

Wiggle & Wonder

Bible Story Rhymes AND Finger Plays



ILLUSTRATIONS BY
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CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS



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3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • www.cph.org

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Some finger plays originally published in *Our Life in Christ*® © CPH and *Growing in Christ*® © CPH.

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Manufactured in the United States of America

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose

Wiggle & Wonder is chock-full of educationally appropriate activities that will reinforce scriptural truths for young children in an engaging and enjoyable way. Because finger plays involve repetition, movement, patterning, cadence, and focusing attention—all key ways that young children process information—these activities will also help children better learn and remember the Bible stories.

Part 1 has finger plays and litanies for Sunday School time that you will use over and over! These include rhymes and movement activities for openings and closings, prayers, snack time, transitions, and the Church Year, as well as ones that teach about our triune God and His love and care for us in Jesus.

Part 2 has finger plays and other active ways to teach and reinforce learning for many familiar Bible stories. While the book is designed primarily for use in a Sunday School setting, teachers in early childhood programs and Christian day schools, as well as parents at home, will find it an invaluable resource. To extend learning in these settings, there are suggested activities on each page linking the rhymes with skills that are taught throughout an early childhood curriculum.

Tips for Success

Kids like finger plays, rhymes, and other activities, especially when they can join in the fun. Here are a few things you'll want to remember to keep them interested and involved:

- + Keep the children's abilities in mind and set realistic expectations. Some of the finger plays may work better with older children or may need to be shortened to just a few key lines for young children.
- + Practice the finger play ahead of time until the words and actions feel comfortable and familiar. Feel free to change any words that are difficult and simplify the suggested actions.
- + Speak slowly and with expression to help children focus on what you are saying. Emphasize the action words, and use exaggerated actions that the children can see. Encourage the children to imitate what you are doing.
- + Do not be concerned if children don't join in right away, however, and never force participation.
- + First, say the finger play with actions, allowing the children to observe. Then, repeat the finger play, teaching it in manageable sections. Repeat the actions with the children a few times so they become comfortable in doing them too. Teach them repetitive refrains and have them say those with you.
- + Use the Bible story finger plays to review the Bible story. Speak and act reverently. The children will imitate your attitude and actions.

Part 1
Sunday School Time

**TRANSITIONS
AND WIGGLES OUT**

Jump for Joy

Jump, jump, jump for joy!

Jump.

Jesus loves each girl and boy.

Point to others.

Jump, jump, jump so high;

Jump.

Jesus came from heaven to die.

Point up.

Jump, jump, jump all day;

Jump.

So once more we all shall say:

Cup hands around mouth.

Jump, jump, jump for joy!

Jump.

Jesus loves each girl and boy.

Point to others.



VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Substitute other action words for "jump," such as clap, skip, and wave. Do the appropriate action.



Clap for Jesus

Clap hands each time you say, "Clap, clap, clap."

Clap your hands if Jesus loves you.

Clap, clap, clap.

Clap your hands if you're forgiven.

Clap, clap, clap.

Clap your hands if Jesus loves you.

Clap, clap, clap.

Clap your hands if you're going to heaven. Clap, clap, clap.

BODY AWARENESS

Substitute other actions, such as "Touch your knees," "Jump on one foot," or "Pat your head." Do the corresponding action.

Wiggles Out

Clap your hands—clap, clap, clap.

Clap.

Jump in the air—jump, jump, jump.

Jump.

Stomp your feet—stomp, stomp, stomp.

Stomp.

Turn around once—turn, turn, turn.

Turn around.

Walk to your seat—walk, walk, walk.

Walk in place.

Sit down quietly—shh, shh, shh.

Touch index finger to lips.

MOVEMENT

Do the actions named in the poem. Have the children suggest others.

Jesus Is with Us

Clap your hands for Jesus, 1, 2, 3.

He loves you, and He loves me.

Clap.

Stomp your feet for Jesus; He's our King.

He protects from evil things!

Stomp.

Wave your arms for Jesus, left and right.

He is with us day and night!

Wave arms.

MUSIC

Give children rhythm instruments to play. Change the words; for example, "Blow your horn for Jesus, 1, 2, 3," "Beat your drum for Jesus; He's our King," or "Shake your cymbals for Jesus, left and right."

My Body

I have a very special gift;

Point to self.

Look what it can do!

Point to eyes.

It helps me jump up, oh, so high.

Jump.

It helps me bend down low.

Bend.

It helps me walk. It helps me run.

Walk in place.

It even helps me see.

Point to eyes.

It's my body—head to toes!

Touch toes.

God gave me ME!

Point to self.



BODY AWARENESS

Have children identify different body parts and what each part does.

Clean Up

Clean, clean, clean the room.

Put your things away.

Pretend to pick up toys.

Help, help, help, help—

Then we'll sing and pray.

Beckon with arm; fold hands in prayer.

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION

Use this rhyme to teach children to work together to achieve a goal. Use it at the end of free time before the lesson begins. It can be sung to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

Moses and the Plagues

Exodus 5-10

Moses went to Pharaoh;

Walk in place.

“God says, ‘Let My people go.’”

Point outward.

God turned the Nile to blood.

Make waves like river.

But the pharaoh still said, “No!”

Shake head no.

Moses went to Pharaoh;

Walk in place.

“God says, ‘Let My people go.’”

Point outward.

God sent frogs hopping.

Hop.

But the pharaoh still said, “No!”

Shake head no.

Moses went to Pharaoh;

Walk in place.

“God says, ‘Let My people go.’”

Point outward.

God sent millions of gnats to bite.

Swat bugs off arms.

But the pharaoh still said, “No!”

Shake head no.

Moses went to Pharaoh;

Walk in place.

“God says, ‘Let My people go.’”

Point outward.

God sent swarms of flies.

Swat hands in front of face.

But the pharaoh still said, “No!”

Shake head no.

Moses went to Pharaoh,

Walk in place.

“God says, ‘Let My people go.’”

Point outward.

God made the cows die.

Hold head sideways.

But the pharaoh still said, “No!”

Shake head no.

Moses went to Pharaoh;

Walk in place.

“God says, ‘Let My people go.’”

Point outward.

God sent sores to the Egyptians.

Pick at arms.

But the pharaoh still said, “No!”

Shake head no.



Moses went to Pharaoh;

Walk in place.

“God says, ‘Let My people go.’”

Point outward.

God sent hail to beat the crops.

Move hands, palms down, up and down.

But the pharaoh still said, “No!”

Shake head no.

Moses went to Pharaoh;

Walk in place.

“God says, ‘Let My people go.’”

Point outward.

God sent locusts to eat the food.

Put hands by mouth chewing.

But the pharaoh still said, “No!”

Shake head no.

Moses went to Pharaoh;

Walk in place.

“God says, ‘Let My people go.’”

Point outward.

God covered the land in darkness.

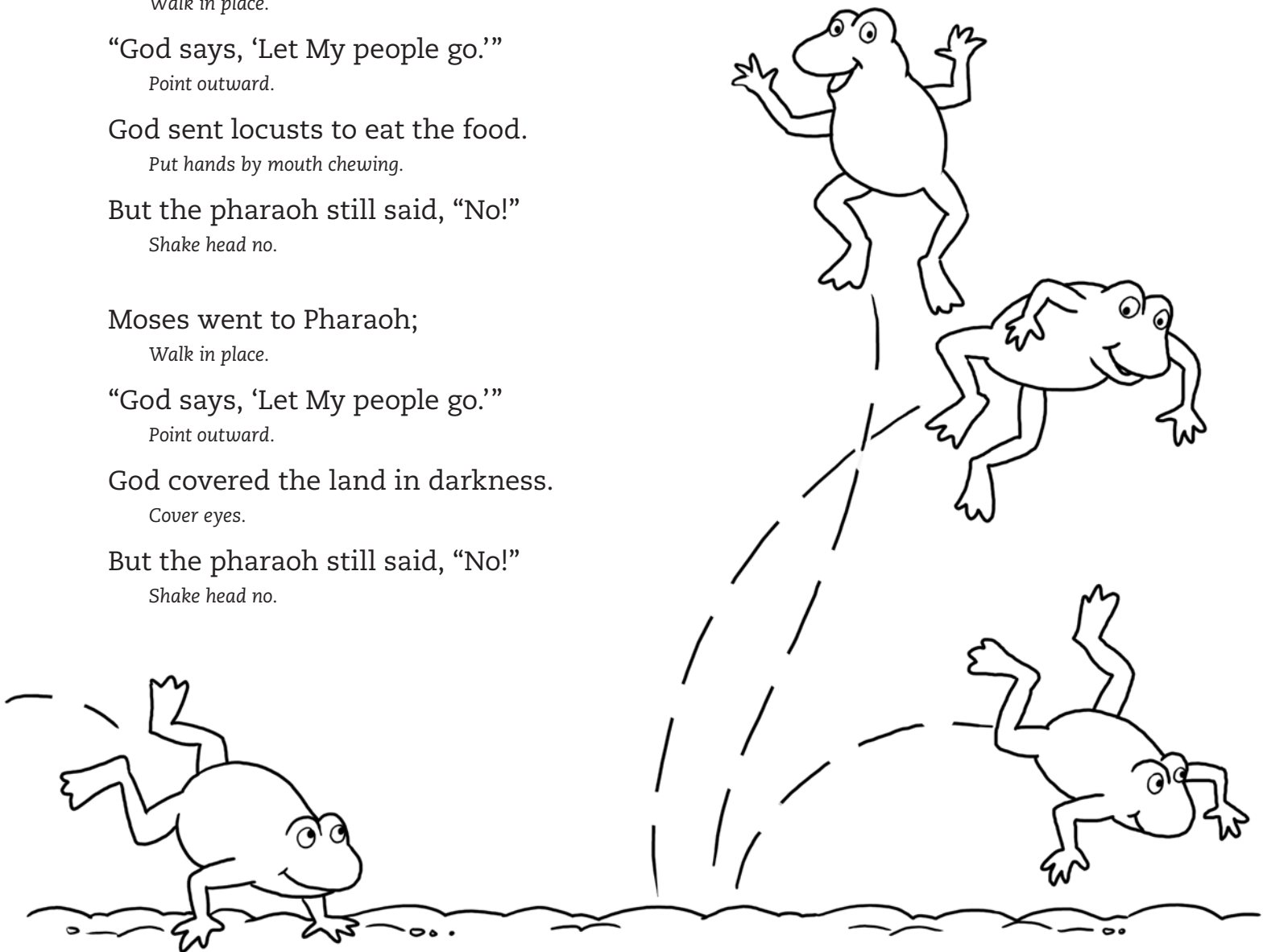
Cover eyes.

But the pharaoh still said, “No!”

Shake head no.

LITERATURE

Have children draw pictures to illustrate each plague. Write the words from the finger play on the corresponding picture. Bind pages together into a classroom book.



ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS

God Provides Manna and Quail

Exodus 16-17

Moses led God's Hebrew band, as they walked through desert sand.
Stomachs rumbled, so they grumbled. Trudge, trudge, trudge.

Rub stomachs, walk in place.

"When in Egypt we could dine every day on food so fine,
Moses, heed us! Who will feed us?" Trudge, trudge, trudge.

Pretend to eat.

So in evening without fail, God would send them scads of quail.
Also, heavenly bread was found every morning on the ground.

Pretend to pick up things from ground.

God said, "This you must obey; eat My bread within a day.
If you don't, it will get germy, rotten, foul, and even wormy."

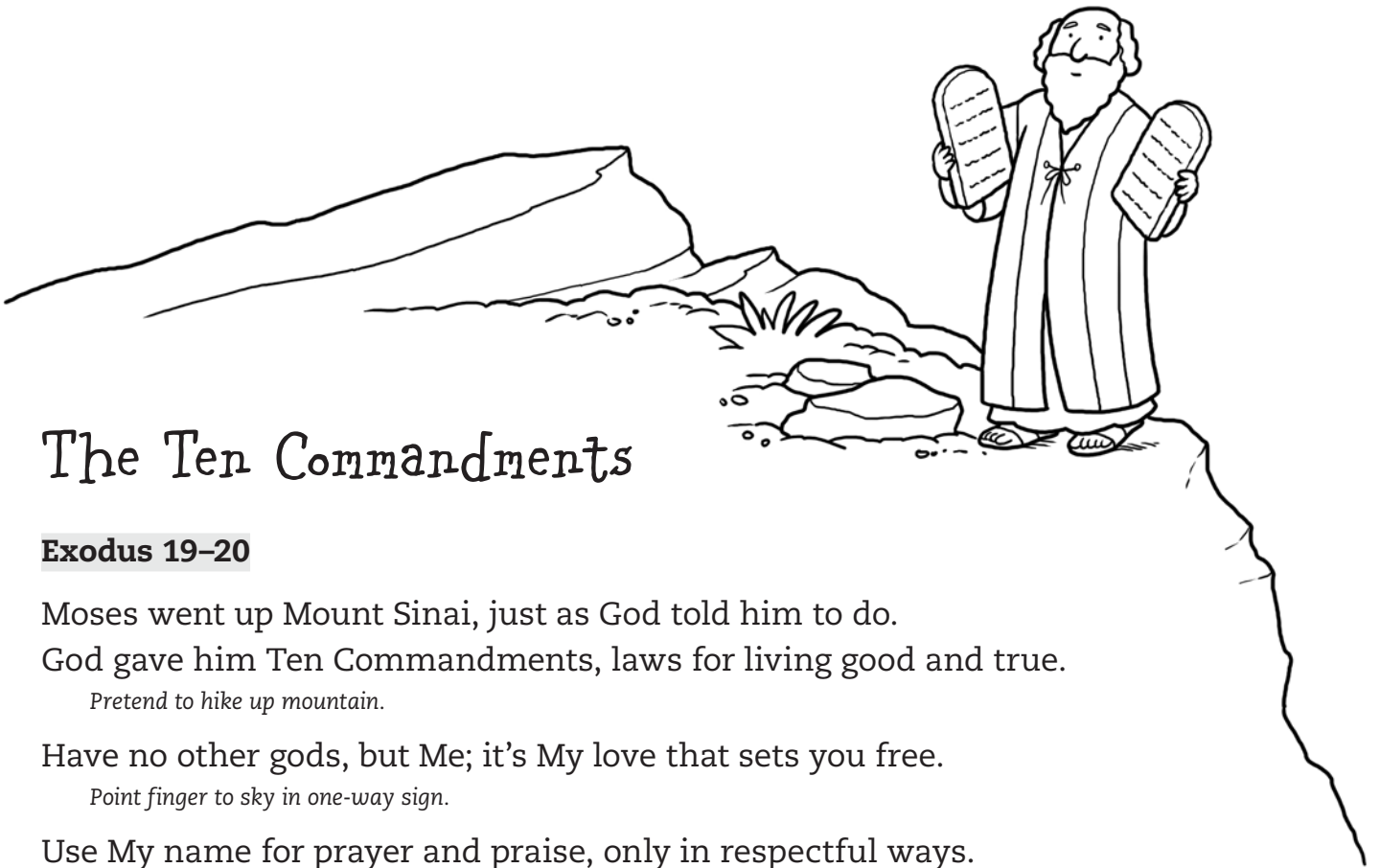
Make sour face.

Thus the Lord, for forty years, answered all His people's fears,
Kept them safe through desert sand, till they reached the Promised Land.

Hug self.

SCIENCE

Desert plants must live on little water. Show cacti and talk about why we don't touch them.



The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19–20

Moses went up Mount Sinai, just as God told him to do.
God gave him Ten Commandments, laws for living good and true.

Pretend to hike up mountain.

Have no other gods, but Me; it's My love that sets you free.

Point finger to sky in one-way sign.

Use My name for prayer and praise, only in respectful ways.

Bow head.

Keep the Sabbath Day apart; worship Me with all your heart.

Cross hands over heart.

Honor parents with your love. They're a gift from up above.

Point up.

Do not kill or hurt each other; treat all kindly like a brother.

Look mad; then smile.

Husbands, wives, show love each day—faithful, loyal, never stray.

Clasp hands.

Do not steal things old or new, for they don't belong to you.

Put hands behind back.

Help your neighbors; don't tell lies; lift them up in others' eyes.

Put hand over mouth.

Do not covet your neighbor's house, workers, animals, or spouse.

Shake head no.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Rules keep us safe. Have children name one rule at home or school and how it keeps us safe.
