



Sample 4: A simple 'baby singing' session. 20-minute session that we hold with the nursery classes at school.

At St Peter's, Walworth, we've tended to hold mixed groups for babies, toddlers and young school-age children because we've found that both the babies and the older children gain so much from the experience (see pp. 3–4). If your group is made up only of babies and toddlers under two and a half, however, you may wish to adapt the sessions accordingly. For a group like this, I would build a simple baby singing session as follows.

Welcome

See Guide, Book 1, p. 218.

Welcome your group.

Let's start by going round the circle
and saying our name out loud.

My name's _____.

Go round the circle so that every adult and child has the chance to say his or her name (and introduce any dolls, teddies or toys). If any of the children don't want to say their name or aren't able to, you (or a parent or carer) could say it for them and wave.

Welcome Song: Option 1

Song: 'The Diddy Disciples welcome song'. Words © Sharon Moughtin-Mumby

Tune: 'Glory, glory, alleluia!' (traditional). For the music see Book 1, p. 259.

Go around the circle the same way as above. See if each of you can remember the others' names and insert them into the song.

Welcome Name 1 to St Peter's*

** Insert the name of your church or children's group, or sing 'our worship'.*

Welcome Name 2 to St Peter's*

Welcome Name 3 to St Peter's*

You are welcome in the name of the Lord!

Introducing the Unit: Jesus's Wonderful Love

Jesus loved to tell stories!

Lots of Jesus' stories are about how much God loves us.

Let's tell some of Jesus' stories together.

Choose a suitable number of songs from the following material. Aim to move through these songs in the same order each week. Punctuate the singing with getting ready for the next song by using the visual aids or imaginative aids suggested.

Keeping the songs the same each week will give the children (and adults) plenty of time to familiarize themselves with the songs and begin to join in actively.



Song 1: 'The Good Shepherd song'

John 10.11-15

Tune: 'Mary had a little lamb' (traditional). Words © Sharon Moughtin-Mumby. For the music see Book 1, p. 65.

Give out sheep (either toy sheep, or laminated/card sheep) to the children. Encourage them to move the sheep around on the floor.

Jesus told a story about some sheep!

**We are a-ll little sheep, Move sheep around
little sheep, little sheep!
We are a-ll little sheep!
Baa, baa! Bleat! Baa, baa!**

Hold your hands out like claws, ready to pounce on the word 'wolf'.

**Look! Here comes a big, bad wolf, Pounce
a big, bad wolf, Pounce a big, bad wolf! Pounce
Look! Here comes a big, bad wolf! Pounce
Baa, baa! Bleat! Baa, baa! Sounding scared**

Move the sheep around the floor, or run your fingers around to show the sheep running away as you sing.

**[The] sheep, they ran and ran and ran,
ran and ran, ran and ran!
[The] sheep, they ran and ran and ran!
Baa, baa! Bleat! Baa, baa!**

Oh dear! Poor sheep!

Jesus said, 'Then there were some different sheep.'
These sheep had a GOOD shepherd! *Thumbs up*
Shall we see what happens to these sheep?

**We are a-ll little sheep, Move sheep around
little sheep, little sheep!
We are a-ll little sheep!
Baa, baa! Bleat! Baa, baa!**

Hold your hands out like claws, ready to pounce on the word 'wolf'.

**Look! Here comes a big, bad wolf, Pounce
a big, bad wolf, Pounce a big, bad wolf! Pounce
Look! Here comes a big, bad wolf! Pounce
Baa, baa! Bleat! Baa, baa! Sounding scared.**

Make the Good Shepherd from two fingers standing on the floor like a person. Show the shepherd standing firm by lifting your fingers slightly and putting them down again as you sing.

**The Good Shepherd, he did not run!
did not run, did not run!
The Good Shepherd, he did not run!
Baa, baa! Bleat! Baa, baa!**

Show the wolf with your downturned hand running all over you (a bit like a spider) as you sing.

**The wo-lf ran and ran and ran,
ran and ran, ran and ran!
The wo-lf ran and ran and ran!
Baa, baa! Bleat! Baa, baa!**



You may like to end with the following:

Jesus says, 'I am the Good Shepherd.'

We're Jesus' little sheep.

Jesus loves us and will never leave us.

Let's be Jesus.

Let's sing to each other, 'I will never, never leave'.

Instead of singing our 'baas' at the end,

Let's sing 'thank you, thank you, Jesus'.

I will never, never leave! *Shake head gently*

Never leave! Never leave!

I will never, never leave! *Shake head gently*

Thank you, thank you, Jesus!

Song 2: 'The lost sheep song'

Luke 15.3-7

Tune: 'Little Bo Peep' (traditional). Words © Sharon Moughtin-Mumby. For the music, see Book 1, p. 54.

In our song, some of the first sheep ran off!

Jesus told a story about a little Lost Sheep!

Shall we be the Good Shepherd

and go on a sheep hunt for the Lost Sheep?

Let's pick up our crook. *Mime picking up an imaginary crook*

A crook is like a stick to hook the sheep and bring them back.

Demonstrate hooking a sheep with your crook.

You may like to use toy animals or pictures as props to help you tell the story as suggested below. If your group doesn't have the animals used in the story, you could adapt the material with your own ideas.

Searching and searching everywhere, *Hand sheltering eyes, looking*

ready with my shepherd's crook. *Get ready to hook a sheep*

What is that moving over there? *Point in surprise to a place in the circle*

Let's tiptoe and take a look!

Tiptoe on the spot, or make two fingers into a 'shepherd' and tiptoe with them on the floor.

Spoken in rhythm: tiptoe, tiptoe, tiptoe . . . Tiptoe on the spot

I can see . . . *Hand sheltering eyes*

A snake! *Pull a toy snake, or a picture of a snake, out of your bag*

Tssss!

That's not my sheep! *Shake head and look surprised*

We need to keep on looking . . .

Searching and searching everywhere, *Hand sheltering eyes, looking*

ready with my shepherd's crook. *Get ready to hook a sheep*

What is that moving over there? *Point in surprise to a place in the circle*

Let's tiptoe and take a look!

Tiptoe on the spot or make two fingers into a 'shepherd' and tiptoe with them on the floor.

Spoken in rhythm: tiptoe, tiptoe, tiptoe . . . Tiptoe on the spot

I can see . . . *Hand sheltering eyes*

A _____!



Repeat with different animals that a shepherd might encounter when searching for a sheep: a bear, a lion, an owl, a crocodile, etc.

Make the animal's sound.

That's not my sheep! *Shake head and look surprised/scared*

We need to keep on looking . . .

The last time you do this, find the sheep!

I can see . . . *Hand sheltering eyes*

the Lost Sheep!

We've found the Lost Sheep!

Sometimes we feel lost.

When we're lost, God comes looking for us

like we looked for the sheep.

And God is always very excited to find us!

Song 3: 'The lost coin song'

Luke 15.8–10

Tune: 'Oh dear! What can the matter be?' (traditional). Words © Sharon Moughtin-Mumby. For the music see Book 1, p. 58.

Jesus told another story about lost things.

Show a doll or teddy and a large coin shape.

Doll's/teddy's name has lots of coins like this.

But she's lost a coin!

Let's help her find her coin!

'Hide' a large card coin under a cushion in the centre of the circle.

Let's sing with *Doll's/teddy's name* and help her look.

Lead the parents, babies and toddlers in an appropriate 'looking around' action as you sing.

Oh dear! Where can my coin be?

Oh dear! Where can my coin be?

Oh dear! Where can my coin be?

I'm turning my house upside down! *Find the coin*

As you sing 'upside down', you could encourage the children to lift up the cushion and find the coin. Don't worry if the toddlers can't wait! Let them find the coin at any point, but pretend yourself not to see it until the end of the verse.

Let's sing 'Hooray! Hooray!' with *Doll's/teddy's name*

and dance and wave our hands in the air.

Hooray! Hooray! I did it! I did it!

Hooray! Hooray! I did it! I did it!

Hooray! Hooray! I did it! I did it!

Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!

Let's tell the story again! *Hide coin under cushion*

Doll's/teddy's name has lost her coin!

Let's sing our song and help her look for it!

Lead the parents, babies and toddlers in an appropriate 'looking around' action as you sing.

Oh dear! Where can my coin be?

Oh dear! Where can my coin be?

Oh dear! Where can my coin be?

I'm turning my house upside down! *Find the coin*



To end:

Hooray! We've found the Lost Coin!

Sometimes we feel lost.

When we're lost, God comes looking for us
like we looked for the coin.

When God finds us, God says 'Hooray!'

Let's stand up tall and be God!

Let's sing 'Hooray! Hooray! I did it! I did it!' and dance and wave our hands.

Hooray! Hooray! I did it! I did it! *Waving hands throughout*

Hooray! Hooray! I did it! I did it!

Hooray! Hooray! I did it! I did it!

Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!

Song 4: 'Look how much Jesus loves me!'

Tune: 'Here we go Looby Loo' (traditional). Words © Sharon Moughtin-Mumby. For the music see Book 1, p. 33.

If appropriate for the age group:

Jesus loves us!

Let's make our body into the biggest shape we can!

Even bigger!

'Look how much Jesus loves me!'

Let's sing our 'Higher than the stars' song.

You may find it helpful to pause or interrupt singing as indicated each time to remind the children 'big shape!' If this action isn't appropriate for your age group, you could stretch your arms out as wide as possible.

Higher than the stars! *Reach up high with 'twinkle' hands*

Deeper than the sea! *Crouch down low showing rippling waters*

Wider than the sky! . . . *Reach out wide and upwards*

Spoken: Big shape!

Look how much Jesus loves me!

If appropriate for your group, you may also wish to explore different feelings with this song, as exemplified here. Alternatively, you may simply wish to simply sing the refrain 'Higher than the stars . . .' as above.

Let's all be cross! Can you show me cross?

Lead the children and parents in singing along, with their chosen facial expression and action.

When I'm feeling cross, *Cross action and face*

When I'm feeling cross, *Cross action and face*

When I'm feeling cross . . . *Cross action and face*

Spoken: Big shape!

look how much Jesus loves me!

Repeat for different feelings. For instance:

When I'm feeling happy . . .

When I'm feeling sad . . .

When I'm feeling surprised . . .

When I'm feeling scared . . .

When I'm feeling excited . . .

When I'm feeling poorly . . .

You may like to repeat the 'Higher than the stars' refrain after each verse or after every couple of verses.



You may like to end with:

So many different feelings!

Yawn I'm feeling tired after all that. Are you?

Can you show me tired?

Let's all go to sleep and sing again.

This time at the end we won't make our 'big shape'.

Let's fall fast asleep instead . . .

When I'm feeling tired,

When I'm feeling tired,

When I'm feeling tired . . .

look how much Jesus loves me! Yawn

Sing more reflectively while still miming falling asleep. Slow down towards the end as if going to sleep at night.

Higher than the stars!

Deeper than the sea!

Wider than the sky! . . .

Look how much Jesus loves me!

End with a moment of sleepy silence.

Thank You, God

Song: 'My hands were made for love'. Words © Sharon Moughtin-Mumby

Tune: 'Hickory, dickory, dock' (traditional). For the music, see p. 262, or for a taster see the Diddy Disciples website.

If you'd like to include a time of prayer to follow the Bible Storytelling, you may find the following material from the 'Thank You, God' Building Block helpful. Having said this, we've found that the 'Sorry song' (p. 37) and the 'Jesus, hear our prayer!' song (p. 44) are the parts of Diddy Disciples that our youngest babies engage with most.

Invite the children to sit in a circle for a moment of quiet.

It's time to remember all the things we've done this week.

It's time to say 'thank you' to God

for when we've been part of showing God's love.

Let's wiggle our fingers!

I wonder when you've shown love

with your hands this week?

Wiggle fingers as you sing.

My hands were made for love!

My hands were made for love!

Thank you for the love they've shown.

My hands were made for love!

Let's wiggle our feet!

I wonder when you've shown love

with your feet this week?

Wiggle feet as you sing.

My feet were made for love!

My feet were made for love!

Thank you for the love they've shown.

My feet were made for love!



Let's put our hands gently on our neck.

Let's sing 'Ahhh!'

Ahhhhh!

Can you feel your throat vibrating and dancing?

I wonder when you've shown love
with your voice this week?

Hold neck and feel your voice 'dancing' as you sing.

My voice was made for love!

My voice was made for love!

Thank you for the love it's shown.

My voice was made for love!

Feast

Eat, drink and sit together as a sign of what God's kingdom looks like (Luke 14.15–24).

This may be a simple snack (for instance, a drink and pieces of fruit or a biscuit). Aim to provide for everyone, including adults. You may instead prefer to hold your feast after your closing song.

Closing song

Song: 'I've got peace like a river' (traditional)

Tune: Traditional. For a taster, see the [Diddy Disciples website](#). See *Guide, Book 1*, p. 231.

Either: invite the children each to hold a small section of the peace cloth (p. 231), helped by adults, and to raise and lower it so it 'flows' like a river as you sing.

Or: Invite the children to lie beneath the peace cloth (p. 231) as two adults wave it over their heads.

Or: If you don't have a peace cloth, invite the group to join in raising and lowering their hands like the waters of a flowing river as you sing.

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
