




# Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel

Joshua 1:1-11

Young children rapidly develop a desire to become more independent. They may resist your attempts to help fasten shoes or choose snacks. Yet despite this natural desire to do things on their own, these little ones still need adult presence and aid in almost everything. It's in your presence, offers of help, and patience with the need for independence that you best model God's presence in our lives. He's there; we know he's there, and we need him every day. It's the same for your little ones. With your loving and continual presence, you'll guide them to gain a practical understanding of God, who's with them and wants to help them.

## INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Sing and Celebrate</b> Listen to praise songs.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Joshua's the Leader</b> Hold a Joshua paper doll.	8½x11 sheet of sturdy cardboard or card stock, glue, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Joshua Paper Doll" teaching picture 	Cut out the paper doll from the teaching picture by cutting on the dotted line. Glue the doll to a sheet of sturdy cardboard or card stock. Then cut the cardboard to fit the shape of the doll.
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>God's Help Baby-Bouncer</b> Play an active game that teaches about God being with us and helping us.		
	<b>God Helps You!</b> Explore body movements.	blanket	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



### ► Bible Point

God is with us.

### Key Verse

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).


### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will learn that God wants to help them.





## TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Sing and Celebrate</b> Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Joshua Leads the People</b> Hear a whistle to learn about the new leader, Joshua.	Bible, 8½x11 sheet of sturdy cardboard or card stock, glue, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Joshua Paper Doll” teaching picture, whistle 	Cut out the paper doll from the teaching picture by cutting on the dotted line. Glue the doll to a sheet of sturdy cardboard or card stock. Then cut the cardboard to fit the shape of the doll.
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Big Ball Bop</b> Get help to reach a big ball.	inflatable ball, yarn, tape	Blow up a large inflatable ball. Hang the ball from a door frame or the ceiling by tying a piece of yarn through the loop on the nozzle and letting the ball dangle about 2½ feet above your tallest toddler. Use tape to secure the yarn to the door frame or ceiling.
	<b>Obstacle-Course Help</b> Go over, around, and under things to experience God’s presence and help.	table, sturdy chair	Set a sturdy chair in an area near a table.
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.


**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.

The “Growing With Jesus” page at the end of each lesson includes an in-class craft or activity on one side and a take-home page for parents on the other side. We want to ensure all the information on the parent pages is retained, so we’ve made some adjustments to activities that require cutting. These pages may require a little assembly for parents to use at home, and we’ve included envelopes in the supply lists to keep each child’s pieces together.



**2-YEAR-OLD**



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b> Getting Started</p>	<p><b>Sing and Celebrate</b> Sing or listen to praise songs.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b> Bible Exploration</p>	<p><b>God Helps Joshua Lead</b> Play a game with a whistle, and hear how God was with Joshua and helped him.</p>	<p>Bible, 8½x11 sheet of sturdy cardboard or card stock, glue, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Joshua Paper Doll” teaching picture, whistle</p> 	<p>Cut out the paper doll from the teaching picture by cutting on the dotted line. Glue it to a sheet of sturdy cardboard or card stock. Then cut the cardboard to fit the shape of the doll.</p>
<p><b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p><b>Help With My Day</b> Play a sequencing game.</p>	<p>scissors, crayons, 1 envelope per child, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “My Day” handout (at the end of the lesson)</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out the cards from the “My Day” handouts. Put each set of cards in a separate envelope.</p>
	<p><b>Helping Hands</b> Make take-home snacks to remember God is with us and gives us a helping hand.</p>	<p>tape, 2 non-latex plastic gloves per child, handful of dry cereal per child, large bowl, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Fill a large bowl with cereal.</p>
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.</p>	<p>My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)</p>	

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*

The “Growing With Jesus” page at the end of each lesson includes an in-class craft or activity on one side and a take-home page for parents on the other side. We want to ensure all the information on the parent pages is retained, so we’ve made some adjustments to activities that require cutting. These pages may require a little assembly for parents to use at home, and we’ve included envelopes in the supply lists to keep each child’s pieces together.








**INFANT**

**1** GETTING  
STARTED

## Sing and Celebrate

### What You'll Do

Sing or listen to “God’s Always There” (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of “Angels Watching Over Me” anytime during the lesson. Sing while rocking or holding a baby.


 In the dark, late at night,  
In the dark God helps us, helps us.  
In the dark, late at night,  
All the time, our God is there.

At the beach, in the waves,  
At the beach God helps us, helps us.  
At the beach, in the waves,  
All the time, our God is there.

At the park, on the swings,  
At the park God helps us, helps us.  
At the park, on the swings,  
All the time, our God is there.

Afterward, say: ► **GOD IS WITH US. He’s always there to help us.**

Sing “Joshua’s the Leader” (not on the CD) to the tune of “Rise and Shine” anytime during the lesson. Sing as you stand and gently bounce or sway with a baby in your arms.

 God said to Joshua, “You’re gonna take the landy, landy.”  
God said to Joshua, “You’re gonna take the landy, landy.”  
“By the power of my handy, handy.”  
Children of the Lord.

Afterward, say: ► **GOD IS WITH US. He’s always there to help us.**



### Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: “God’s Always  
There” (track 14)





### Joshua's the Leader Supplies

8½x11 sheet of sturdy  
cardboard or card  
stock  
glue  
scissors  
**Teacher Pack**  
"Joshua Paper Doll"  
teaching picture

### Joshua's the Leader Easy Prep

Cut out the paper doll  
from the teaching  
picture by cutting on  
the dotted line. Glue  
the doll to a sheet of  
sturdy cardboard or  
card stock. Then cut  
the cardboard to fit the  
shape of the doll.

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Joshua's the Leader

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hold an infant on your lap. Show the baby the paper doll of Joshua. Allow baby to hold and look at the paper doll.

Say: **This is Joshua. He became the leader of Israel after Moses. God was with Joshua. God helped Joshua lead the people. God helped him be strong and brave.**

► **GOD IS WITH US** and helps us, too, little [baby's name].

Pray for the baby, thanking God for being with him or her and asking God to give baby the strength and courage to follow God's plan for his or her life.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### God's Help Baby-Bouncer

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Play this game with an active 6- to 12-month-old baby:

Say: **God's with the little wiggle worm.** (*hold baby in front of you, and gently move the baby side to side*)

**God helps the tall giraffe.** (*lift baby high*)

**God's with the swinging monkey.** (*hold baby underneath arms, and gently swing his or her torso*)

**And God helps** [baby's name] **laugh!** (*set baby on your lap, and gently tickle his or her tummy*)

When you're finished, give the baby a hug.

Say: **Just as God is with the animals and helps them,** ► **GOD IS WITH US** and helps us, too.



## God Helps You!

### What You'll Do

Have an infant lie or sit in front of you on a blanket on the floor.

Say: ► **GOD IS WITH US in little and big ways every day. God helps you move your wonderful body.** Hold the infant's hands as you clap them. **God helps our hands go clap, clap, clap. Thank you, God, for hands that clap!**

Gently help the infant kick his or her legs, and say: **God helps our legs go kick, kick, kick. Thank you, God, for legs so strong!**

Use the infant's hand to help the infant touch his or her nose, and say: **God helps our noses sniff, sniff, sniff. Thank you, God, for noses that smell!** Gather the infant in your arms. **God's with you and helps you with everything you do. I'm so glad**  
► **GOD IS WITH US!**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).


### TODDLER

### **1** GETTING STARTED

## Sing and Celebrate

### What You'll Do

Sing or listen to "God's Always There" (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of "Angels Watching Over Me" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, lead children in the motions in parentheses.

 **In the dark, late at night,** (*cover eyes with hands*)  
**In the dark God helps us, helps us.** (*point up*)  
**In the dark, late at night,** (*cover eyes with hands*)  
**All the time, our God is there.** (*point up*)



### God Helps You! Supplies

.....  
blanket

### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....  
My Bible Snuggles or 1  
copy per child of the  
"Growing With Jesus"  
page (at the end of the  
lesson)

### Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

.....  
Remove the Lesson 10  
pages from each My  
Bible Snuggles student  
book.

### Sing and Celebrate Supplies

.....  
CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "God's Always  
There" (track 14)





### Joshua Leads the People Supplies

Bible  
8½x11 sheet of sturdy  
cardboard or card  
stock  
glue  
scissors  
**Teacher Pack**  
“Joshua Paper Doll”  
teaching picture  
whistle

### Joshua Leads the People Easy Prep

Cut out the paper doll from the teaching picture by cutting on the dotted line. Glue the doll to a sheet of sturdy cardboard or card stock. Then cut the cardboard to fit the shape of the doll.

**At the beach, in the waves,** (*pretend to swim with arms*)  
**At the beach God helps us, helps us.** (*point up*)  
**At the beach, in the waves,** (*pretend to swim with arms*)  
**All the time, our God is there.** (*point up*)

**At the park, on the swings,** (*hold imaginary swing, and rock forward and back*)  
**At the park God helps us, helps us.** (*point up*)  
**At the park, on the swings,** (*hold imaginary swing, and rock forward and back*)  
**All the time, our God is there.** (*point up*)

Afterward, say: ► **GOD IS WITH US. He’s always there to help us.**

Sing “Joshua’s the Leader” (not on the CD) to the tune of “Rise and Shine” anytime during the lesson. As you sing, encourage toddlers to march in place and clap in time to the music.

🎵 **God said to Joshua, “You’re gonna take the landy, landy.”**  
**God said to Joshua, “You’re gonna take the landy, landy.”**  
**“By the power of my handy, handy.”**  
**Children of the Lord.**

Afterward, say: ► **GOD IS WITH US. He’s always there to help us.**

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Joshua Leads the People

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Gather a few toddlers together. Blow the whistle gently.

Say: **That was a whistle. When you hear the whistle, put your hands on your head.** Blow the whistle, and encourage children to put their hands on their heads. Practice several times, and then say: **You were good followers.**

Open your Bible to Joshua 1:1-11, and show toddlers the words. Tell them the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **The Bible says God’s people followed Joshua long ago.** Show toddlers the Joshua paper doll. **Joshua was their leader. But he didn’t lead the people by himself. God was with Joshua, so God’s people listened to Joshua, the way you listened to my whistle.** Blow the whistle again, and remind toddlers to put their hands on their heads. **Just as God was with Joshua, ► GOD IS WITH US, too.**





### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Big Ball Bop

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Encourage a toddler to try to hit the inflatable ball while standing under it. Then encourage him or her to lie down and try to kick it. After the toddler makes several attempts, ask if he or she would like your help to reach the ball. Then lift the child.

Say: **Because I'm with you, I can help you reach the ball! ► GOD IS WITH US and helps us with things that are too hard for us to do alone, the way I'm helping you reach the ball.**

Lift each toddler up, and allow him or her to have a turn giving the ball a big bop.

## Obstacle-Course Help

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **► GOD IS WITH US and helps us in all we do. He helps us get around things that get in our way. Let's go over the chair and around the table. Then let's crawl under the table to get back here.**

Help each child climb over the top of the chair. Then hold hands, and walk around to the opposite side of the table. Finally, encourage each toddler to crawl under the table. Wait at the other side of the table, encouraging children to finish the obstacle course.

Say: **► GOD IS WITH US and helps us do what he asks us to do. God was with Joshua and helped him lead God's people, the way I was with you and helped you go through the obstacle course.**



### Big Ball Bop Supplies

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inflatable ball  
yarn  
tape

### Big Ball Bop Easy Prep

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Blow up a large inflatable ball. Hang the ball from a door frame or the ceiling by tying a piece of yarn through the loop on the nozzle and letting the ball dangle about 2½ feet above your tallest toddler. Use tape to secure the yarn to the door frame or ceiling.

### Obstacle-Course Help Supplies

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table  
sturdy chair

### Obstacle-Course Help Easy Prep

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Set a sturdy chair in an area near a table.





### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)

### Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

### Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: “God’s Always There” (track 14)

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

### 2-YEAR-OLD

## 1 GETTING STARTED

## Sing and Celebrate

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Sing or listen to “God’s Always There” (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of “Angels Watching Over Me” anytime during the lesson. Let children suggest motions after you sing the song several times, or lead them in the motions in parentheses.

 **In the dark, late at night,** (*cover eyes with hands*)

**In the dark God helps us, helps us.** (*point up*)

**In the dark, late at night,** (*cover eyes with hands*)

**All the time, our God is there.** (*point up*)

**At the beach, in the waves,** (*pretend to swim with arms*)

**At the beach God helps us, helps us.** (*point up*)

**At the beach, in the waves,** (*pretend to swim with arms*)

**All the time, our God is there.** (*point up*)

**At the park, on the swings,** (*hold imaginary swing, and rock forward and back*)

**At the park God helps us, helps us.** (*point up*)


**At the park, on the swings,** (*hold imaginary swing, and rock forward and back*)

**All the time, our God is there.** (*point up*)

Afterward, say: ► **GOD IS WITH US. He’s always there to help us.**

Sing “Joshua’s the Leader” (not on the CD) to the tune of “Rise and Shine” anytime during the lesson. As you sing, march in place the first time you sing the song. Let children take turns leading a marching line when the song is repeated.



 God said to Joshua, “You’re gonna take the landy, landy.”  
 God said to Joshua, “You’re gonna take the landy, landy.”  
 “By the power of my handy, handy.”  
 Children of the Lord.

Afterward, say: ► **GOD IS WITH US. He’s always there to help us.**

**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## God Helps Joshua Lead

### What You’ll Do

Gather a group of 2-year-olds together. Blow the whistle. Then hold it up.

Say: **This is a whistle. Many people use whistles to lead people. Police officers, coaches, and band leaders all use whistles to tell people when to start and stop. I’m going to lead you in a game using the whistle. When I blow the whistle, look at me and do what I do. I’ll change my actions each time the whistle blows. Watch and listen very carefully.**

Blow the whistle, and begin patting your head with your hands. Encourage children to join you. Blow the whistle again, and clap your hands in a steady rhythm. Once children have joined you in clapping, blow the whistle again, and pat your knees. To end the game, blow the whistle one more time, and sit quietly with your hands in your lap.

Say: **You followed me as I led you. You’re such good listeners!** Open your Bible to Joshua 1:1-11, and show children the words. Tell them the Bible is God’s special book. Say: **The Bible says God’s people learned to follow Moses. Then they had to learn to follow their new leader, Joshua. Hold up the Joshua paper doll. God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Many Israelites were scared because there were giants in the land. Have a 2-year-old come and stand next to the Joshua paper doll. You look like a giant compared to this Joshua paper doll. Giants can be big and scary! But Joshua wasn’t afraid. One at a time, allow children to stand by the paper doll. Joshua knew God was with him and would help him with the giants and everything else. ► GOD IS WITH US and helps us, too.**



### God Helps Joshua Lead Supplies

- Bible
- 8½x11 sheet of sturdy cardboard or card stock
- glue
- scissors
- Teacher Pack**
- “Joshua Paper Doll”
- teaching picture
- whistle

### God Helps Joshua Lead Easy Prep

Cut out the paper doll from the teaching picture by cutting on the dotted line. Glue the doll to a sheet of sturdy cardboard or card stock. Then cut the cardboard to fit the shape of the doll.





### Help With My Day Supplies

scissors  
crayons  
1 envelope per child  
My Bible Snuggles or 1  
copy per child of the  
“My Day” handout (at  
the end of the lesson)

### Help With My Day Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10  
pages from each My  
Bible Snuggles student  
book. Cut out the cards  
from the “My Day”  
handouts. Put each set  
of cards in a separate  
envelope.

### Helping Hands Supplies

tape  
2 non-latex plastic  
gloves per child  
handful of dry cereal  
per child  
large bowl  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)



### Helping Hands Easy Prep

Fill a large bowl with  
cereal.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Help With My Day

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Call one or two 2-year-olds to play this game.

Say: **God was with Joshua and helped him every day. Here are some cards that show parts of your day.** Take the cards out of one of the envelopes, and spread the cards faceup in front of a child. Talk about the pictures; then mix them up. Help the child decide which picture goes first, second, and last. Quickly move through the cards, helping the child lay out the correct sequence. When he or she is finished, say: **You did a good job playing this game. Each of these pictures reminds us that ► GOD IS WITH US and helps us all day long.**

Let children put the cards back in the envelopes. They can remove the cards and continue to play the game on their own or color the cards if they wish.

### Helping Hands

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands before this activity. Give each child a non-latex plastic glove to put on. Most children will need help getting their fingers in the right holes.

Say: ► **GOD IS WITH US and gives us a helping hand. Sometimes he helps us use our helping hands to help others. God is with us and helps us do what he asks us to do— just as God was with Joshua and helped Joshua.**

After all the children have a glove on one hand, help them use the gloved hand to fill another glove with cereal from the bowl. Tape the filled gloves closed. Encourage each child to give his or her glove filled with cereal to another child and to tell that child, “God is with us. He gives us a helping hand.” You may need to prompt children if they can’t remember all the words to say. Have children take home the snack they received to eat later, or if there’s time, you could let them eat part of their snack now.





## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home the envelopes with their “Growing With Jesus” pages/”My Day” cards. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).



### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)



HOME  
CONNECT®

## Growing With Jesus



### Navigating Independence

Soon after your child learns to talk, you'll hear the famous words "I want to do it." Remind your child that you're there and offer help, but wait to be asked before you step in. Sometimes you can trade a favor with a child who needs your assistance. For example, as you dress, let your child put a piece of jewelry or a shoe on you; then encourage your child to let you fasten the snap on his or her pants in return. Your willingness to accept his or her help sets the stage for him or her to do the same. That, in turn, can set the stage for your child's willingness to accept God's help as well.

**OK**  
TO COPY

Your child learned God is with us (from Joshua 1:1-11). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

#### INFANT

##### God's Help Baby-Bouncer

Play this game with your baby:

Say: **God's with the little wiggle worm.** (*gently move your baby side to side*)

**God helps the tall giraffe.** (*lift your baby high*)

**God's with the swinging monkey.** (*hold your baby underneath arms, and gently swing his or her torso*)

**And God helps** [your baby's name] **laugh!** (*set your baby on your lap, and gently tickle his or her tummy*)

When you're finished, give your baby a hug.

Say: **Just as God is with the animals and helps them, God is with us and helps us, too.**



#### Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

- Provide opportunities for your child to master a new challenge or skill, such as putting on a sock or adding another block to make a bigger wall. Express delight in helping your child, and remind your child that God is with us and likes to help us, too.
- As you read to your child about the people and events in the Bible, point out how God was with the people in the Bible. This is one small way children learn that God's nature is unchanging.

#### TODDLER

##### Big Ball Bop

Blow up a large inflatable ball. Hang the ball from a door frame or the ceiling by tying a piece of yarn through the loop on the nozzle and letting the ball dangle about 2½ feet above your toddler. Use tape to secure the yarn to the door frame or ceiling.

Encourage your toddler to try to hit the ball while standing under it. Then encourage him or her to lie down and try to kick it. After your toddler makes several attempts, ask if he or she would like your help to reach the ball. Then lift your child up, and let him or her give the ball a big bop.

Say: **Because I'm with you, I can help you reach the ball! God is with us and helps us with things that are too hard for us to do alone, too.**

#### 2-YEAR-OLD

##### Helping Hands

Help your child wash his or her hands. Give your child a disposable plastic glove to put on.

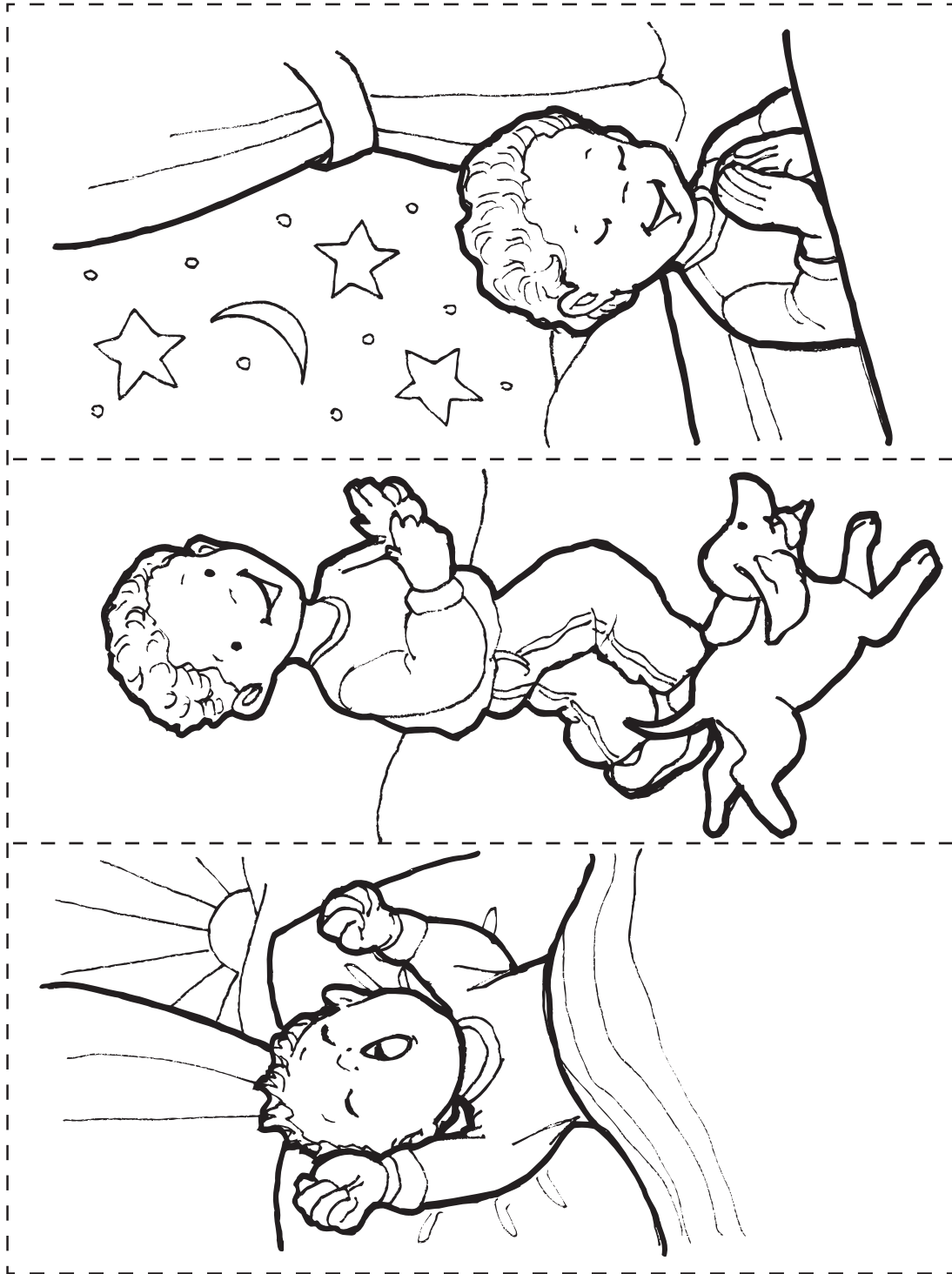
Say: **God is with us and gives us a helping hand. Sometimes he helps us use our helping hands to help others. God is with us and helps us do what he asks us to do—just as God was with Joshua and helped Joshua.**

Help your child use the gloved hand to fill another glove with cereal. Tape the filled glove closed. Encourage your child to give the glove filled with cereal to someone and to tell that person that God is with us and he gives us a helping hand.





# My Day



**OK  
TO COPY**

Illustrated by Nancy Munger.



