

ONE HUNDRED SHEEP



We all know how to count by 2, 5, and 10, but learning to count by 3, 4, etc. is important. This skill, known as “skip counting” is used in every math process from multiplication to algebra. Using stories from the Gospels as a basis for the lyrics, these original songs teach and reinforce skip-counting for numbers 2-10.



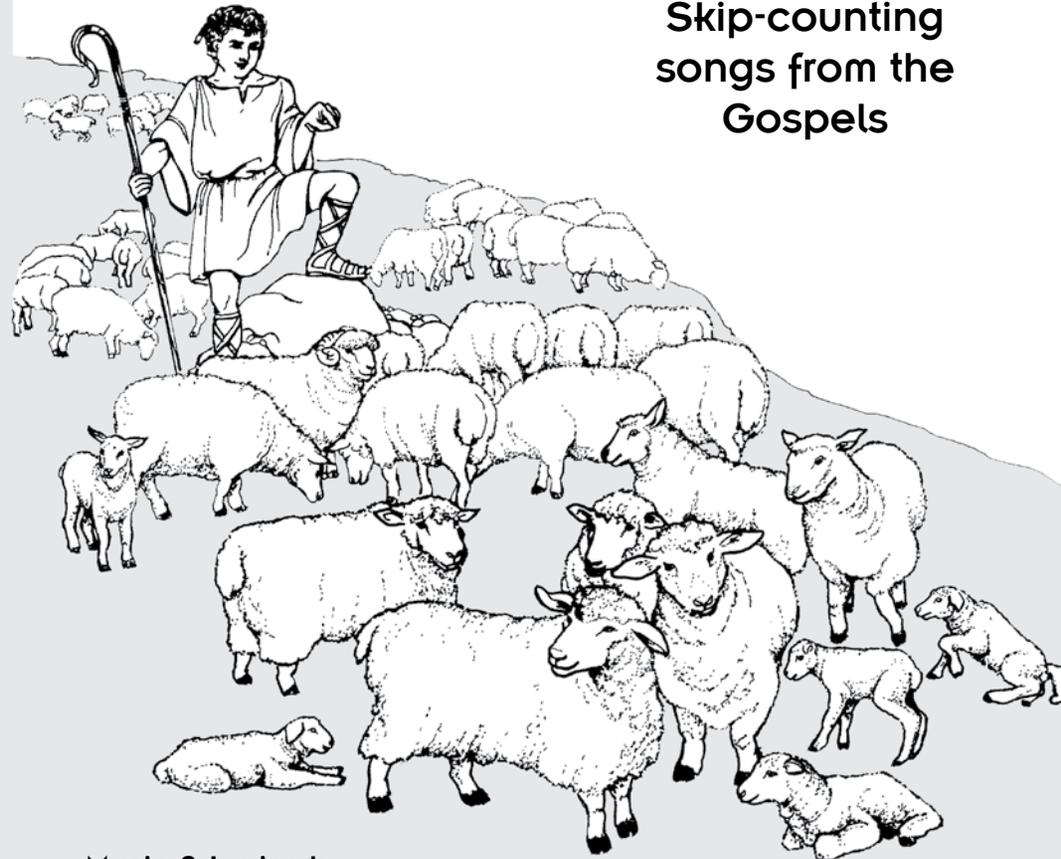
Common Sense Press
Simple to teach. Easy to learn.

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Songbook

Skip-counting
songs from the
Gospels



Music & Lyrics by
Roger Nichols

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The Shepherd Boy and the Stars

Ezra was a delightful little shepherd boy who had a clear-cut liking for counting stars. Not only did it pass the time at night, but the mystery of God's glory wrapped up in the night sky filled him with joy and wonder. Imagine his awe upon witnessing a sky full of angels. Background scripture for this little tale is found in Luke 2:8-20.

Ezra was ten years old.
He lived in Bethlehem,
A long time ago,
When the Romans had control.

His daddy was a shepherd
Who kept his flock by night.
Ezra would come along,
Yes eagerly come along.

And he would lay his head upon his arm
And gaze into an endless sky,
And count the stars that danced In space way up high.

2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12,
14, 16, 18, 20, 22 (Chorus)
24, 26, 28, and 30,
32, 34, 36, 38.

One night the air was cool
the skies clear and calm.
He heard a lovely song,
like a whisper on a breeze.

And looking up he saw a sight
That took his breath away.
There were angels gathering there,
They were gathering from everywhere.

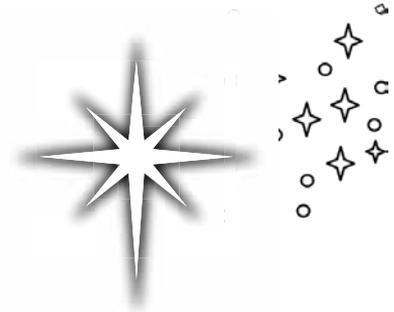
They had come to announce a Savior's birth,
Christ the Lord, the living Word.
Born in a stable in Bethlehem Is what he heard.

{chorus}

As the glory the of the moment,
Swelled and swirled in the night
With the shepherds on their knees
In a holy fright.

Ezra found himself
with his head on his arm
Gazing into the sky,
counting angels with delight,
He counted.

{Chorus}



Thirty-Three Wonder-filled Years

The scripture reference for this begins in Luke 2:21-35, jumps over to Luke 2:41-52, and contains in kernel form what the gospel of God is all about, the redemption of human beings to God's purposes. As you sing the numbers in sequence of three, try to visualize the life Jesus must have lived at each age numbered.

Way back in the Bible times
After Christ was born,
His parents took Him to the temple
On one happy morn.

Moved by God, old Simeon
Rushed to meet them there,
And holding the baby in his arms
He offered up this prayer:

These tired eyes have seen Your salvation
And now they can close for good.
And as He grows this child will be the very light of life,
A revelation for the gentile
And glory for the Jew.
Oh and the Child grew.

3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33. (2x)

One day when He was twelve
His parents had a fright.
While looking throughout the caravan
He was not in sight.

Without a thought He had stayed
In Jerusalem,
Talking in the temple courts
With the older men.

Listening and asking them questions,
And they were simply amazed,
At His understanding and His answers.
A mere boy on the outside
Far wiser than His years.
Oh and the Child grew.

3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33. (2x)

The Child grew in wisdom, in stature, and in favor
With God and with man
Such wonderful behavior.
Now a man and fully given over to the Spirit, He went
Abroad to speak of God
To anyone who would hear it.

A brilliant light shining in the darkness
The bread of life for those near death
And the blood He shed upon the cross
Brought healing to us all.
Now we can freely be
What we were meant to be.
Oh yes, the child grew.

3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33. (2x)

A Healing Touch

With this song we would like to introduce the most incredibly fake Caribbean accent ever recorded. We take great pride in this accomplishment. The Scripture reference for this tune is found in Luke 8:40-48.

Walking to the house, the house of Jairus,
No delay, a little girl lay,
Sick, near death, but Jesus gonna fix her.
Crowds in the road, hard to make way.

4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 44, 48
People on the road they jostling You.

In the cloud of dust, the elbows bumping,
Jesus very suddenly look up and say,
Somebody touched Me I felt the virtue
Flow from within and that's okay.

And Peter say.

4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 44, 48
People on the road they touching You.

Daughter of Abraham come a'tremblin',
Fall on the road before them and say,
All these many years I had the sickness,
But I touch you and it all go away.

And Peter say:

4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 44, 48
People on the road they jostling You.

Come dear sister, come a little closer,
Come and tell all what God did for you.
Now go on your way your faith has healed you.
Go on your way, you are brand new.

This time we clap.

4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 44, 48
People on the road they jostling You!

And John say, "Enough Peter! It's okay Man. Hah Hah!"



The Happy Farmer

Don't you just love happy endings?!! The scripture reference for this tune comes out of Matthew 13:1-23. According to the parable, we know that each of the places where the seeds fell were representative of another reality. If you feel comfortable with it, you might want to try to discuss the significance of the parable with your student.

A farmer went out to sow his seed,
He was thinking about five mouths to feed,
A wife, three girls, one baby boy
a family that gave him joy.

Some of the seeds didn't do too well
Depending upon just where they fell.
But others sprang up bountifully
and pretty soon he had a sea of green.

Some fell along the path
And the birds came and had a feast.
Some fell among the rocks
Where the soil had decreased.

Some fell among the thorns
And the plants didn't stand a chance,
'Cause everyone knows that corn and thorns
Don't make for a good romance.

But many fell on the good, good earth
And the baby plants had a wonderful birth.
And for all the seeds that landed there
Manyfold sprung up into the air.

Wheehaw!

A farmer went out to reap his crop
And he filled his silo clean to the top.
So many bushels, man alive
Let's help him out we'll count by five.

5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65,
70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 85, 90, 85, 100. (3x)

Martha, Martha

Oh don't we relate. Luke 10:38-42 is where this gem of a story is found. You can't help but love Martha, for surely there is a bit of Martha in each of us.

Martha in the kitchen
Starin' at the dishes.
Starin' at the bones
Of the picked over fishes.

Wasn't she disgruntled
Wasn't she entitled
To just a little bit of help
From her sister who was idle.
There was grease, there was grime
This seemed to happen all the time.

Ooh, that Mary is really bumming me out today! (spoken)

There were 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 dishes on the counter
And man, weren't they dirty.
36, 42, 48, 54, and 60, 66, and 72.

Jesus in the parlor,
Sensed a growing gloom.
Walked into the kitchen
And found her strangling a broom.

Martha, Martha why
Are you so upset?
There will always be things to clean
But how often do you get
To be with Me and this is what your sister sees.

Hmmm. Pause for reflection. (spoken)

There were 6, 12, 18, 24, and 30 dishes on the counter
And now they didn't seem so dirty.
36, 42, 48, 54, and 60, 66, and 72. (2x)

60, 66, and 72,
And didn't that kitchen shine
When she got through.

The Fisher of Men Catches a Fisherman

For all his faults, Peter had a heart that was hungry for what Jesus was offering. With just a little bit of persuasion, Peter's heart belonged to Jesus. This wonderful story is found in Luke 5:1-11.

7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42, 49, 56, 63, 70, 77, 84, 91
And still they kept on counting more and more. (2x)

Peter had been throwing
That net all night.
From the time the sun went down
Until the morning light.
And for his efforts
All he got was an aching back
And a pair of bloodshot eyes
And an empty sack,
That would carry no fish to the market.
No tuna, no jack.

Putting away his net,
Deciding to call it a day,
He turned his ear toward the shore
As he heard someone say,
Throw once more on the other side
Don't give up just yet.
Throw once more on the other side
You'll be surprised at what you get.
Throw once more on the other side
How strong is your net?



And because it was the Lord
Peter said okay.
Though his muscles screamed in pain
He threw it right away.

And suddenly a fury
Of water, fins, and tails
Erupted within the net,
He thought he had a dozen whales.
Throw once more on the other side
And laughing at the thought,
But thinking deep inside himself
It was he who had been caught
By the Master Fisherman
With the friendly plot.

He caught 7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42, 49, 56, 63, 70, 77, 84, 91
And still they kept on counting more and more. (2x)

Zacchaeus Comes Down

There wasn't a person much lower in the eyes of your typical Jew of the Lord's day than a tax collector. With the Jews already bent under the enormous pressure of unfair taxation, here come the tax collectors rigging up a system wherein they can charge what they please and pocket the excess. But there was a heart beating somewhere inside Zacchaeus and the Lord found it. Nothing feels quite as good as doing what is right and from that day forward Zacchaeus was a smilin' man. You can read about Zacchaeus at the beginning of Luke chapter 19.

8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56, 64, 72, 80, 88, 96 bucks
In my pocket.

I could count all night.
Got so much I don't know how to spend it.
But it don't feel right,
After hearing Jesus I just can't keep it.

Overcharging people on their taxes
Never felt so bad until today.
But the word I heard has changed me forever
And I want to go all the way,
Gonna change my ways today.
Gonna give some money away.

Lord, here it is,
Half of everything I own.
I give it back to those from whom I took it.
I never felt so good,
Lord, change is coming



(spoken) Hey Zephaniah. Could I speak with you for a moment
Please?

8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56, 64, 72, 80, 88, 96 bucks,
Come and get it.

(spoken) I am so sorry. I apologize from the bottom of my heart.
O, excuse me! Hey Jude! Got a minute?

(Jude) Yeah, what you want you no-good-for-nothin-varmint of a tax
collector?

(Zacchaeus) Uh, yeah. Nice to see you too. Jude, I think I owe you some
money.

(Jude) Oh yeah, well you just come right over here. Nice to see ya,
How's the wife? Kids?

8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56, 64, 72, 80, 88, 96 bucks
In your pocket

(Jesus speaking) Today salvation has come to your household, Zachaeus.

Wanted: Reapers

The Lord's yearning for people and His great love seem so evident in this scripture passage. It's interesting that He has passed the mantle of this responsibility onto His followers. Simply loving people is truly the greatest thing we could ever do. This scripture is found in Matthew 9:35-38.

The harvest is plentiful
But the workers are so few.
Let's ask the Lord of the harvest
Just what He intends to do.

I know of seventy-two,
Men who won't quit 'til the work is through.
They're gonna go out
Like lambs among the wolves
And their faith will be in God alone.

9, 18, 27, 36, 45, 54, 63, 72
How about you?
How about me?
Let's go together.

The harvest is the hearts of men and women
Girls and boys.
Lonely, lost, and afraid
I see the harvest every day.

And just like those seventy-two
Let's head on out there
See what we can do.
We're gonna go out like lambs among the wolves.
And our faith will be in God alone.

9, 18, 27, 36, 45, 54, 63, 72
How about you?
How about me?
Let's go together.
9, 18, 27, 36, 45, 54, 63, 72, 81, 90, 99

One Hundred Sheep

I think it's possible for any of us to go astray from time to time. It's just so great to know we have a faithful shepherd who loves us enough to come looking for us. This passage can be found in Matthew 18:10-14.

A shepherd had a flock
Of 100 sheep
And nothing ever was amiss
Under his watchful keep
And every morning
And every evening
And all throughout the day
You could hear him counting
By tens, you could hear him counting.



10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, and 100.

Morning found them safely
High upon a ridge
And evening found them sleepy
And on the little bridge
That led back to their pen
And to their dreams
And all the while you heard
The shepherd counting
By tens, you could hear him counting.

10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, and 100.

But the day arrived
When all was not right.
Instead of 100 sheep
There were only 99 in sight.

So the shepherd left the others
Safe inside their pen.
And he took off in a hurry
To bring the stray back in.
And though it took all day
And half the night,
He finally heard its cry
And he brought him home again
And all was well again.

10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, and 100.

