GRACE AND GRIDS

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Baby’s First Christmas Carols

Gentle Carols for Little Ones



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A Note for Grown-Ups

Every song in this book was chosen the Grace and Grids way: clean words, true stories, and music that points children to Jesus. These are the songs of Sunday school, home altars, and grandparents' knees — the ones that stay in a heart for life.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

- Print the pages you want, one song at a time, or keep the whole book in a binder by the piano, the rocking chair, or the car seat.
- Every song page has the words in big, friendly print, a "Sing it like this" idea (motions, echoes, games), and a strip of pictures to color at the bottom.
- Press play on the tune tracks (in the audio folder of your download) and sing along — the tracks play each tune plainly, like a music box, so young singers can learn it and lead it.
- Short on time? Sing one song a day. Children learn by loving repetition — the tenth time through is when it becomes theirs.

ABOUT THE SONGS & THE TUNES

Every song in this book is public domain or traditional — words and music both — or an original Grace and Grids song written for this series, and each song page credits its writers and dates. The tune tracks are our own recordings, made by Grace and Grids from those public-domain melodies: no one else's performance is included, ever. Where a song's own tune could not be rendered to our standard, the page says "words only" rather than handing you a tune we could not stand behind.

SONG 1

Away in a Manger (Cradle Song)

Words: Anonymous, 1885; v. 3 John T. McFarland, c. 1904 · Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895 ("Cradle Song")

VERSE 1

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

VERSE 2

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

VERSE 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

SING IT LIKE THIS

This is the OTHER famous tune for "Away in a Manger" — the lullaby one. Learn both and pick your family favorite.

COLOR THE PICTURES WHILE YOU SING:



SONG 2

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868 · Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1868 ("St. Louis")

VERSE 1

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

VERSE 2

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

VERSE 3

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

SING IT LIKE THIS

A pastor wrote this for his Sunday school after standing in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. Sing verse 3 as a bedtime prayer.

COLOR THE PICTURES WHILE YOU SING:



SONG 3

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Words: Edmund H. Sears, 1849 · Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850 ("Carol")

VERSE 1

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heav'n's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

VERSE 2

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

SING IT LIKE THIS

"Still through the cloven skies they come" — the angels' song bending near the earth. Sing it as quietly as midnight snow.

COLOR THE PICTURES WHILE YOU SING:



SONG 4

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Words: Nahum Tate, 1700 · Music: traditional ("Christmas," from Handel)

VERSE 1

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around,
And glory shone around.

VERSE 2

"Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind,
To you and all mankind."

VERSE 3

All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease,
Begin and never cease.

SING IT LIKE THIS

For two hundred years this was nearly the only Christmas hymn English churches sang. It tells Luke chapter 2 almost word for word.

COLOR THE PICTURES WHILE YOU SING:



SONG 5

Once in Royal David's City

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848 · Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849 ("Irby")

VERSE 1

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

VERSE 2

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

VERSE 3

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

SING IT LIKE THIS

In England, one small singer starts this carol alone by candlelight. Let your oldest child sing verse 1 as a solo.

COLOR THE PICTURES WHILE YOU SING:



SONG 6

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Words: Traditional Polish carol; tr. Edith M. Reed, 1920 · Music: Traditional Polish ("W Żłobie Leży")

VERSE 1

Infant holy, infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

VERSE 2

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story —
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!

SING IT LIKE THIS

Just two short verses, sung in Polish churches for centuries. The last line soars — "Christ the babe is Lord of all!"

COLOR THE PICTURES WHILE YOU SING:



SONG 7

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Words: Latin, 12th c.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1851 · Music: French processional, 15th c. ("Veni Emmanuel")

VERSE 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

VERSE 2

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

SING IT LIKE THIS

The oldest song in this book — Christians have sung it before Christmas for over 800 years. "Rejoice!" is the happy shout in every chorus.

COLOR THE PICTURES WHILE YOU SING:



SONG 8

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Traditional English carol (published 1833)

VERSE 1

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay;
Remember, Christ, our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

VERSE 2

In Bethlehem, in Israel,
This blessèd Babe was born,
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessèd morn;
The which His Mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

SING IT LIKE THIS

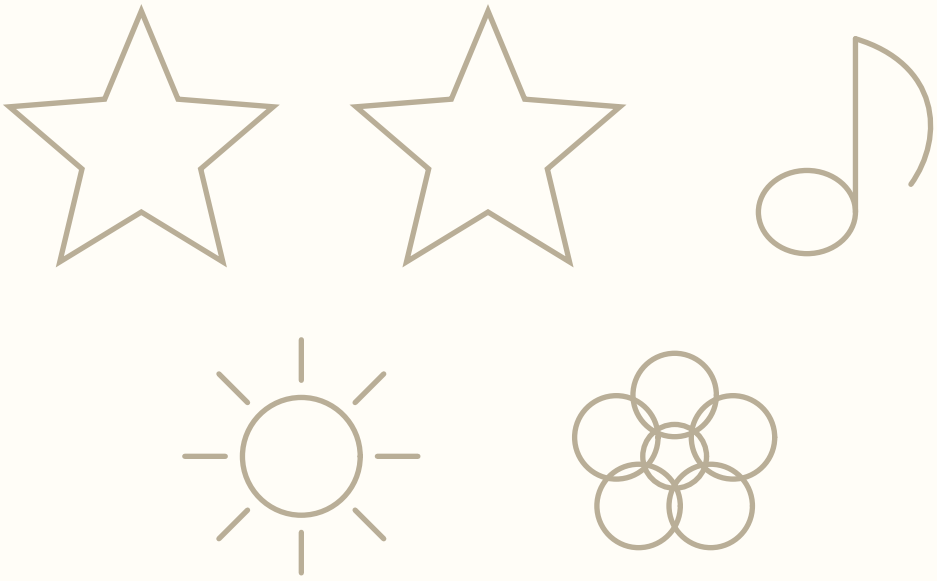
"Rest ye merry" means "keep you joyful!" Carolers sang this in London streets — sing the "tidings of comfort and joy" big and brave.

COLOR THE PICTURES WHILE YOU SING:



Color & Sing!

Color these big pictures while the tune tracks play — then check off every song your family has learned to sing all the way through.



MY FAVORITE SONGS — CHECK THEM OFF!

- ☐ 1. Away in a Manger (Cradle Song)
- ☐ 2. O Little Town of Bethlehem
- ☐ 3. It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
- ☐ 4. While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
- ☐ 5. Once in Royal David's City
- ☐ 6. Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
- ☐ 7. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- ☐ 8. God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

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