



# Go Forward in Faith

**Believing gives us courage to do something about it.**

## Scripture Words

I will...teach you  
the way you should go.  
—Psalm 32:8 NRSV

Lord, lead me by the hand.  
—Doctrine and Covenants 105:5a

## Here We Come!

Let the children pretend to be wind-up toys. Use a large room with no obstacles. Start on one side of the room. The child is to stand straight with arms at the side. The teacher pretends to wind the child-toy. The child marches forward and stops just short of touching the wall. (No banging into the wall and getting hurt allowed.) The child must continue to march in place until the teacher comes to turn them around so they can go forward again.

## Scripture Words and Worship

Present the two verses as coming from one of our very old books of scripture and one of our newest books. Both talk about the same thing. God is the one who knows where we should go. We can trust God to lead us. God is close enough to take our hand. We can learn the things God has to teach us.

## Live and Learn

The story of Jesus' blessing can be found in Luke 2:22–38. Connect the events in the story to experiences the children may have had seeing a baby blessing at church. Read through the story to visualize the scene, then tell it in your own words. Use a baby doll wrapped in a blanket to help make the story more realistic.



## Up and at 'Em

Give the children a chance to stretch. Choose an activity that allows for large motor movement.

## Jesus Is Blessed

Mary and Joseph loved God. They were so thankful for baby Jesus. They wanted to do everything God expected them to. Mary and Joseph got ready to take baby Jesus to the big temple in Jerusalem. It was important to take new babies to the priest and ask for God's blessing.

Mary and Joseph walked up the hill to the temple. They could see its beautiful walls shining in the sun. They knew baby Jesus was too young to be able to remember this day, but they would tell him about it as he grew older.

Mary and Joseph knew God wanted them to take care of Jesus. They knew God would bless Jesus. But they didn't realize just how important Jesus would be as he grew up.

Mary and Joseph walked into the big courtyard of the temple. There were tall pillars and high walls. People were coming and going. Just inside the door, a man was standing. His name was Simeon. God had told Simeon to go to the temple that day and he would see something special.

Simeon looked at Mary and Joseph as they came in. Then he looked at the baby. Simeon thought about the promise God had made to him that someday he would see the special gift God was sending to Earth. All of a sudden, Simeon knew! He looked at Mary's baby and knew that this was the one he had been waiting for.

Simeon rushed over to Mary and held out his arms. Mary was surprised, but she handed the old man her baby. Simeon looked at Jesus' sweet baby face. Then Simeon told God thank you right out loud. He was so excited.

Mary and Joseph didn't know what to think. Simeon smiled at them and asked God to bless the parents as well. Not far away was an old woman named Anna. Anna was at the temple every day. She liked to pray and feel close to God. Anna saw Mary and Joseph and the baby. She saw Simeon bless the baby. And God let Anna know what Simeon knew. This was baby Jesus, God's special gift to the world. Anna was so excited she had to tell everyone she saw!

## Sense-ations

Let the children pretend to be taking care of a baby. Provide an assortment of dolls or stuffed toys. Have blankets available. Watch as the children play and comment on their parenting skills.

## Moving Music

- "Go Forth with God"
- "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

## Story Talking

Give each child a picture of Simeon and Anna, found in the Patterns section. Glue the adults to heavy paper. Cut along the dotted line in their arms to make a slit for the baby. Give each child a baby Jesus and demonstrate how to put the baby in Anna's arms and then in Simeon's arms.



Talk about babies the children are familiar with. What kind of care do they need? Who gives that care? When is it time to teach babies about God and how to pray? How did the children learn about God? Who taught them to pray?



## There We Go

Let the children help you retell the story of the blessing of Jesus. Encourage them to share the story with others.