SOFTWARE & TECH

Noahs Ark Song Lyrics Two By Two

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Introduction: The Timeless Charm of “Noah’s Ark Song Lyrics Two by Two”

Few children’s Bible songs are as instantly recognizable as the cheerful tune that recounts the animals marching into Noah’s ark two by two. Generations of Sunday school children, homeschool families, and Vacation Bible School programs have sung, clapped, and acted out the lyrics that begin with “The animals went in two by two, hurrah, hurrah!” The rhythmic repetition and simple storytelling make it a favorite for young learners, while its roots in the biblical account of Noah’s ark give it lasting spiritual and educational value. In this article, we will dive deep into the lyrics, the story behind the song, its educational applications, and why these “noahs ark song lyrics two by two” continue to capture hearts around the world.

The Story Behind the Song

“Noah’s Ark Song Lyrics Two by Two” is not a single copyrighted composition but rather a traditional folk song that has been passed down through oral and musical traditions, likely originating in the 19th or early 20th century. The melody is thought to be derived from an old English sea shanty or camp meeting tune, which explains its rousing, call-and-response structure. The exact authorship is unknown, but the song’s popularity soared as Sunday school curricula adopted it to teach the story of Noah from the Book of Genesis.

The phrase “two by two” is the song’s hook and its most repeated line, echoing Genesis 7:9, “There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.” This scriptural foundation gives the lyrics a built-in mnemonic device: children naturally remember that the animals entered the ark in pairs. Over time, variations emerged, with different verses adding humorous details about specific animals, but the core “two by two” refrain remains constant.

Because the song is in the public domain, many artists have recorded their own versions, including popular children’s musicians and Christian worship bands. The enduring nature of the melody and its easy-to-remember lyrics have made it a staple in early childhood music education and religious instruction alike.

Breaking Down the Lyrics: A Verse-by-Verse Look

While multiple versions exist, the most commonly sung rendition of “Noah’s Ark Song Lyrics Two by Two” follows a predictable structure. Each verse introduces a different set of animals and their actions, always culminating in the refrain. Below is a typical set of lyrics, with analysis of each section.

The Opening Verses

Verse 1:
“The animals went in two by two,
Hurrah! Hurrah!

The animals went in two by two,
Hurrah! Hurrah!
The animals went in two by two,
The elephant and the kangaroo,
And they all went into the ark,
For to get out of the rain."

This verse establishes the pattern: it introduces a pair of animals (the elephant and the kangaroo, an improbable but amusing duo) and repeats the call "Hurrah!"—a word that adds excitement and a sense of celebration. The final line reminds listeners of the story's context: the ark was a refuge from the great flood. The repetition of "two by two" reinforces the numerical pairing, which is the central memory device.

Animal Pair Variations

Different versions substitute various animal pairs. For example:

- "The hippopotamus and the kangaroo"
- "The lion, the tiger, and the kangaroo" (though this breaks the two-by-two pattern)
- "The rabbits, the foxes, and the kangaroo"

This flexibility allows teachers to adapt the song to fit a lesson on animal classification, habitats, or even alliteration. The presence of the kangaroo in almost every version is interesting—perhaps because it is a recognizable, exotic animal that rhymes easily with "two by two." Regardless, the loose structure keeps the song fresh each time it is sung.

The Refrain and Its Purpose

After each verse, the chorus returns:

Chorus:
"And they all went into the ark,
For to get out of the rain."

This refrain serves as a narrative anchor. It reminds the listener of the overarching story: the ark was built by Noah to save his family and the animals from the flood. The simple language—"for to get out of the rain"—is intentionally childlike, making the concept of divine judgment and salvation accessible to a preschooler.

Additional Common Verses

Many versions include additional stanzas that expand the story:

- "The animals went in three by three,The hippopotamus and the chimpanzee…" (This verse often follows but can confuse the "two by two" theme; some teachers skip it to maintain focus.)
- "The animals went in four by four,The big hippopotamus stuck in the door…" (A humorous verse that adds physical comedy and teaches the concept of size.)
- "The animals went in five by five,The bees and the beetles and the butterflies…" (Introduces insects, expanding the animal kingdom.)

Despite these variations, the phrase "noahs ark song lyrics two by two" remains the most searched and most taught because it directly corresponds to the biblical account of pairs entering the vessel.

The Biblical Connection: Noah's Ark in Genesis

To fully appreciate the song, it helps to understand its source material. The story of Noah's ark is found in Genesis chapters 6–9. God, seeing the wickedness of humanity, decided to cleanse the earth with a flood. He instructed Noah, a righteous man, to build an ark and to take aboard his family and representatives of every animal species—two of each kind (male and female) as well as seven pairs of clean animals for sacrifice.

The phrase “two by two” appears in Genesis 7:15: “And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.” The song captures this precise detail, which is why the lyrics are so effective for memorization. Children who sing “two by two” are internalizing a key fact of the narrative. Additionally, the song’s joyful tone stands in contrast to the solemn judgment of the flood story, offering a gentler entry point for young audiences.

Many educators pair the song with picture books, felt-board sets, or animated videos that show animals entering the ark in pairs. The song becomes an auditory supplement to the visual and textual learning.

Educational and Moral Lessons Embedded in the Lyrics

Beyond its biblical basis, “Noah’s Ark Song Lyrics Two by Two” teaches several valuable lessons for early childhood development.

Counting and Patterning

The repetition of numbers (“two by two,” sometimes progressing to “three by three,” etc.) helps children practice counting and recognize patterns. Singing the song aloud reinforces ordinal numbers and one-to-one correspondence. For example, a teacher might hold up two animal figures while singing the “two by two” line, solidifying the concept of pairs.

Cooperation and Obedience

Noah obeyed God’s instructions, and the animals cooperated by entering the ark peacefully. The song, with its refrain that “they all went into the ark,” subtly reinforces the idea of following directions and working together for a common goal—a lesson that applies to classroom behavior and social skills.

Faith and Trust in God

For religious settings, the song naturally leads to discussions about God’s promises. The rainbow appears after the flood, and Noah’s faith is rewarded. The lyrics, though simple, open the door for deeper conversations about trust, gratitude, and divine protection.

Musical Structure and Its Appeal

The melody of the traditional “Noah’s ark song” is simple, using a limited range of notes that is easy for young children to follow. The rhythm is march-like (4/4 time), encouraging movement. Many teachers add hand motions: two fingers for “two by two,” a rain motion for “get out of the rain,” and a large ark shape with arms.

The call-and-response format—where a leader sings the line and the group repeats or answers—builds confidence in shy children and promotes active listening. Because the song is repetitive, even toddlers can join in after hearing it only a few times.

Several popular children’s music artists have recorded polished versions. For example, Cedarmont Kids’ “Noah’s Ark” album includes a peppy arrangement that many families know. The song is also widely available on streaming platforms, often alongside other Bible-story songs like “Jonah and the Whale” or “Jesus Loves Me.”

Modern Adaptations and Global Reach

While the original version is sung in English-speaking countries, “Noah’s Ark Song Lyrics Two by Two” has been translated into countless languages. In Spanish, children sing “Los animales entraron de dos en dos.” In French, “Les animaux sont entrés deux par deux.” The universality of the animal pairing concept makes the song adaptable across cultures.

Some contemporary adaptations change the lyrics to be more inclusive of modern science. For instance,

instead of “the big hippopotamus stuck in the door,” a version might say “the big hippopotamus needed some more” or “two by two they came to the door.” YouTube is filled with animated videos that feature colorful animals and catchy tunes, often adding original verses that mention dinosaurs or mythical creatures (though these may stray from biblical accuracy).

Despite these variations, the core keyword “noahs ark song lyrics two by two” remains the most searched term online, indicating that parents and teachers are specifically looking for the classic version that emphasizes pairs.

How to Use the Song in Teaching and Family Settings

Whether you are a Sunday school teacher, a homeschool parent, or a children’s ministry leader, the song can be integrated into a lesson plan in several effective ways:

- Introduce the story: Read the biblical account from a children’s Bible first, then sing the song as a summary activity.
- Act it out: Have children line up two by two, holding hands with a partner, and march around the room as if entering the ark.
- Create a craft: Print animal pairs from an online template, let children color them, and then glue them onto a paper ark. Sing the song while working.
- Focus on the “two by two” concept: Play a matching game with animal cards, grouping them in pairs.
- Discuss the weather: The line “for to get out of the rain” can lead to a simple science lesson about precipitation and why Noah needed a boat.

Using the song in these ways ensures that children not only memorize the lyrics but also understand the narrative and its themes.

The Enduring

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