

Songs, Rhymes and Prayers for Preschool Children








Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand



Singing with Preschoolers

We all remember the songs we learnt at Sunday School, Christian camps, holiday programmes. We'd sing them at home or travelling on long journeys. The words are indelibly etched in our minds. So let's choose songs that have easy tunes, with great affirming words, easy for preschoolers to learn and remember. Let's make singing part of every lesson. You don't have to be a good singer or play an instrument, but you can....

	Use CD's
	Use common tunes so everyone can join in
	Use instruments that children can play
	Use ribbons on sticks or coloured scarves that children can dance with and wave
	Sing your prayers and graces



SONGS

Theme: Getting to know each other

Getting to know you song

Hello (name),
you're such a lovely (name) and...
yes God loves you.

Go around the whole room so you get to know all the children's names. You could use a puppet to lead the singing too.

Learning our Names song

(tune: "The more we are together")

As each child's name is said they should stand up.

Thank-you God for (name)
For (name), for (name)
Thank-you God for (name)
We're glad (s)he is here

Theme: Prayer

I can talk to God my Father

Tune: Oh Susanna

I can talk to God my Father
Wherever I may be
Whether up or down a smile or frown
I know that He hears me
Thank you Father
For all your daily care
Whether up or down a smile or frown
I know that you are there.



Sing to God

Tune: sing a song of sixpence

Sing to God each morning
Sing to God each day
Sing to God with all your heart
When you sing you pray
And when the day is over there's nothing more to do
So sing to God and give him thanks for what he gave to you.

I have Jesus in my heart

Tune: head, shoulders, knees and toes (Add some actions eg cross hands over chest for heart, put hands together for pray etc)

I have Jesus in my heart, in my heart
I have Jesus in my heart, in my heart
He's been there right from the start
I have Jesus in my heart, in my heart, in my heart

I will pray to Him each day, each day
I will pray to Him each day, each day
I will pray to Him each day
He will hear the words I pray, I pray

I will try hard to be good, to be good
I will try hard to be good, to be good
I will try hard to be good
Do the things I know I should, know I should.



Theme: God's love

God loves you and I love you

*God loves and you and I love you
and that's the way it should be.
God loves and you and I love you
and that's the way it should be.*

You can be happy and I can be happy
and that's the way it should be.
You can be happy and I can be happy
and that's the way it should be. Because....

*God loves and you and I love you
and that's the way it should be.
God loves and you and I love you
and that's the way it should be.*

You can be very sad and I can be very sad
but that's not the way it should be.
You can be very sad and I can be very sad
but that's not the way it should be. Because...

God loves and you and I love you
and that's the way it should be. X 2

Who Loves You?

Tune: Mary had a little lamb

Who? Who? Who loves you?
Who loves you? Who loves you?
Who? Who? Who loves you?
Jesus, he's the one.
Who? Who? cares for you?
Cares for you? Cares for you?
Who? Who? cares for you?
Jesus, he's God's Son!



Clap de Hands

Clap de hands
Stamp de feet
Spread the love of Jesus to everyone you meet
Ohhhh.....
Clap de hands
Stomp de feet
Spread a little love around
(turn around)

I've got that joy

I've got the joy, joy, joy joy down in my heart, where?
Down in my heart, where? down in my heart
I've got the joy, joy, joy joy down in my heart, where?
Down in my heart to stay.

And I'm so happy, so very happy
I've got the joy of Jesus in my heart
And I'm so happy, so very happy
I've got the joy of Jesus in my heart

I've got that love, love, love, love down in my heart, where?
Down in my heart, where? down in my heart
I've got the love, love, love, love down in my heart, where?
Down in my heart to stay.

And I'm so happy, so very happy
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart
And I'm so happy, so very happy
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart

Jesus loves the little children

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow, brown, and white
They are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world



Jesus loves me

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.

Theme: Thanks

Thankyou Grace

Thank you for the world so sweet.
Thank you for the food we eat.
Thank you for the birds that sing.
Thank you God for everything.

Thank you for the world so sweet

Thank you for the world so sweet. hum hum
Thank you for the food we eat. Yum yum.
Thank you for the birds that sing-a-ling-a-ling.
Thank you God for everything.
Amen.

We thank you Lord for happy hearts

Tune: row, row, row your boat

We thank you Lord for happy hearts
For rain and sunny weather
We thank you Lord for this our food
And that we are together.



One little, two little thank you's (Tune: 10 little Indians)

1 little 2 little 3 little thank you's
4 little 5 little 6 little thank you's
7 little 8 little, 9 little thank you's
10 big thank you's God.
Amen

Theme: God's world

Butterfly Poem with hand actions

I caught a little wormy
a crawling up a tree.
He wiggled here
he wiggled there
he wiggled right at me.
I put him in a shoebox
and told him STAY RIGHT THERE.
But when I opened up the box
a butterfly was there.
I don't know how it happened
I couldn't if I tried
cos only God our special friend
can make a butterfly.

God in heaven made a farm (Tune: Old Macdonald)

God in heaven made a farm, Halle Hallelujah
and on his farm he made a chick Halle Hallelujah
with a cluck cluck here and a cluck cluck there
here a cluck there a cluck everywhere a cluck cluck
God in heaven made a farm, Halle Hallelujah

God in heaven made a farm, Halle Hallelujah
and on his farm he made a cow, Halle Hallelujah
with a moo moo here and a moo moo there
here a moo there a moo, everywhere a moo moo
God in heaven made a farm, Halle Hallelujah

(And so on with different animals such as sheep, donkey, dog, cat,
etc.)



Theme: God's world

God made the animals

Tune: the farmer's in the dell

God made the animals
God made the animals
God made the animals
and He made me too

God made the pig oink
God made the pig oink
God made the pig oink
and He made me too

God made the animals
God made the animals
God made the animals
and He made me too

God made the sheep baa
God made the sheep baa
God made the sheep baa
and He made me too

God made the animals
God made the animals
God made the animals
and He made me too

God made the lion roar
God made the lion roar
God made the lion roar
and He made me too

Keep repeating with as many animals as you want.

Theme: God's world

The Butterfly Song

If I were a butterfly,
I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings

And if I were a Robin in a tree,
I'd thank you Lord that I could sing

If I were a fish in the sea,
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee

But I just thank you father for making me, me.

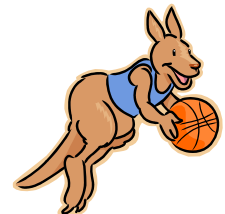
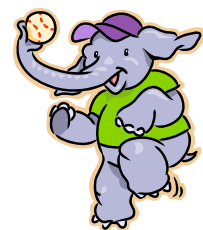
Chorus:

For you gave me a heart
and you gave me a smile
You gave me Jesus
and you made me your child
And I just thank you Father for making me, me.

If I were an elephant,
I'd thank you Lord by raising my trunk

And if I were a kangaroo,
you know I'd hop right up to you
If I were an octopus
I'd thank you Lord for my fine looks.

But I just thank you father for making me, me.



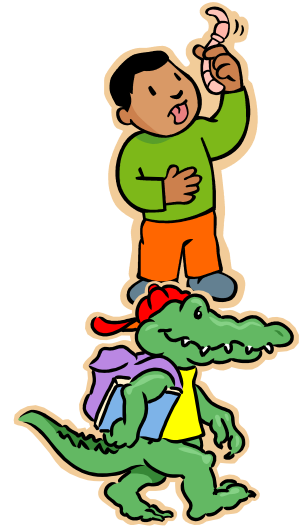


If I were a wiggly worm
I'd thank you Lord that I could squirm

If I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear
I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy, wuzzy hair

If I were a crocodile,
I'd thank you Lord for my great smile

But I just thank you father
for making me, me.



God made the Dinosaur

God made the dinosaurs big and tall.
(children reach hands up high and stretch)

God made the dinosaurs short and small.
(children squat down close to ground)

God made the dinosaurs that fly through the air.
(pretend to fly)

God made the dinosaurs everywhere. *(arms out)*

God made the dinosaurs so they can ROAR *(ROAR loudly!)*

God made the dinosaurs so they could snore *(put head on folded hands, close eyes snore)*

God made the dinosaurs so they could STOMP *(stomp)*

STOMP X 6, ROAR!



Hippo Poem

In the beginning, God made the sea
(spread your hands out to make a wavy sea in front of you)

And the forest filled with trees
(bring your arms up and out at the shoulders, hands pointed down, to make a tree)

He made the mountains up so high
(Bring your arms above your head and make a mountain pointed over you head)

And on the top he placed the sky
(Leave one hand pointed up and use the other to make a motion over the mountain for the sky)

God's fingerprints are everywhere, showing us how much he cares.
(make sign with forefinger and thumb close together but not touching and bring it across your face like you are looking through it)

God made the hippo who weighs a ton
(Make your hands out like a fat hippo and hunch down)

Hip-hip-hip-hippopotamus
(Jump up and down as a "Hippo")

Hip-hip-hooray God made us
(Raise your hands in praise and jump for joy)



Theme: Fears

Children Children have you any fear? (Tune: Baa Baa Black Sheep)

Children children have you any fear?
No ways, No ways, God is near.
He always has me in his sight
He'll keep me 'til the morning light.
Children children have you any fear?
No ways, No ways, God is near.



Praying with Preschool Children

Prayer is crucial to our spirituality and once embraced will sustain our children for life.

EXPLAIN:



When we pray we talk to God.



This can be done in our minds or out loud.



This can happen anywhere.



Prayer is for saying thanks, asking for help, thinking of others, saying we're sorry.



Jesus is our friend who never leaves us.



Share your own prayers. Thank God for your child when you put him/her to bed.

ENCOURAGE AND MODEL:



Pray as a family.



Pray at mealtimes or sing a grace



Pray at bedtime.



Teach them the Lord's Prayer



Thank you prayers

Hang up a string against a wall at a height that children can use. Above the string, attach to the wall a banner with the prayer

“Thank you God for ...”

Nearby place a basket of clothes pegs (the *push on* type rather than the spring type) and a basket of postcard size cards, on which have been stuck pictures – landscapes, animals, insects, fish, birds, flowers, trees, etc.

Or lay out all the picture cards on the floor and invite each child to choose something they’d like to thank God for. When everyone has chosen, go around the circle each taking a turn to say:

“Thank you God for.....Amen.”



Christmas Songs

Twinkle twinkle star so bright

Tune: twinkle twinkle little star

Twinkle twinkle star so bright
Twinkle twinkle in the night
Up above the world so high
Wisemen saw you in the sky
Twinkle twinkle star so bright
Twinkle twinkle in the night

Twinkle twinkle star so bright
Twinkle twinkle in the night
God sent you to show the way
To the house where Jesus lay
Twinkle twinkle star so bright
Twinkle twinkle in the night

Be a Star – action rhyme

Five bright shining stars twinkling in the sky
One of them was hidden as a cloud rolled by

Four bright shining stars twinkling in the sky
One of them put out its light as the moon rose high.

Three bright shining stars twinkling in the sky
One of them played hide and seek and vanished from the sky.

Two bright shining stars twinkling in the sky
One of them has gone to sleep and so must I

So that leaves one bright shining star twinkling on and on
The star the wise men followed till they found God's son.



Jesus is the light

Tune: This little light of mine

Jesus is the light, shining oh so bright
Jesus is the light, shining oh so bright
Jesus is the light, shining oh so bright
Shining bright, shining bright, he's the light.

Sing good news

Tune: we wish you a merry Christmas

An angel came to Mary
An angel came to Mary
An angel came to Mary
To bring her good news.
Good tidings I bring
Of a new baby king
An angel came to Mary
To bring her good news.

Joseph's dream

Tune: My bonnie lies over the ocean

When Joseph lay quietly dreaming (sleep on folded hands)
An angel so big and so bright (circle arms)
Said: You must be married to Mary (stretch arms out)
For that is God's message tonight.
Joseph, Joseph, Mary is having a baby boy (rock arms)
Jesus, Jesus, he will be Jesus her son.



Come on Ring Those Bells

Come on ring those bells
Light the Christmas tree
Jesus is the King
Born for you and me.

Come on ring those bells
Everybody say
Jesus we remember
This your birthday.

A Pukeko in a Ponga Tree

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave
To me a pukeko in a ponga tree.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave
To me two kumara and a pukeko in a ponga tree.

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me
three flax kits... two kumara and a pukeko in a ponga tree.

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave
To me four huhu grubs.... Three flax kits, two kumara and a pukeko
in a ponga tree.

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Five big fat pigs.... Four huhu grubs, three flax kits, two kumara and
a pukeko in a ponga tree.

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Six poi a twirling... five big fat pigs, four huhu grubs, three flax kits,
two kumara and a pukeko in a ponga tree.



On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Seven eels a swimming.... Six poi a twirling, five big fat pigs, four
huhu grubs, three flax kits, two kumara and a pukeko in a ponga
tree.

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Eight plants of puha.... seven eels a swimming, six poi a twirling,
five big fat pigs, four huhu grubs, three flax kits, two kumara and a
pukeko in a ponga tree.

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Nine sacks of pipi.... Eight plants of puha, seven eels a swimming,
six poi a twirling, five big fat pigs, four huhu grubs, three flax kits,
two kumara and a pukeko in a ponga tree.

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Ten juicy fish head.... nine sacks of pipi, eight plants of puha,
seven eels a swimming, six poi a twirling, five big fat pigs, four
huhu grubs, three flax kits, two kumara and a pukeko in a ponga
tree.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Eleven haka lessons.... ten juicy fish head, nine sacks of pipi, eight
plants of puha, seven eels a swimming, six poi a twirling, five big
fat pigs, four huhu grubs, three flax kits, two kumara and a pukeko
in a ponga tree.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Twelve puihui swimming... eleven haka lessons, ten juicy fish head,
nine sacks of pipi, eight plants of puha, seven eels a swimming, six
poi a twirling, five big fat pigs, four huhu grubs, three flax kits, two
kumara and a **pukeko in a ponga tree.**



Mary Had a Baby

Mary had a baby, Yes Lord
Mary had a baby, Yes my Lord
Mary had a baby, Yes Lord
The little baby boy in Bethlehem

Named him Jesus, yes Lord
Named him King Jesus, yes my Lord
Named him King Jesus, yes Lord
The little baby boy in Bethlehem

Pohutukawa Tree

I am a Pohutukawa seed
Plant me in the ground and water me
Plenty of sunshine is what I need
Then guess what you will see?

Out will shoot a tiny twig
And it will continue to grow so big
Beautiful flowers of whero
The native tree of Aotearoa.

Pohutukawa tree, pohutukawa tree
New Zealand's Christmas tree
You fill my heart with aroha
The native tree of Aotearoa.

Sing good news

Tune: We wish you a merry Christmas

An angel came to Mary
An angel came to Mary
An angel came to Mary
To bring her good news.
Good tidings I bring
Of a new baby king
An angel came to Mary
To bring her good news.



Ring Ring, Ring the Bells

Ring, ring, ring the bells
Ring them loud and clear
To tell the children everywhere
Jesus' Birthday's here.

Ring, ring, ring the bells
Ring them loud and clear
To tell the children everywhere
Jesus' Birthday's here.

Ring, ring, ring the bells
Ring them loud and clear
To tell the children everywhere
Jesus' Birthday's here.

Mary's Boy child

Long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible say
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas day

*Hark now hear the angel's sing
A new king born today
And we will live for evermore
Because of Christmas Day*

While shepherds watch their flocks by night
They see a bright new star
They hear a choir sing a song
The music seemed to come from afar



Websites

For lots of cool crafts to go with these songs, especially the “God’s world” songs see:

www.dltk-bible.com

<http://www.biblekidsfunzone.com/index.html>

http://perpetualpreschool.com/christianthemes/bible_themes/bible_nt.htm

<http://www.kidssundayschool.com/>

<http://www.kids-corner.info/myintouch/youth/activities>

<http://www.mssscrafts.com/>

For more preschool songs on CD see:

<https://www.mainlymusic.org/>



For more information contact the Kids Friendly Team:

<http://www.kidsfriendly.org.nz/about/contact-us/>

or admin@kidsfriendly.org.nz