

These Aren't Your Grandma's Bible Songs

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To a young child (infant, toddler, and preschooler) music inherently has power and meaning that go beyond words. Music enhances listening; invites intuitive and steady beat responses; and aids learning of vocabulary, sound and pitch discrimination, emotional responses, creative responses, and memory. (Carlton, 2000) Music evokes an emotional response through the words, melody, pitch and rhythm of a song. Music gives us the ability to communicate with young children in a way that makes sense to them. An infant, who can't yet sing along with you, is very capable of listening and recognizing many sounds especially the voices of the significant adults in his life. Toddlers will start to join in by repeating words or copying the rhythm of a song. Preschoolers begin to match the pitch and melody as well as remember the words to songs. Music is an amazing tool for aiding in the development of a child, with unlimited potential, as long as you choose to use it.

Now that you have some insight into the power of music, let's shift gears for just a minute while we look at another amazing power: God! You see, God has given us some very specific instructions regarding children. We are to teach children about God's love, about God's Truth and about God's mercy & grace. Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) says, *"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."* This is not just teaching children right from wrong but also teaching them about God. The Bible makes it clear that children are very important to God. Jesus said, *"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."* (Matthew 18:10, NIV) Our concern for children should equal God's treatment of them. Certain angels are assigned to watch over children, and they have direct access to God. This is a huge responsibility but if God puts a child in your care, then God has a plan for you to make an impact for Him with this child. Research shows that the best time to have an impact for God on a person's life is when they are young. In fact, the religious beliefs a person develops by the age of thirteen are pretty much the set of beliefs they will maintain for life. Look at these statistics from research by George Barna & the Barna Institute: 32% of children accept Jesus Christ as their Savior by the age of 13; that number drops to 4% for children between the ages of 14yrs-18yrs; and 6% for people 19yrs and older. Early childhood is your biggest window of opportunity to instill a love for God into the hearts and minds of the children in your care. Let's look at how to do that by combining God's Truth with what we know about the power of music.

Music activates the whole brain which ensures much better retention. There are many wonderful, sweet, new songs available today that share the beautiful Truths from the Bible. You can increase your ability to have an impact on a child's knowledge of God by expanding your "Bible Song Library", learning some simple sign language and refueling your own passion for sharing God's Message with the little ones God has put in your care. Expanding your "Bible Song Library" is fairly easy, especially with the advent of iTunes. Give yourself a set amount of time each week/month to literally surf iTunes & the internet for new songs. The "set amount of time" gives you the freedom to run down bunny trails that you find and just stop when your time is up. Otherwise, you could spend hours surfing, to

the point of neglecting other obligations you have. Also consider the following ideas: attending workshops and conferences that have sessions specifically addressing Bible songs; sharing ideas with colleagues; and investigating current/past VBS curriculum as they have some great music created just for kids. Once you've acquired some new music you need to spend time learning the songs. If you have a recorded version of the song, listen to it and sing along with it – over and over again. This is a very important step. You have to totally know the song before trying to teach it to your class. Once you've got the lyrics completely memorized it's time to think about adding movement to the song. You can add simple big body movements or specific sign language. You know your children best so you can decide how much or how little movement to add in order for your children to feel successful in learning the movements and the lyrics. After you are comfortable with the song and the movement you are ready to start teaching the song to the children. Introduce the new song by explaining the message that is being shared. This is where you start the process of instilling God's Truth into the sweet, accepting hearts & minds of your children. A song will take on so much more meaning to the children as they sing and move if they know what the song is saying. Then work through the movements and the song and above all else, have fun! If you're excited and enthusiastic, then the children will be. They feed off of your excitement and enthusiasm. The opposite holds true as well. If you don't seem happy or excited to learn a song with them, then the children won't be either. This is where you might have to take a step outside of your comfort zone (a big step for some of you) by going public with your singing talents. You've got to let yourself be silly. And you've got to let go of any apprehension you have about what others might think of your "performance". Just let loose and have fun with it. The more fun you're having, the more fun the kids will have with you!

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- Miller, Sue., Staal, David (2004). *Making Your Children's Ministry the Best Hour of Every Kid's Week*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan

Other Great Resources:

iTunes

www.kathiehillmusic.com

<http://yancynotnancy.com>

<http://www.janaalayra.com>

<http://commtechlab.msu.edu/Sites/aslweb/browser.htm>

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

www.groupvbs.com

www.robertburkhart.org

L-O-V-E

By Karyn Henley (“Five Little Ladybugs” CD, available on iTunes)

Why does God put the rainbow in the sky? *(4 fingers arch overhead in shape of rainbow)*

L-O-V-E love that’s why. *(give yourself a hug or spell LOVE with sign language)*

Why does God make frogs jump high? *(move hands up high)*

L-O-V-E love that’s why. *(give yourself a hug or spell LOVE with sign language)*

Why does God make grandmas to hug? *(hug yourself)*

Why does God make such fascinating bugs? *(wiggle fingers)*

Why does God put the twinkle in your eye? *(point to eyes with index fingers)*

L-O-V-E love that’s why. *(give yourself a hug or spell LOVE with sign language)*

Why does God send stars at night? *(open/shut hands up high)*

L-O-V-E love that’s why. *(give yourself a hug or spell LOVE with sign language)*

Why does God give birds their flight? *(flap your arms)*

L-O-V-E love that’s why. *(give yourself a hug or spell LOVE with sign language)*

Why does God give the snail a house? *(make house overhead)*

Why does God give a tail to a mouse? *(wiggle index finger)*

Why does God make snow so white? *(flutter fingers down like snow)*

L-O-V-E love that’s why. *(give yourself a hug or spell LOVE with sign language)*

Why did God send Jesus to die? *(sign for Jesus – 1 finger to other palm & reverse)*

L-O-V-E love that’s why. *(give yourself a hug or spell LOVE with sign language)*

Why on the 3rd day did he rise? *(3 fingers then 2 fingers rising from palm of hand)*

L-O-V-E love that’s why. *(give yourself a hug or spell LOVE with sign language)*

Why does Jesus live again? *(L-shape with both hands rising up)*

Why did he forgive my sins? *(wipe palm of hand then make fist)*

Why do I lift praises high? *(lift hands up & up)*

L-O-V-E love that’s why. *(give yourself a hug or spell LOVE with sign language)*

Why do I lift praises high? *(lift hands up & up)*

L-O-V-E love that’s why. *(give yourself a hug or spell LOVE with sign language)*

Hosanna Rock

by Yancy (“Little Praise Party: Happy Day Everyday” CD, available on iTunes)

Hosanna, ho-ho-hosanna. (*clap, clap, twirl, twirl – sign for “Hosanna”*)

Hosanna, ho-ho-hosanna. (*clap, clap, twirl, twirl – sign for “Hosanna”*)

Hosanna, ho-ho-hosanna. (*clap, clap, twirl, twirl – sign for “Hosanna”*)

Hosanna, ho-ho-hosanna. (*clap, clap, twirl, twirl – sign for “Hosanna”*)

Everybody praise the Lord. (*open hand, slowly pull down in front of face & close fingers*)

Everybody praise the Lord. (*open hand, slowly pull down in front of face & close fingers*)

Everybody praise the Lord. (*open hand, slowly pull down in front of face & close fingers*)

Everybody praise the Lord. (*open hand, slowly pull down in front of face & close fingers*)

So clap your hands.

Wave your arms.

Play the drums.

Rock the guitar.

So clap your hands.

Wave your arms.

Play the drums.

Rock the guitar.

(repeat whole song)

Jesus is My Best Friend

by Little Praise Party (“My Best Friend” CD, available on iTunes)

Jesus (*tap 1 finger to one palm, then reverse*)

is my best friend. (*Index fingers hug, flip, hug again*)

my best friend, my best friend. (*Index fingers hug, flip, hug again*)

Jesus (*tap 1 finger to one palm, then reverse*)

is my best friend. (*Index fingers hug, flip, hug again*)

He's always there for me. (*point thumbs to yourself*)

(repeat)

(*tap knees then clap hands to the beat*)

On Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,

Friday and Saturday.

Jesus is my best friend.

He's always there for me.

(repeat whole song again)

Goin' to the River
by Jana Alayra (“Look Out Now” CD, available at <http://www.janaalayra.com>)

I'm gonna run to the river. (*run*)
Dive in the river. (*dive*)
Swim in the river. (*swim*)
The river of life! (*make “L’s” with both hands and move from low to high*)
(*repeat*)
I'm gonna say bye-bye (*small, sassy wave*)
I'm goin' to the river. (*“wavy” arms out in front*)

Jesus (*tap 1 finger to one palm, then reverse*)
You renew my heart. (*touch both hand to heart*)
Fill me up till I overflow. (*lift hands up high*)
And You give me a brand new start. (*hands out, then swipe one hand over the other arm*)
Wash me clean till I'm white as snow –ooooohhh (*flutter fingers down like snow*)
Here I go - uh-oh, uh-oh (*hands on hip & shake it with attitude*)
Goin' to the river. (*“wavy” arms out in front*)

Watchin' Over You
by Group VBS (“Pandamania” CD, available at http://store.grouppublishing.com/OA_HTML/gpCCtpSctDspRte.jsp?section=23405)

When you're jumping, jumping up and down. (*jump*)
When you're spinning, spinning round and round. (*turn around*)
God's seeing everything you do. (*point to eyes with index fingers, then spread arms out*)
'Cause He's watching, watching over you. (*point up, then with 2 fingers on each hand point to your eyes then out to the audience – this is the sign for “watch”*)

God is watching, watching over you! (*point up, then sign for “watch”*)
24-7 watching over you. (*spread arms out, then sign for “watch”*)
Your life is in His hands (*make “L’s” with both hands and move from low to high*)
whoa-ooohh (*bring hands together & down with a shake/wiggle*)
He's got great big plans (*point up, then move hands together left to right 3 times for “plan”*)
'Cause He's watching over you. (*sign for “watch”*)

When you're waving, your hands up in there. (*wave hands high*)
When you're shouting, no matter when or where. (*shout really loud*)
God's seeing everything you do. (*point to eyes with index fingers, then spread arms out*)
'Cause He's watching, watching over you. (*point up, then sign for “watch”*)

(*Dance it out*)
God is watching, watching over you! (*point up, then sign for “watch”*)
24-7 watching over you. (*spread arms out, then sign for “watch”*)
Your life is in His hands (*make “L’s” with both hands and move from low to high*)
whoa-ooohh (*bring hands together & down with a shake/wiggle*)
He's got great big plans (*point up, then move hands together left to right 3 times for “plan”*)
God is watching, watching over you! (*point up, then sign for “watch”*)
24-7 watching over you. (*spread arms out, then sign for “watch”*)
Your life is in His hands (*make “L’s” with both hands and move from low to high*)
whoa-ooohh (*bring hands together & down with a shake/wiggle*)

These Are My Glasses
by Laurie Berkner Band (“Whaddaya Think of That?” CD, available on iTunes)

These are my glasses, *(make eyeglasses with your fingers in front of you)*
this is my book. *(close hands in front of you like a closed book)*
I put on my glasses *(make eyeglasses with your fingers around your eyes)*
and open up the book. *(open hands, palms up in front of you)*
Now I read, read, read. *(hold “open book” and bounce book 3 times)*
And I look, look, look. *(finger eyeglasses and look 3 times)*
I put down my glasses *(carefully remove eyeglasses and put gently on floor)*
and Whoop! close up the book. *(close hands with a clap)*

He Knows My Name
By Group VBS (2011 – Pandamania)
www.groupvbs.com

I have a maker. *(stacked fists, twisting)*
He formed my heart. *(make a big heart with hands and then end with hands on heart)*
Before even time began, *(stacked palms facing you, pull the top hand towards you; “T” turning in palm of hand)*
My life was in His hands. *(“L” in each hand, starting low and move all the way up your body, then join hands together and bring down to front)*

He knows my name. *(touch side of head with fingers; make “X” shape with index/middle fingers of each hand and bring down in front)*
He knows my every thought. *(touch side of head with fingers; make a circle in front of face with index finger pointing up)*
He sees each tear that falls. *(touch under each eye with index fingers; motion down under each eye with index fingers)*
And hears me when I call. *(touch each ear with index fingers; point hands together in praying position)*

Repeat

This Little Light of Mine
By Group VBS (Crocodile Dock)

www.groupvbs.com

This little light of mine (*move hands together for “little”; touch middle finger of both hands to your body below the waist and move hands all the way up for “light”*)

I’m gonna let it shine (*touch middle finger to the top of your other hand and let it flutter away for “shine”*)

This little light of mine (*move hands together for “little”; touch middle finger of both hands to your body below the waist and move hands all the way up for “light”*)

I’m gonna let it shine (*touch middle finger to the top of your other hand and let it flutter away for “shine”*)

This little light of mine (*move hands together for “little”; touch middle finger of both hands to your body below the waist and move hands all the way up for “light”*)

I’m gonna let it shine (*touch middle finger to the top of your other hand and let it flutter away for “shine”*)

Let it shine (*touch middle finger to the top of your other hand and let it flutter away for “shine”*)

Let it shine (*touch middle finger to the top of your other hand and let it flutter away for “shine”*)

Let it shine (*touch middle finger to the top of your other hand and let it flutter away for “shine”*)

No matter where I go... (*point your index fingers out*)

Even when I’m afraid ...(*put hands in front of your face with palms facing out and crouch down slightly for “afraid”*)

Repeat “this little light of mine...”

The B-I-B-L-E

By Little Praise Party (“My Best Friend” cd available on iTunes)

B-I-B-L-E (*jump and clap*)

B-I-B-L-E (*jump and clap*)

B-I-B-L-E (*jump and clap*)

B-I-B-L-E (*jump and clap*)

The B-I-B-L-E (*hold hands together above your head, pull them down and open them like a book in front of you for “Bible”*)

Yes, that’s the book for me! (*two thumbs up*)

I stand alone on the Word of God (*point down with index fingers*)

The B-I-B-L-E (*hold hands together above your head, pull them down and open them like a book in front of you for “Bible”*)

The B-I-B-L-E (*hold hands together above your head, pull them down and open them like a book in front of you for “Bible”*)

I take it home with me (*bring your hands to your chest*)

I read and pray (*making “praying” hands*)

And then obey (*bring closed fist to shoulders then straighten arms out and open hands with palms facing up for “obey”*)

The B-I-B-L-E (*hold hands together above your head, pull them down and open them like a book in front of you for “Bible”*)

Repeat the song

The Shrink Song
By Little Praise Party (“My Best Friend” cd available on iTunes)

(make a sad face for the first part of this song)

When you neglect the Bible *(open your hands like a book and shake your head “no”)*

And forget to pray *(make praying hands and shake your head “no”)*

Forget to pray *(make praying hands and shake your head “no”)*

Forget to pray *(make praying hands and shake your head “no”)*

When you neglect the Bible *(open your hands like a book and shake your head “no”)*

And forget to pray *(make praying hands and shake your head “no”)*

Then you shrink, shrink, shrink *(squat down lower and lower till you’re at the floor)*

Then you shrink, shrink, shrink *(stand up and squat down lower and lower till you’re at the floor)*

Then you shrink, shrink, shrink *(stand up squat down lower and lower till you’re at the floor)*

When you neglect the Bible *(stand up and open your hands like a book and shake your head “no”)*

And forget to pray *(make praying hands and shake your head “no”)*

Then you shrink, shrink, shrink *(squat down lower and lower till you’re at the floor)*

(stay down and ask the kids if they’re ready for the happy part and then say, “let’s add a bounce and a smile”)

But when you read the Bible *(open your hands and smile)*

And pray every day *(make praying hands and smile)*

Pray every day *(make praying hands and smile)*

Pray every day *(make praying hands and smile)*

When you read the Bible *(open your hands and smile)*

And pray every day *(make praying hands and smile)*

Then you grow, grow, grow *(quickly drop to the floor then get higher, and higher and higher till you’re standing)*

Then you grow, grow, grow *(quickly drop to the floor then get higher, and higher and higher till you’re standing)*

Then you grow, grow, grow *(quickly drop to the floor then get higher, and higher and higher till you’re standing)*

When you read the Bible *(open your hands and smile)*

And pray every day *(make praying hands and smile)*

Then you grow, grow, grow *(quickly drop to the floor then get higher, and higher and higher till you’re standing)*

I Am a Little Cloud
By Karyn Henley (“Five Little Ladybugs” cd available on iTunes)

I am a little cloud *(hands spread apart vertically in front of you – palms facing each other- and turn on circles from one side of body to the other for “cloud” – sort of like you’re holding a fluffy cloud)*

A little cloud *(keep doing movement above)*

A little cloud *(keep doing movement above)*

I am a little cloud, floating in the sky *(keep doing movement above)*

Chorus:

God made me, God made me. *(stack fists on top of each other and twist for “make” or “made”)*

God made every little bit of me *(hold index/thumbs out like you’re holding something small)*

I am wonderfully made *(point to yourself with your thumbs)*

Thank you God. *(touch your chin with the fingertips of one hand and then extend hand out – palm up for “thank you”)*

I am a big green tree...swaying in the breeze. *(stand with your arms extended over your head and sway back and forth)*

Repeat chorus

I am a tiny snail...crawling through the grass. *(make a fist move up your forearm for "snail")*

Repeat chorus

I am a flashy fish...swimming in the sea. *(put hands together and make them move side to side in front of you like a fish swimming for "fish")*

Repeat chorus

I am a growing child...wiggling all day long. *(put hands all the way down and move whole body down, then stretch body back up and raise hands above your head to show that kids grow from small to tall)*

Dancing Feet

By Karyn Henley ("Five Little Ladybugs" cd available on iTunes)

(start out pretending to sleep standing up and tell the kids that when the alarm goes off they're going to act surprised; after the alarm say, "I'm awake and wow – my feet just have to dance")

I woke up this morning with dancing feet, dancing feet, dancing feet. *(just do a fun, bouncy dance)*

I woke up this morning with dancing feet and I danced all day long *(keep dancing!)*

Chorus:

God made my feet *(bend down and touch your feet)*

God made my toes *(bend down and touch your toes)*

God made my fingers *(wiggle all of your fingers in front of you)*

God made my nose *(touch your nose with your index fingers)*

God made my eyes so I can see *(point to your eyes with your index fingers)*

I'm glad that God made me *(spread arms out and touch your chest with both hands for "me")*

I woke up this morning with clapping hands, clapping hands, clapping hands. *(clap your hands)*

I woke up this morning with clapping hands and I clapped all day long *(keep clapping)*

Repeat the chorus

I woke up this morning with tapping toes *(do the "fancy tapping" by alternating feet and pointing your toes out in front of you)*

I woke up this morning with tapping toes and I tapped all day long *(keep tapping)*

Repeat the chorus

I woke up this morning with a smile on my face, smile on my face, smile on my face *(smile and walk around to point the children's smiles)*

I woke up this morning with a smile on my face and I smiled all day long *(keep smiling)*

Repeat the chorus

I woke up this morning with a yawning mouth, a yawning mouth, a yawning mouth *(stretch and yawn)*

I woke up this morning with a yawning mouth and I slept all night long *(keep stretching and yawning)*

(Pretend to sleep standing up till the music ends and then clap)

One, Two, Three (Jesus is Alive!)
By Little Praise Party (“Happy Everyday” cd available on iTunes)

1, 2, 3 (count to three with your fingers)

Jesus is alive (make “L” fingers and move up your body for “live” or “alive”)

1, 2, 3 (count to three with your fingers)

Jesus is alive (make “L” fingers and move up your body for “live” or “alive”)

He died for you and me (point out with index fingers then to yourself with thumbs)

But on day three (move three fingers back and forth)

Jesus rose again (stand “V” shaped fingers on the palm of your hand and wiggle them as they rise up for “dead” and “arisen”)

Jesus is alive (make “L” fingers and move up your body for “live” or “alive”)

Repeat

God loved the world (hold up 3 fingers on each hand (index, middle and ring fingers) and move them in a circle around each other for “world” or “earth”) – kids echo back

So He gave His Son (touch middle finger to the palm of one hand and then repeat with other hand for “Jesus”)

Jesus is our friend (hug your index fingers then flip them and hug again for “friend”)

He loves everyone (hug yourself for “love”)

Repeat song from the beginning

He Reigns

By Group VBS – 2011 Pandamania (available at www.groupvbs.com)

All God’s children (tap your hands at waist level 3 times across like you’re tapping the heads of children in front of you for “children”)

Singing glory, glory (stretch your arms out to the sides and bring one hand to the other side and wiggle your fingers as you move the hand in the air back over to the other side for “glory” – make it dramatic!)

Hallelujah (twirl index finger on each hand in the air and then open hands up high with arms fully extended for “hallelujah”)

He reigns, He reigns (act like you’re moving the reigns of a horse back and forth for “reigns”)

Repeat this verse 4 times.

It’s every tribe (make the letter “T” with both hands (fist with thumb pushed between index and middle fingers) and make a circle shape in front of you)

Every tongue, every nation (index finger and middle finger move together in a circle over the top of your other hand for “nation”)

A love song (bend one arm and wave your back and forth over the bent arm like you’re playing a harp for “singing”, “sing” or “song”)

Born of a grateful choir (open both hands, touch thumbs together in front of you then move hands out to make a circle shape and end by touching pinky fingers together for “choir”)

Repeat this verse 1 time.

Repeat the beginning section.

Everybody Get Walkin'

By Jana Alayra ("Look Out Now" CD, available at <http://www.janaalayra.com>)

Everybody get walkin' (*pretend to walk in place*)
Walking in the light (*spread hands open, up over head for "bright"*)
In every little space (index and thumb together with a "scrunched")
Of every little minute of your life (point to a watch on your wrist for "minute")
Everybody get living (pretend to walk in place)
Living more like Him (point both index fingers up to the sky)
And let the whole world know (put your hands around your mouth like you're going to shout)
He has forgiven all our sins (wipe the palm of one hand with the finger of your other hand twice for "forgiven")

5-4-3-2-1 (count down with your fingers from 5 to 1)
Choose this day (*point down with both index fingers*)
Will you listen (*hold hands to your ears for "listen"*)
And obey (*make a fist at your shoulders/ears and stretch arms out in front of your with palms up for "obey"*)
Choose what's right (*give two thumbs-up*)
We're walking in the light (*spread hands open, up over head for "bright"*)
Choose this day (*point down with both index fingers*)
Will you listen (*hold hands to your ears for "listen"*)
And obey (*make a fist at your shoulders/ears and stretch arms out in front of your with palms up for "obey"*)
Choose what's right (*give two thumbs-up*)
We're walking in the light (*spread hands open, up over head for "bright"*)
Shout: Who's the light????!!!!
Jesus is the light (*get the children to yell this back to you any time you ask*)

Repeat everything from the beginning

Everybody get walkin' (*pretend to walk in place*)
Shout: Who's the light????
Jesus is the light!! (*get the children to yell this back to you any time you ask*)

Everybody get swimming (*swim in place*)
Shout: Who's the light????
Jesus is the light!! (*get the children to yell this back to you any time you ask*)

Everybody get dancing (*dance in place*)
Shout: Who's the light????
Jesus is the light!! (*get the children to yell this back to you any time you ask*)

Everybody get praying (*put hands together and pretend to pray*)

5-4-3-2-1 (count down with your fingers from 5 to 1)
Choose this day (*point down with both index fingers*)
Will you listen (*hold hands to your ears for "listen"*)

And obey (*make a fist at your shoulders/ears and stretch arms out in front of your with palms up for "obey"*)

Choose what's right (*give two thumbs-up*)

We're walking in the light (*spread hands open, up over head for "bright"*)

Choose this day (*point down with both index fingers*)

Will you listen (*hold hands to your ears for "listen"*)

And obey (*make a fist at your shoulders/ears and stretch arms out in front of your with palms up for "obey"*)

Choose what's right (*give two thumbs-up*)

We're walking in the light (*spread hands open, up over head for "bright"*)

Shout: Who's the light????!!!!

Jesus is the light (*get the children to yell this back to you any time you ask*)

Shout: Who's the light????

Jesus is the light!! (*get the children to yell this back to you any time you ask*)

Jump and Hop

By Karyn Henley ("Five Little Ladybugs" cd available on iTunes)

(jump and hop around with lots of energy)

God made me to jump and hop

God made me to jump and hop

God made me to jump and hop

Jump and jump and jump and hop.

(Bend your elbows and twist/turn your waist)

God made me to twist and turn

God made me to twist and turn

God made me to twist and turn

Twist and twist and twist and turn.

(Swing and sway your arms back and forth – exaggerate your movements)

God made me to swing and sway

God made me to swing and sway

God made me to swing and sway

Swing and swing and swing and sway.

(Bend down and up – nice deep bow downs)

God made me to bend and bow

God made me to bend and bow

God made me to bend and bow

Bend and bend and bend and bow.

(Nod and shake your head)

God made me to nod and shake

God made me to nod and shake

God made me to nod and shake

Nod and nod and nod and shake.

(Open and shut your eyes)
God made me to wink and blink
God made me to wink and blink
God made me to wink and blink
Wink and wink and wink and blink.

Counting on God
By Group VBS - Sky 2012 (available at www.groupvbs.com)

(Start out with crazy loud, fast clapping)

Joy unspeakable (*"wipe" your chest with your hand twice for "joy" or "glad"*)
that won't go away (*"wipe" the palm of one hand with the fingertips of the other for "away"*)
and just enough strength (*show your muscles for "strength" or "strong"*)
to live for the day. (*bend one arm across the front of you and touch those fingers to the elbow of the other arm that is bent upwards – then point index finger of vertical arm and bring it down to the elbow of the horizontal arm for "day"*)

So I never have to worry (*shake index finger back and forth to the music*)
What tomorrow will bring. (*hold hands, palms up, to one side and bring them back towards the body for "bring"*)
Cause my faith is on the solid rock. (*touch the side of your head with your fingertips and then make a fist with that hand and bring it down on top of the fist of your other hand for "faith"*)
I am counting on God. (*point to yourself with your thumbs then point up with index fingers to the music*)

I am counting on, I am counting on God. (*count to five with the music then open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for "God"*)
I am counting on, I am counting on God. (*count to five with the music then open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for "God"*)
I am counting on, I am counting on God. (*count to five with the music then open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for "God"*)
I am counting on, I am counting on God. (*count to five with the music then open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for "God"*)

(crazy clapping and repeat everything)

You, You, You
By Group VBS - Sky 2012 (available at www.groupvbs.com)

You, you, you (*point out with index fingers of both hands to the music*)
You can trust God (*spread fingers of both hands then quickly bring fists together and tap on top of each other twice for "trust"*)
You can take Him at His Word (*open your hands – palms up for "book"*)
And give Him your heart (*bring hands to your heart*)
You, you, you (*point out with index fingers of both hands to the music*)
You can trust God (*spread fingers of both hands then quickly bring fists together and tap on top of each other twice for "trust"*)

It doesn't matter (*move open hands back and forth at shoulders with palms facing towards you for "doesn't matter"*)

Who you are (point to yourself with your thumbs)

You can trust God (*spread fingers of both hands then quickly bring fists together and tap on top of each other twice for "trust" and then open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for "God"*)

You don't have to be the fastest, strongest (*run fast in place*)

You don't have to hold your breath the longest (*pretend to hold your nose and wiggle down low*)

You don't have to be a star (*raise your open hands up and over your head*)

It doesn't matter (*move open hands back and forth at shoulders with palms facing towards you for "doesn't matter"*)

Who you are (*point to yourself with your thumbs*)

Raise your hands and repeat after me. (*raise your hands high and wave them back and forth to the music*)

You can trust God definitely (*keep waving arms*)

You can trust God definitely (*kids shout this back to you – encourage them to be loud!*)

(*repeat from the beginning*)

How Great is Our God By Little Praise Party ("My Best Friend" cd available on iTunes)

How great is our God

(*with arms at your side, push palms out in front of you in two pushes – a smaller one and then the rest of the way out with the second one for "great"; then open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for "God"*)

Sing with me

(*bend one arm and wave your back and forth over the bent arm like you're playing a harp for "singing", "sing" or "song"*)

How great is our God

(*with arms at your side, push palms out in front of you in two pushes – a smaller one and then the rest of the way out with the second one for "great"; then open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for "God"*)

All will see

(*point to your eyes with your index fingers for "see"*)

How great

(*with arms at your side, push palms out in front of you in two pushes – a smaller one and then the rest of the way out with the second one for "great"*)

How great is our God

(*with arms at your side, push palms out in front of you in two pushes – a smaller one and then the rest of the way out with the second one for "great"; then open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for "God"*)

(Repeat)

Name above all names

(using the index and middle fingers of each hand, touch those fingers together to make an “X” for “name”; then move the hands up and make another “X” for “name”)

Worthy of all praise

(make an “F” with both hands by touching the index and thumb together then move hands then touch hands together at the waist and move them up over head in a big circle for “worthy”; then open palms up and wave arms for “praise”)

My heart will sing

(bend one arm and wave your back and forth over the bent arm like you’re playing a harp for “singing”, “sing” or “song”)

How great is our God

(with arms at your side, push palms out in front of you in two pushes – a smaller one and then the rest of the way out with the second one for “great”; then open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)

(Repeat)

(go back to the beginning)

God is so Good

By Little Praise Party (“My Best Friend” cd available on iTunes)

God is

(open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)

So good

(bring the fingertips of one hand to your chin – then flip that hand out and land it on top of the palm of your other hand in front of you for “good” – do this gently and slowly with the music)

God is

(open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)

So good

(bring the fingertips of one hand to your chin – then flip that hand out and land it on top of the palm of your other hand in front of you for “good” – do this gently and slowly with the music)

God is

(open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)

So good

(bring the fingertips of one hand to your chin – then flip that hand out and land it on top of the palm of your other hand in front of you for “good” – do this gently and slowly with the music)

He’s

(open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)

so good

(bring the fingertips of one hand to your chin – then flip that hand out and land it on top of the palm of your other hand in front of you for “good” – do this gently and slowly with the music)

To me

(bring your hands to your chest)

I love Him so *(hug yourself)*

I love Him so *(hug yourself)*

I love Him so *(hug yourself)*

He’s

(open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)
so good
(bring the fingertips of one hand to your chin – then flip that hand out and land it on top of the palm of your other hand in front of you for “good” – do this gently and slowly with the music)
To me
(bring your hands to your chest)

God is
(open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)
So good
(bring the fingertips of one hand to your chin – then flip that hand out and land it on top of the palm of your other hand in front of you for “good” – do this gently and slowly with the music)

God is
(open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)
So good
(bring the fingertips of one hand to your chin – then flip that hand out and land it on top of the palm of your other hand in front of you for “good” – do this gently and slowly with the music)

God is
(open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)
So good
(bring the fingertips of one hand to your chin – then flip that hand out and land it on top of the palm of your other hand in front of you for “good” – do this gently and slowly with the music)

He’s
(open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)
so good
(bring the fingertips of one hand to your chin – then flip that hand out and land it on top of the palm of your other hand in front of you for “good” – do this gently and slowly with the music)

To me
(bring your hands to your chest)
God is
(open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)
So good

(bring the fingertips of one hand to your chin – then flip that hand out and land it on top of the palm of your other hand in front of you for “good” – do this gently and slowly with the music)
He’s
(open hand above you and as you pull you hand down in front of your face close the fingers together for “God”)
so good

(bring the fingertips of one hand to your chin – then flip that hand out and land it on top of the palm of your other hand in front of you for “good” – do this gently and slowly with the music)
To me
(bring your hands to your chest)

The Dog Song **By Little Praise Party (“Happy Day Everyday” cd available on iTunes)**

Just like an old hound dog *(slap the side of your leg and then snap your fingers once for “dog”)*
Likes to lay around *(make a “V” with your fingers and lay them on the palm of your other hand for “lay”)*

I want to rest in the presence of the Lord. *(rest your head on your hands, then make an “L” and move from shoulder to hip for “Lord”)*

Just like a little, old puppy *(rock arms like you’re holding a baby then snap twice for “puppy”)*

Wags his tail when he’s happy *(wag your bottom back and forth)*

I’ve got the joy of the Lord. *(move hand up on chest twice – like wiping – for “joy”, then make an “L” and move from should to hip for “Lord”)*

Chorus:

Woof, woof, woof! Hallelujah! *(make a fist and bark 3 times – the “Arsenio Hall” move, then clap hands, twirl with index fingers pointed and finish with hands opened up high for “Hallelujah”)*

Woof, woof, woof! Hallelujah! *(make a fist and bark 3 times – the “Arsenio Hall” move, then clap hands, twirl with index fingers pointed and finish with hands opened up high for “Hallelujah”)*

Woof, woof, woof! Hallelujah! *(make a fist and bark 3 times – the “Arsenio Hall” move, then clap hands, twirl with index fingers pointed and finish with hands opened up high for “Hallelujah”)*

Jesus is my best friend. *(tap 1 finger to one palm, then reverse and tap again for “Jesus”, then make index fingers hug, flip, hug again)*

Just like an old hound dog *(slap the side of your leg and then snap your fingers once for “dog”)*

Likes to lay around *(make a “V” with your fingers and lay them on the palm of your other hand for “lay”)*

I want to rest in the presence of the Lord. *(rest your head on your hands, then make an “L” and move from shoulder to hip for “Lord”)*

Just like a little, old puppy *(rock arms like you’re holding a baby then snap twice for “puppy”)*

Wags his tail when he’s happy *(wag your bottom back and forth)*

I’ve got the joy of the Lord. *(move hand up on chest twice – like wiping – for “joy”, then make an “L” and move from should to hip for “Lord”)*

(Repeat the chorus twice. Do a little snapping to the music then repeat the chorus one more time).

Other great songs to help get you started:

- Give Your Heart to Jesus by Little Praise Party (available on iTunes)
- Before We Say Goodbye by Jana Alayra (<http://www.janaalayra.com>)
- Your Life Will Change by Group VBS 2010 (www.groupvbs.com)
- Happy Feet by Darlene Abbott & Kathie Hill (<http://www.kathiehillmusic.com>)
- When I Was a Baby by Darlene Abbott & Kathie Hill (<http://www.kathiehillmusic.com>)
- Dear Jesus by Kathie Hill (<http://www.kathiehillmusic.com>)
- You Shine by Rob Biagi (available on iTunes)
- Boom-Chaka-Laka by Phil Joel (available on iTunes)
- No-No-No-No by Robert Burkhardt (www.robertburkhart.com)
- Whoz N the Howz by Robert Burkhardt (www.robertburkhart.com)
- Can't Sit still by Robert Burkhardt (www.robertburkhart.com)
- Fruit of the Spirit by Vineyard Music (available on iTunes)
- King of the Jungle by Great Worship Songs Kids Praise Band (available on iTunes)
- Heart Attack by Jamkinz (available on iTunes)
- Who's Side Are You Leaning On? By Studio Musicians (available on iTunes)
- God Made the Earth by Karyn Henley (available on iTunes)
- Pharaoh, Pharaoh by Billy Jonas (available on iTunes)