

I Sing at Church

Lesson 1

Scripture: Psalm 122:1

Focus: ♥ I sing at church.

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

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Do you ever find yourself singing as the day goes along? Stop a moment and think about how you are feeling at that time. You feel happy and have joy in your heart. God has given us many ways to connect with Him, and singing is one of them. Young children may not know many words to songs, but they can hear the rhythm, feel the beat, and see the smile on your face as you sing. Help the children begin to connect to God through the wonderful gift of song.

Lesson 1 at a Glance

ACTIVITY TIME

Use one or more of these activities to help children *explore the theme, I sing 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

poster, books and puzzles, song



Jump for Joy Mobile



A Joyful Noise

Materials

- sheet 1 unit 1 poster, sheet 5 song poster, *I Am Happy at Church!* book, books and puzzles, CD, CD player, clear adhesive covering
- sheet 3 unit 1 mobile pictures, yarn, hole punch
- CD, CD player



Extra Hour Unit 1 Activity

Walking to Church



"I Like to Sing at Church"

Materials

- masking tape, sheet 3 church building, CD, CD player
- CD *Family Together Time* issue 1 printable file

BIBLE TIME

Help children *know that we sing 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.

- Teddy the bear puppet, hand mirror, Bible, CD track 1 and easels printable file, CD player, baby doll, sheet 3 church building, musical instruments, clear tape

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

- Teddy the bear puppet, 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 sing at church.*



Driving to Church



Putting the Babies to Bed



Sing and March

Saying Good-bye or Transition to Extra Hour

- toy cars and other vehicles, CD, CD player, sheet 3 church building

- baby dolls, blankets, baby bed

- CD, CD player

- toy phones, blocks, CD *Family Together Time* issue 1 printable file



Puppet Fun Teddy Likes to Sing



Singing with Streamers



Peekaboo Pictures



Singing Tubes

Saying Good-bye

- Teddy the bear puppet

- crepe-paper streamers, scissors, CD, CD player

- sheet 4 unit 1 peekaboo pictures of children, glue, poster board
- address labels, marker, paper towel tubes, stickers

- CD *Family Together Time* issue 1 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 sing at church.**

Focus

♥ I sing 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, cover the unit 1 poster with clear adhesive covering and display it in your room. Ask children to point to the child who is singing. SAY: **It's fun to sing at church.**

Books and puzzles: Use the *I Am Happy at Church!* book and other books and puzzles that show children at church. You may want to cover the book with clear adhesive covering. 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.

Jump for Joy Mobile

Before class, press out the pictures of children. Punch a hole in each picture. Tie with yarn and hang as a mobile from the ceiling in your room. Or hang them from the dowel rod to hold above the children's heads. Leave the mobile up during unit 1.

Encourage the children to look at the pictures and jump up or reach high for them. Or you can hold children up to the pictures so they can touch them. SAY: **Look, there's a boy. He's happy at church.** Sing the following to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Encourage verbal children to sing with you. **I am happy at church. I am happy at church. I am very happy. I am happy at church.**

1s will look up, jump, and reach for the pictures.

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

A Joyful Noise

SAY: ♥ **We can sing at church and be happy. Let's sing!** Play the song "I Am Happy at Church." Encourage verbal children to sing with you. You can also march around the room while singing the song, inviting the children to follow you. **I'm glad ♥ I can sing at church. I am happy at church!**

1s will listen to the song.

2s will possibly march around the room while singing some of the song.

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, clear adhesive covering



Materials

sheet 3 unit 1 mobile pictures, yarn, hole punch (optional: dowel rod)



Add pictures of children from your class to the mobile to help children who have trouble identifying themselves with their peers.

Materials

CD track 2, CD player



Offer behind-the-head earmuffs or noise-canceling headphones for children who experience noise sensitivity.

Transition to Bible Time

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

Focus

♥ I sing 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 sing at church.**

Materials

Teddy the bear puppet, hand mirror, Bible, CD track 1, CD player, baby doll, sheet 3 church building, CD easels printable file (or paper towel tubes), clear tape (optional: clear adhesive covering)



Before Class

Print easels from the CD and attach them to the back of the church building. Or you can attach paper towel tubes to the back of the church building. You may want to cover the church building figure with clear adhesive covering before attaching the easels.

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.

Call Teddy by name. Children will love to hear the name of their puppet friend!



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 as each child pets or hugs Teddy:

(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. SAY: **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 sing 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 sing at church. ♥ We can sing at church too.** Sing "Jesus Loves Me" or another familiar song. Clap hands and encourage children to clap their hands and verbal children to sing with you.

Church is such a happy place. ♥ We can sing at church. Encourage children to sing this song:

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

I can sing at church. I can sing at church.

I can sing at church. I can sing 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 sing at church, ___.** PRAY: **Dear God, thank You that we can sing at church. In Jesus' name, amen.** Encourage verbal children to say "thank You" or "God." Have Teddy say good-bye as each child pets or hugs the puppet.

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 sing at church.**

Focus

♥ I sing at church.

Driving to Church

Allow children to play with toy cars and other vehicles. Let them play on a road rug if you have one. Play the car sounds from the CD. Set up the church building at one end of the rug or play area. SAY: **It's time to go to church. Let's drive our cars to church.** Point to the church building. Drive a car to the church building and invite the children to drive their cars to the church building also. SAY: **Here we are at church. Church is such a happy place! ♥ I can sing at church!** Sing a favorite song and encourage children to sing with you.

1s will enjoy playing with the cars and listening to the song.

2s will do the above and may sing along.

Putting the Babies to Bed

Let children play with baby dolls. Rock a baby doll in your arms and SAY: **The baby doll is sleepy. Let's sing her to sleep.** Sing a quiet song. **Can you help put the babies to sleep?** Guide the children to put blankets over them and rock the dolls or lay them in the bed. You can sing quiet songs and encourage verbal children to sing songs to their dolls too. You could also play some quiet songs from the CD. **I like to sing to the baby dolls. I'm glad ♥ I can sing at church.**

1s will hold or rock baby dolls and put them in bed.

2s will do the above and possibly sing to the baby dolls.

Sing and March

SAY: **I like to sing at church.** Sing a song. **♥ I can sing at church while I march.** Show children how to sing and march. SAY: **♥ I sing at church. I can march and sing!** Play Track 2 from the CD and invite children to march and verbal children to sing along.

1s will march with you.

2s will do the above and may sing.

Saying Good-bye

For children who are leaving, give parents craft activities and copies of *Family Together Time* issue 1 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.

*Quiet Songs, Active Songs

The quiet songs and active songs on the CD are intended to capture the attention of the Toddlers and create a mood (much like the musical mobile over a baby bed). They are not worship songs or to be used in worship-related activities. They are optional to this activity and all similar activities this quarter. If you are uncomfortable with these songs, feel free to omit them or substitute songs of your own choosing.

Materials

toy cars and other vehicles, CD track 8, CD player, sheet 3 church building (optional: road rug)



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

Materials

baby dolls, blankets, baby bed (*optional: CD tracks 13 and 14, CD player)



Materials

CD tracks 2, CD player



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.
- Let children play with toy phones. Call a child on a phone and SAY: **Come to church with me. ♥ We sing at church.**
- As children play with blocks or balls, SAY: **Church is such a happy place!**

Focus

♥ I sing 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 sing at church.**

Bible Words

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

Materials

masking tape, sheet 3
church building, CD,
CD player



Materials

CD *Family Together Time*
issue 1 printable file



Materials

Teddy the bear puppet,
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.

Call Teddy by name. Children will love to hear the name of their furry friend!



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 line on the floor with the tape. Put the church building at one end. Invite children to walk on the line to church. SAY: **I like to go to church. ♥ We can sing at church!** Sing songs about Jesus while walking.

"I Like to Sing at Church"

Sing the song 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 as each child pets or hugs Teddy:
(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). 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 sing at church, ____.** PRAY: **Dear God, thank You that we can sing at church. In Jesus' name, amen.** Have Teddy say good-bye.

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 sing at church.**

Focus

♥ I sing at church.

Puppet Fun Teddy Likes to Sing

Take Teddy to individual children or small groups of children. SAY: **Hi! My name is Teddy. Do you know one thing I like to do at church? I like to sing!** Have Teddy sing a song about Jesus that your children will know. ASK: **Do you like to sing?** Have Teddy sing the song again and encourage verbal children to sing along. **I liked singing with you. It's fun to sing at church!**

Singing with Streamers

Before class, cut crepe-paper streamers approximately 2' in length (or gather long scarves).

Give each child a streamer. Play songs from the CD and sing along. Demonstrate how to wave the streamers as the songs play. SAY: **♥ I like to sing at church. Let's sing and wave our streamers.** Encourage the children to wave their streamers and verbal children to sing along.

1s will enjoy waving the streamers.

2s will do the above and sing.

Peekaboo Pictures

Before class, press out the pictures, fold on the dotted lines so the pictures are inside, and glue the folded pictures to the poster board.

Put the poster 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 boy happy? He likes to read about Jesus at church. ♥ I read about Jesus 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 looking at the pictures.

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

Singing Tubes

Before class, print ♥ "I sing at church" on address labels.

Hold a paper tube up to your mouth and sing through it. SAY: **I like to sing at church. I like to sing about Jesus.** Let the children press stickers onto the tubes. Help each child press on a label as you SAY: **♥ I sing at church.** ASK: **Can you sing at church? Let's sing a song about Jesus.** Show children how to hold the tubes up to their mouths and sing through them. Use the tubes to sing with the children a happy song about Jesus.

1s will press on stickers and labels and may hold the tubes up to their mouths.

2s will do the above and try singing through the tubes.

Saying Good-bye

Give parents copies of *Family Together Time* issue 1 from the CD and craft activities their children may have done. Tell each child, **Good-bye. See you next week!**

Materials

Teddy the bear puppet



Children with special needs may identify with Teddy as the recurring character. Use him during a transition time that seems particularly difficult.

Materials

crepe-paper streamers (or long scarves), scissors, CD, CD player



Materials

sheet 4 unit 1 peekaboo pictures of children, glue, poster board



The predictability of this activity makes it fun for children who crave routine and feel safe when they know what is going to happen next!

Materials

address labels, marker, paper towel tubes, stickers



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