror in front of each child as you SAY: ♥ **You can pray at church, ____, PRAY: Dear God, thank You that we can pray to You at church. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Extra Hour Discovery Time (20–25 minutes)

Do these activities with individual children or a few children at a time to help children **continue exploring the theme, I pray at church.**

Focus

♥ I pray at church.

Puppet Fun You Can Pray

Take Teddy to individual children or small groups of children. **Hi! My name is Teddy. What is your name?** Invite children to respond. **I like to talk with you. I hope you like talking with me. Do you know who else you can talk to? You can talk and pray to God.** Fold Teddy's hands. **Can you fold your hands?** Help each child do so. **You can fold your hands when you pray to God.**

Materials

Teddy the bear puppet



Getting Babies Ready

Let the children have fun with the dolls. SAY: **It's time to get ready for church. The baby dolls need a bath.** Show how to wash the dolls' faces and hands with a wet washcloth. Guide the children to feed the dolls also. Set up the church building. **It's time to go to church. Let's go!** Hold a doll and walk to the church building. Encourage children to walk with you. **Here we are at church! Can you pray at church? ♥ I can pray at church. I am happy at church!** Invite verbal children to say the Bible Words with you.

1s will help bathe and feed the baby dolls.

2s will do the above, walk to the church building, and say the Bible Words.

Materials

baby dolls, wet washcloths (or wet wipes), doll bottles, toy food, sheet 3 church building



Read Show Me the Church in the CD Unit
1 Special Needs Helps file to adapt this activity for children who have special needs.

Peekaboo Pictures

Put the picture board on the floor or on a table and encourage a child to lift a flap and look at the hidden picture. ASK: **Is the girl happy?** Encourage verbal children to respond. **We are happy here at church. Is the girl happy? She likes to pray at church. ♥ I pray at church too.** Point to yourself and SAY: **I am happy at church.** Ask children to point to themselves and verbal children to say the Bible Words with you.

1s will enjoy lifting the flaps and look at the pictures.

2s will do the above, respond to questions, and say the Bible Words.

Materials

peekaboo picture board from lesson 1



Praying Hands

Before class, print "I pray at church" at the top of sheets of construction paper.

Ask each child to place one hand on a sheet of construction paper while you trace around it. As children scribble-color their hand outlines, SAY: **This is an outline of one of your hands. You can do a lot of things with your hands. You can fold your hands when you pray.** Fold your hands. **Can you fold your hands? I like to pray to God. ♥ I can pray at church.** Invite verbal children to say the Bible Words with you. Let children also press stickers onto their papers.

1s will probably let you trace their hands, scribble-color the papers, and press on stickers.

2s will do the above and say the Bible Words.

Materials

construction paper, large crayons, stickers of people praying (and/or praying hands stickers)



Some children may not want their hands traced around. That's OK. You can trace around your hand and give your outline to the children to color.

Saying Good-bye

Give parents copies of *Family Together Time* issue 2 from the CD and craft activities their children may have done. Tell each child, **Good-bye. See you next week!**

NOTE: *Family Together Time* is also available online for families to download. See www.21stcc.com.