

FAVORITE

Sacred Songs for Children

Bible Stories and Songs of Praise

Unison or 2-Part Voices

Arranged by

Anna Laura Page & Jean Anne Shafferman

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Favorite Sacred Songs for Children

Bible Stories and Songs of Praise
Unison or 2-Part Voices

About the Collection

This charming collection for young children includes ten songs about biblical characters, and ten praise songs that are arranged in five thematically-related pairs, ideal for chapel, worship, Christian school or vacation Bible school performance. Each may be sung by unison voices, and many include optional movement, speech song or story enactment—the authors recommend encouraging the use of the children’s creative ideas. Rudimentary part-singing (optional) may be developed through the application of easy echo, call-and-response, partner-song and two-part treble forms and by the fully-supportive accompaniments. *Reproducible Lyric Sheets* may be found on pages 44–55. An optional fully-orchestrated split-track full performance/accompaniment CD recording by Alan Billingsley is also available.

Bible Stories

1

Father Abraham

Scripture Focus: Genesis 12–25

Father Abraham is an “action” song that encourages development of gross motor skills as the children raise or salute with their right and left arms, kick or stomp their right and left feet, raise their chins, turn around and sit down! Clapping delineates each verse. Abraham had many sons, and his family tree eventually included Jesus!

2

Who Did? (Swallow Jonah)

Scripture Focus: Jonah 1–2

Who Did? (Swallow Jonah) is an “echo” song. Explore different performance options, such as varying the dynamics, using different soloists as the “caller” (Part I), and movement, such as bending slightly at the knee when calling or responding. Jonah struggled against God’s plan for Him until he landed in the belly of the whale, where He began to know God’s grace.

3

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

Scripture Focus: Joshua 6: 1–20

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho is a musical story that encourages the addition of pantomimed action. Divide the children into two groups. Group A will form a circle, the “walls of Jericho.” Group B will march around the circle, pretend to blow its trumpets, and shout, “Praise the Lord,” after which Group A (the walls) will fall to the ground. Joshua was a mighty servant of the Lord who led God’s people into the Promised Land after Moses’ death.

4

Peter, James and John (in a Sailboat)

Scripture Focus: Luke 5: 1–7

Peter, James and John (in a Sailboat) is an “echo” song that tells the story of the call of Jesus’ first disciples and the miracle of the fishes. Create a game of “Go, Fish” in which the children “fish” for good deeds that they can do as followers of Jesus. Jesus’ first disciples were fishermen: the brothers James and John, who were sons of Zebedee; and the brothers Simon, whom Jesus called Peter, and Andrew.

5

Amen! (Jesus)

Scripture Focus: Luke 2: 1–20 & Matthew 2: 1–12

Amen! (Jesus) is a call-and-response song that can be performed with the underlaid Christmas text or with an alternate text, adapted by the authors, that tells the story of Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection. The verses may be sung by various soloists or a small group of singers. Performances of the Christmas verses can be correlated with readings of nativity scriptures and the creation of a manger scene.

6

Dry Bones (Ezekiel)

Scripture Focus: Ezekiel 37: 1–4

Dry Bones (Ezekiel) is an "action" song that encourages development of gross motor skills as the children click their tongues and pat their leg, knee, thigh, back, neck and head "bones." Improvisation with rhythm instruments is highly encouraged. The singers of Part II (optional) can "march in place" from mm. 25–32. Ezekiel was a priest and a prophet. In the "dry bones" story, Ezekiel prophesies the return to Israel of God's exiled people.

7

Zacchaeus

Scripture Focus: Luke 19: 1–10

Zacchaeus is an "echo" song that also employs speaking. It tells the story of a corrupt tax collector (Zacchaeus) who, since he is very short, climbs into a tree to see and hear Jesus. He responds to Jesus' call and makes amends for his sins. Jesus calls him a "son of Abraham" and pronounces him saved. The authors have added a second verse, reflecting the bible story, to the traditional verse. The story is easily re-enacted or pantomimed.

8

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?

Scripture Focus: Daniel 6: 11–18

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel? is an "echo" song that references the stories of both Daniel and Jonah. Daniel was a prophet-in-exile who could interpret the king's dreams. The king's advisers were jealous of Daniel, so they tricked him into breaking one of the king's laws. When Daniel is thrown into the lion's den, he is saved by an angel of the Lord, who causes the lions to sleep. The story is easily re-enacted or pantomimed.

9

Little David, Play on Your Harp

Scripture Focus: I Samuel 16: 14–17: 54

Little David, Play on Your Harp is an "echo" song about David, the shepherd boy. When King Saul is plagued by nightmares, David soothes him by singing and playing his harp. When the giant Goliath leads the Philistines in battle against Israel, David boldly steps forward, proclaiming God's glory. Firing a stone from his slingshot, David kills Goliath and eventually becomes King of Israel. Many years later, the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem from the lineage of David. This story is easily re-enacted or pantomimed.

10

Arky, Arky (Rise and Shine—Noah)

Scripture Focus: Genesis 6: 9–8: 19

Arky, Arky (Rise and Shine—Noah) is a musical story that encourages pantomimed action and improvised sounds, especially rain (use a rainstick) and animal noises. In performance, the "rise and shine" refrain can be sung at the beginning and end only, as written, or between each verse. Noah was chosen by God to lead his family through the flood of God's vengeance upon a corrupt world to a new world washed clean of sin.

1. FATHER ABRAHAM

TRADITIONAL
Arranged by ANNA LAURA PAGE
and JEAN ANNE SHAFFERMAN

(♩ = ca. 126-132)

D

4 *mf* ⑤

Fa-ther A-bra-ham had man-y sons, man-y sons had fa - ther

(D)

8

A-bra-ham. I am one of them, and so are you, so let's just praise the

A7

12 1. (clap) 2. (clap)

Lord! Right arm! Fa-ther Lord! Right arm! Left arm! Fa-ther

1. D 2. D