

Hymn Story Time

Introducing Hymns to Your Youngest Singers

Compiled and Edited by Carol Huffman Dickerson

The enclosed Enhanced CD contains audio files and PDF files.
The CD can be played in a regular CD player or through your computer.



This symbol indicates a track number for the listening version and accompaniment version of the hymns.

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Introduction

Hymn Story Time is a collection of hymn stories and activities designed to introduce hymns to preschool and kindergarten children. General hymns, as well as seasonal hymns for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Palm Sunday, and Easter are included. Each hymn and hymn story is presented in a way that is developmentally appropriate and will plant a seed for a lifetime of meaningful hymn-singing.

The *Hymn Story Time* book and materials on the Enhanced CD are completely reproducible. Print as many of the materials as you need to serve your group.

The book includes full scores along with a hymn story and detailed teaching steps. The Enhanced CD contains listening and accompaniment audio tracks as well as student scores, colorful visuals, and digital versions of the hymn teaching steps.

There are also demonstration video links for several of the activities:

- “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Scarf Movement Video
- “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Parachute Video
- “Joy to the World” Bells Video

Made with the same careful attention to age-appropriate music and spiritual depth as the *Growing in Grace* Children’s Music Curriculum, we hope *Hymn Story Time* will be a blessing to you and your music ministry.

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Words by Cecil F. Alexander

ROYAL OAK
Music Traditional English Melody
Arranged by Michael Evers (2008)

5

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,

5

all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

Fine

9

Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings, He

13

made their glow - ing col - ors, He made their ti - ny wings.

D.C.

Hymn Story Time: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

1. Tell the story.

- Have children gather around as you tell the following hymn story:
Once there was a woman named Cecil Frances Humphreys. She was born in 1818 in Dublin, Ireland. When she was a young girl she discovered she had a gift (talent) for writing poetry. In 1830 she married William Alexander, who was a preacher. They moved to a country village in Ireland and began to serve in a church there. She wrote "All Things Bright and Beautiful" for the children in her Sunday School class. The hymn is about "each little flower that opens" and "each little bird that sings." It also speaks of their "glowing colors" and "tiny wings." But, most of all, it tells that "the Lord God made them all."
Cecil went on to write many more hymns for children, and in 1848 they were all put together into a hymnal called "Hymns for Little Children." The hymnal was very successful, and Cecil donated all the money she made from her hymnal to a school for children who were deaf.

2. Listen to the hymn.

Option

Have children hold hymnals open to "All Things Bright and Beautiful" as they listen.

- Display "All Things Bright and Beautiful" Visual. Read Ecclesiastes 3:11 from the visual and point out the flowers and bird.
- Play Demo 2, and have children listen for the words *each little flower that opens* and *each little bird that sings*.

3. Review the story.

- Ask children the following questions to review the story:
 - Who is the hymn story about? (Cecil Alexander)
 - When she was a young girl, what did she discover she had a gift, or talent for? (writing poetry)
 - Cecil wrote the hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful" for _____. (her Sunday School class)
 - She donated all the money she made from her hymnal, "Hymns for Little Children" to _____. (a school for children who were deaf.)

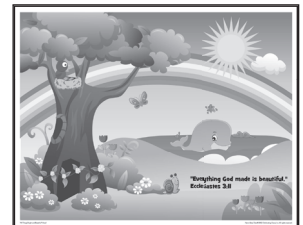
MATERIALS NEEDED

- Demo 2
- Track 15 (optional)
- Hymnals, one per child (optional)
- "All Things Bright and Beautiful" Visual
- Creation Mix-up Activity Page, one per child
- Crayons

PREPARATION

- Print visual and Activity Pages.

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" Visual



4. Creation Mix-up Activity Page.

- Distribute Creation Mix-up Activity Pages.
- Ask children who created everything. (God)
- Tell children the picture shows many things God created—some of which are mentioned in the hymn—but some of those things are in the wrong place. (Bird and flower are mentioned in the hymn.)
- Have children circle each thing that is in the wrong place and then draw a line to where it belongs.
- Pray, thanking God for creation and for providing a perfect place for everything and everyone.

Options

- Play Track 15 as children work.
- Ask children to name other things God created and draw their own mixed-up creation picture on the back of their Activity Page.

Creation Mix-up Activity Page



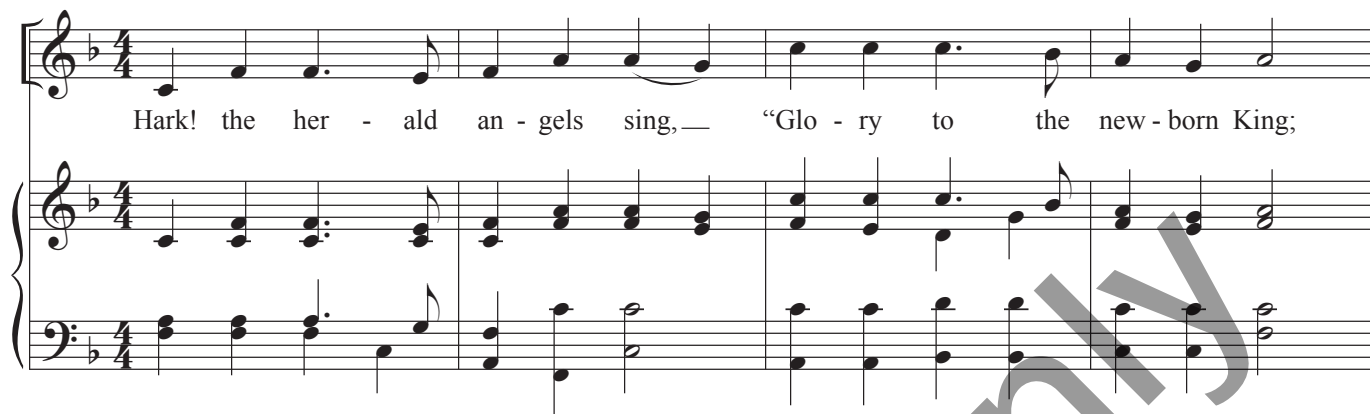
Preview Only

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley

MENDELSSOHN
Felix Mendelssohn
harm. William H. Cummings

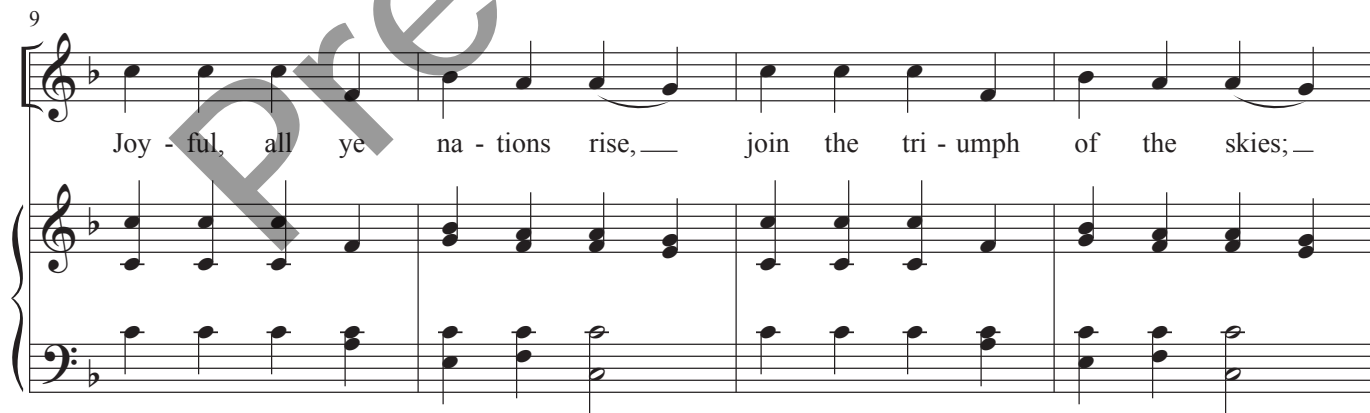
1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, — “Glo - ry to the new - born King;



5 peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”



9 Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, — join the tri - umph of the skies; —



13

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is ___ born in Beth - le - hem!"

This musical system covers measures 13 through 16. It features a vocal line in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a piano accompaniment in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are: "with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, 'Christ is ___ born in Beth - le - hem!'". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

17

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry ___ to the new - born King!"

This musical system covers measures 17 through 20. It features a vocal line in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a piano accompaniment in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are: "Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, 'Glo - ry ___ to the new - born King!'". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

Preview Only

Hymn Story Time: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

1. Tell the hymn story.

- Have children gather around as you tell the following hymn story:

Once there was a man named Charles Wesley. He lived in England 300 years ago. He had eighteen older brothers and sisters.

Charles went to school and became a minister. Then, he was asked by the king of England to sail to America and serve as a chaplain to the troops there.

Charles liked to write songs that explained things from the Bible in a simple way. He wrote a hymn called "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" to teach people about the birth of Jesus.

2. Listen to the hymn.

- Tell children the word *hark* means *listen closely*.
- Play Demo 6, and have children cup their hand around their ear when they hear the word *hark*. Have them also listen for what the angels were singing. (*Glory to the newborn King.*)

Option

Have children hold hymnals open to "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" as they listen.

3. Review the story.

- Where did Charles Wesley live? (England)
- How many brothers and sisters did Charles Wesley have? (18)
- Where did Charles Wesley sail to become a chaplain? (America)
- What does the hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" announce? (the birth of Jesus)

4. Make an angel.

- Distribute paper plates, angel faces, and crayons.
- Have children color both sides of their paper plate. (The back side of the plate, when folded, will be the angel's gown.)
- Fold down the sides of the plate to make the angel's gown. (See page 2 for a photograph.)
- Glue an angel face to the top of the angel gown.
- Distribute a sheet of construction paper to each child.

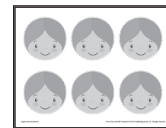
MATERIALS NEEDED

- Demo 6
- Track 19 (optional)
- Hymnals (one per child, optional)
- Angel Faces, one face per child
- 9-inch white paper plates, one per child
- Crayons
- Construction paper, one sheet per child
- Glue
- Child-safe scissors (optional)

PREPARATION

- Print Angel Faces on card stock and cut apart.

Angel Faces



- Assist children in tracing their hands and cutting around their handprints.
- Glue handprints on back of angel to make wings.
- Write children's names on the back of their angels.

Options

- Cut apart handprints for children.
- Play Track 19 as children work.




Preview Only

I Sing the Mighty Power of God


Isaac Watts, 1715

FOREST GREEN
Traditional English Melody
Arranged by Mark Edwards

I sing the might - y power_ of_ God that made the_ moun - tains



4
rise, that spread the flow - ing seas_ a - broad, and built the_ loft - y



8
skies. I_ sing the wis - dom_ that_ or - dained the



11

Musical score for measures 11-13. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics: "sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at". The piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs) provides harmonic support.

14

Musical score for measures 14-16. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics: "His com - mand and all the stars o - bey.". The piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs) provides harmonic support.

Preview Only

Hymn Story Time: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

1. Tell the story.

- Have children gather around as you tell the following story:

Once there was a man named Isaac Watts. He was born in England. As a child, he demonstrated that he was very clever with words. When he was a teenager, he told his father that he wished there were more hymns to sing in church than just from the Book of Psalms. His father challenged him to write a new hymn. So he did, and he wrote more than 750 more hymns throughout his life.

Isaac was very smart and went to college. He prayed and studied the Bible a lot. He became a preacher as well as a hymn writer. He fell in love with a woman once, but when he asked her to marry him she said no. He never married or had children of his own, but he had a great heart and love for all children. He wrote "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" especially for children.

2. Listen to the hymn.

- Display "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Activity Page.
- Play Demo 7, and have children listen for things pictured on the Activity Page. (mountains, seas, skies, sun, moon, stars)

Option

Have children hold hymnals open to "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" as they listen.

3. Review the story.

- Ask children the following questions to review the story:
 - Where was Isaac Watts born? (England)
 - When did he write his first hymn? (when he was a teenager)
 - When he asked the woman he loved to marry him, what did she say? (no)
 - Isaac Watts was a hymn writer and also a _____. (preacher)

4. Color Activity Pages.

- Distribute "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Activity Pages and crayons.
- Play Demo 7 (or Track 20), and have children color their activity pages. Remind them of words from the hymn—*mountains, seas, skies, sun, moon, stars*.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Demo 7
- Track 20 (optional)
- Hymnals, one per child (optional)
- "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Activity Page, one per child
- Crayons

PREPARATION

- Print Activity Pages.

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Activity Page

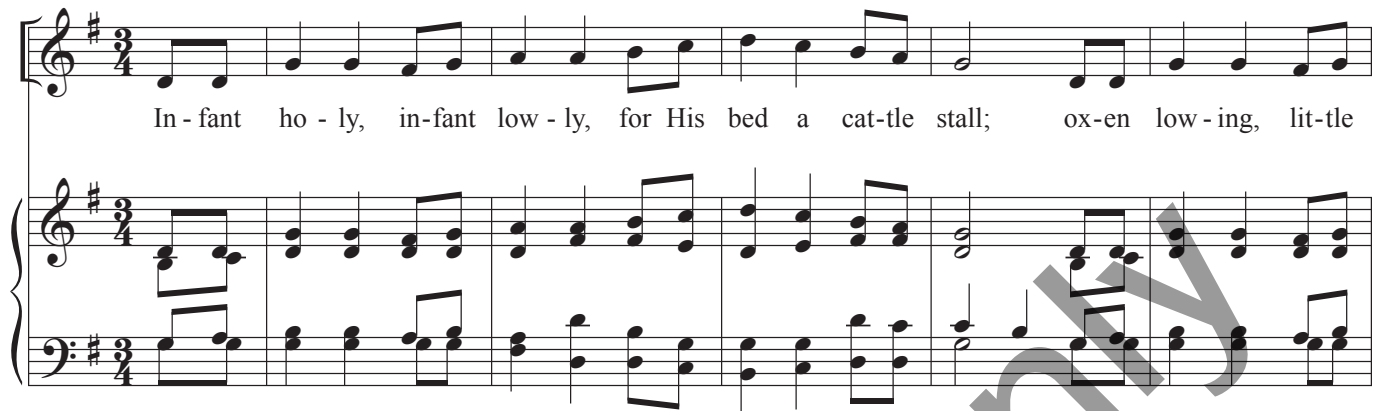


Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Words Polish Carol
Para. by Edith M. G. Reed

W ZLOBIE LEZY
Music Polish carol

1 In - fant ho - ly, in-fant low - ly, for His bed a cat-tle stall; ox-en low - ing, lit-tle



6 know - ing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are wing - ing, an-gels sing - ing, no-els



11 ring - ing, tid-ings bring - ing: Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.



Hymn Story Time: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

1. Tell the story.

- Have children gather around as you tell the following hymn story:
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" is a Christmas carol from the country of Poland. It is more than 700 years old! The music comes from a traditional Polish folk dance. This hymn would be sung by Christmas carolers in Poland as they would go door to door acting out the Christmas story.

2. Listen to the hymn.

- Play Demo 9, and have children listen for four similar melodic phrases that start higher each time and also rhyme. Use your hands to illustrate these phrases, each beginning a little higher—*swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing*

Option

Have children hold hymnals open to "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" as they listen.

3. Review the story.

- Ask children the following questions to review the story:
 - Where is the hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" from? (Poland)
 - How old is the hymn? (over 700 years)
 - Where did the music come from? (a Polish folk dance)
 - What would Christmas carolers do as they went from door to door singing this hymn? (act out the Christmas story)

4. Move the parachute to the hymn.

- Display "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Parachute Visuals 1-2 for your reference.

Teaching Tip

To view the parachute demonstration go to www.growing-in-grace.com/HymnStoryTimeInfantHolyInfantLowly

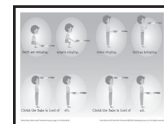
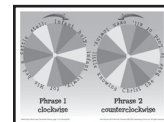
MATERIALS NEEDED

- Demo 9
- Track 22 (optional)
- Hymnals, one per child (optional)
- "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Parachute Visuals 1-2
- "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Parachute Video
- Parachute or round tablecloth

PREPARATION

- Print "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Parachute Visuals.
- Watch the demonstration video to become familiar with the parachute movements.

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Parachute Visuals 1-2



- Place children around the parachute and have them hold a loop at waist level with both hands. (If there are more children than loops, children can hold the parachute in the spaces between the loops.)
- Practice walking in a circle clockwise, then counterclockwise.
- Practice holding the parachute at feet level, knee level, waist level, and shoulder level.
- Practice moving the parachute up and down from overhead to waist level.
- Play Demo 9, and lead children in moving the parachute with the hymn as follows:
 - **Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall**—walk clockwise
 - **Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all**—walk counterclockwise
 - **Swift are winging**—parachute at feet
 - **Angels singing**—parachute at knees
 - **Noels ringing**—parachute at waist
 - **Tidings bringing**—parachute at shoulders
 - **Christ the Babe is**—raise parachute above head
 - **Lord of all**—lower parachute to waist
 - **Christ the Babe is**—raise parachute above head
 - **Lord of all**—lower parachute to waist

Option

Perform the parachute movements to Track 22. Encourage children to sing any part of the hymn they have “caught.”

O How I Love Jesus

Frederick Whitfield

O HOW I LOVE JESUS
American melody, 19th cent.



There is a name_ I love to hear, I love to sing_ its

worth;_ it sounds like mu - sic in my ear, the sweet - est name on

earth. O how I love Je - sus, O how I love

Je - sus, O how I love Je - sus, be - cause He first loved me!

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment, with the middle staff in treble clef and the bottom staff in bass clef, both sharing the one sharp key signature. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and phrasing slurs.

Preview Only

Hymn Story Time: "O How I Love Jesus"

1. Tell the story.

- Have children gather around as you tell the following hymn story:

Once there was a man named Frederick Whitfield. He lived in England 200 years ago. He went to school and studied hard. He became a minister in a church.

He also liked to write stories and poems. He loved Jesus very much and wrote a poem about how much he loved Jesus. It was put to music and became a hymn that is sung in many churches still today.

The words of the hymn tell about how much Reverend Whitfield loved the name "Jesus" and how grateful he was that Jesus loved him.

2. Listen to the hymn.

- Play Demo 12, and have children listen for the phrase *O how I love Jesus* and count how many times it is sung. (three)

Option

Have children hold hymnals open to "O How I Love Jesus" ("There Is a Name I Love to Hear") as they listen.

- Play Demo 12 again, this time having children listen for what Frederick Whitfield thought was *the sweetest name on earth*. (Jesus)

3. Review the story.

- Ask children the following questions to review the story:
 - Where did Frederick Whitfield live? (England)
 - Did Frederick Whitfield love Jesus? (yes)
 - What did Frederick Whitfield write that told how much he loved Jesus? (a poem)
 - What name did Frederick Whitfield think was the sweetest name on earth? (Jesus)

4. Move with scarves.

- Distribute scarves to children.
- Teach the following scarf motions:
 - **Verse**—Have children sway with their scarves to the steady dotted-quarter-note beat.
 - **Chorus**—Have children move their scarves in a large circle on each *O How I Love Jesus* phrase.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Demo 12
- Track 25 (optional)
- Hymnals (one per child, optional)
- Scarves (one per child)
- "O How I Love Jesus" Activity Page
- Crayons

PREPARATION

- Print Activity Pages.

- **Because He**—Have children move their scarves up.
- **first loved**—Have children move their scarves down.
- **me**—Have children touch their scarf to their opposite shoulder.
- Play Demo 12, and lead children in the scarf motions.

5. Complete Activity Pages.

- Distribute Activity Pages and crayons.
- Read the first phrase (*O how I love Jesus*) to children.
- Have children trace the letters on their activity page to spell the name *JESUS*.
- Read the second phrase (*because He first loved _____*), saying your name for the blank.
- Have children write their own name in the blank.
- Read each child's activity page, saying their name for the blank.
- Remind children that Jesus loves each one of them and knows them by name.

Option

Play Track 25 as children work.

"O How I Love Jesus" Activity Page

