

Jesus' Boyhood:

Visit to the Temple in Jerusalem; Schooling; Learning a Trade

Luke 2:39-52



New Testament 1
Part 1: Early Life of Christ

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 1 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Luke 2:39-52

MEMORY WORK:

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- “[Jesus Grew and Grew](#)”
- “[The Boy Jesus](#)”
- “[Young Jesus](#)”
- “[Read Your Bible and Pray Everyday](#)”

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Jesus' Birth & Sermon](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 1 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- “Summary of the Bible” from “[Kids Prep](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- “Matthew Chapter Summary” from “[Kids Prep](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Ministry of Jesus flannel graph
- Pictures or model of the Temple
- Pictures or model of Bible-times house, Bible-times objects
- Boyhood and Early Ministry A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- “[Map of Palestine](#)” (map provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- “[Map of New Testament World](#)” (map provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- Picture of first Passover, i.e., final plague (death of firstborn)
- Illustrate the four ways that Jesus grew with magazine pictures or clipart. (1) In



wisdom: be careful what you say; don't complain; read your Bible every day. (2) In stature: be careful what you eat; get plenty of rest; play or exercise (don't sit in front of the TV all the time). (3) In favor with God: pray every day; try every day to obey God. (4) In favor with men: make a new friend; be kind to others; say kind words; use good manners.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

With God's help, I can grow in the same ways that Jesus did.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Jesus was the Son of God, but He came to this Earth from Heaven and was born as the Son of Mary and Joseph. Jesus started telling others about God even when He was a boy.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Jesus was the Son of God, but He came to this Earth from Heaven and was born as the Son of Mary and Joseph. When Mary and Joseph married, Joseph treated Jesus like his own Son. Mary and Joseph loved Jesus very much, as they did their other children. Jesus knew, even as a child, what His purpose on Earth was. He began at an early age teaching others about God.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Mary and Joseph taught their children to love God and His law. Part of the Old Testament law was to observe several important feasts during the year. One of those was Passover. When Jesus was 12 years old, He went with Mary and Joseph and many other people to Jerusalem for Passover. After the seven days of the feast, Mary and Joseph started their return journey to Nazareth, thinking that Jesus was somewhere in the crowd of people traveling with them. But Jesus had stayed behind, in the Temple. At the end of the first day of traveling, Mary and Joseph realized Jesus was not with the group. So they returned to Jerusalem to find Him.



NOTE: The Passover Feast was observed each year to remember the tenth plague in Egypt, when God passed over the children of Israel's houses and killed the firstborn in the Egyptians' houses. It was after this plague that Pharaoh allowed the children of Israel to leave Egypt (see Exodus 12).

2. Imagine how worried they must have been in that big, crowded city, trying to find a 12-year-old boy. After frantically searching for Jesus for three days, they finally found Him in the Temple, talking with and listening to the teachers of the Law (**rabbis**). Everyone there was astounded at the wisdom and insight Jesus had about God's Word. But Mary and Joseph were more surprised and concerned that Jesus had stayed in the city—without their knowledge or permission. His worried mother asked, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, your father and I have been looking for You. We've been worried sick!"



Rabbi: Means “teacher” or “great one.” In New Testament times, rabbis were often leaders of the synagogues and often made sure that Jewish laws were observed.

3. Jesus’ reply surprised Mary and Joseph very much. “Why did you seek Me? Didn’t you know that I must be about My Father’s business?” He wasn’t being disrespectful. Jesus was talking about doing great things for His Heavenly Father, but they were so accustomed to Him being such a “normal” boy that they didn’t understand what He meant.
4. They started back to Nazareth together, and Mary “kept all these things in her heart.” She had many things to remember and think about as Jesus grew up. He grew in wisdom: He learned and understood many things, and He learned how to use what He learned. He grew in stature: His body grew physically just like all children do. He grew in favor with God: He obeyed God and followed His Law perfectly. He grew in favor with men: Jesus learned to work with people, to talk to them and make them feel special. He had a good reputation. He also obeyed His parents (Luke 12:51), as the Scriptures taught Him (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 21:18-20).
5. Jesus knew He had an important job to do: to tell as many people as He could about God and to die for all men on the cross so that all men can be saved and go to Heaven. We want our bodies to grow and get stronger like His did, but we also want to grow in wisdom and in favor with God and men, as Jesus did. We have many things that we can do for God, too. Discuss things we can do to grow in all the ways Jesus did.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “**Obviously Not the Bible**” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about other books that speak of Jesus’ childhood that are alleged by some to belong in Scripture.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Jesus’ Boyhood Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Jesus’ Boyhood Maze](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Jesus Grew Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Bible Bowling: Put decorated toilet paper rolls in a row on the floor. Put a question about this lesson and/or previous lessons inside each roll. Let each child roll a tennis ball (or other soft ball) to knock over one roll at a time. If he can answer the question correctly, he gets the number of points on the outside of the roll.
- Magnetic Word Scramble: Choose key words and names from the lesson. Using magnetic letters, scramble those words on a magnetic board and see if children can figure out what the words are. (For preschoolers, show them what the word should look like when finished.)
- Attach bulletin board paper to the wall. Measure how tall each child is.
- Cut one piece of bulletin board paper per child (a double layer may be needed if marker bleeds through). Have students lie on their piece and trace around each child. Cut out and let each child add hair, eyes, mouth, etc. Take home at the end of class. (If you have a large class, you may want to get a volunteer to help you.)

1st-2nd Graders:

- “[Jesus’ Boyhood](#)” crossword puzzle (provided in activity sheets)
- Bible Bowling: Follow directions above.
- Memory Verse practice: Cut out strips of construction paper and write one word from the memory verse on each piece. Mix the papers up and have the students take turns putting them in the correct order. **Or** give each student a piece of paper and have the class line themselves up in order of the memory verse.
- Magnetic Word Scramble: Choose key words and names from the lesson. Using magnetic letters scramble those words on a magnetic board and see if children can figure out what the words are. Then have them tell what the word had to do with the lesson.

3rd-4th Graders:

- If they have yet to do so, have the children read Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2.
- “[Jesus’ Boyhood](#)” crossword puzzle (provided in activity sheets)
- Memory Verse practice: Cut out strips of construction paper and write one word from the memory verse on each piece. Mix the papers up and have the students take turns putting them in the correct order. **Or** give each student a piece of paper and have the class line themselves up in order of the memory verse.
- Have kids look up words from this lesson (such as Passover, rabbi, wisdom) in a concordance and/or Bible dictionary.
- Have the children read the following:
 - *Discovery* article (NOTE: [Advanced Bible Reader](#) quizzes exist for many issues of *Discovery* magazine): “Carpentry in the Bible” ([February, 2014](#))
 - *Young Jesus in the Temple*, Arch books, Alyce Bergey (DISCLAIMER: note embellishments)
 - *Where Is Jesus?*, Arch books, Jonathan Schkade
 - *Jesus and the Family Trip*, Arch books, Sarah Fletcher (DISCLAIMER: skip note to parents)

FINGERPLAYS:

“JESUS GREW AND GREW”

Jesus grew and grew and grew, (squat, then “grow” a little with each word)
Just like me, just like you. (point to yourself, then to each child)
And as He grew and grew and grew, (squat, then “grow” a little with each word)
He loved God just like you! (hug yourself, then point Heavenward, then to each child)

SONGS:

“YOUNG JESUS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune : “Jesus Loves Me”)

VERSE 1:

Jesus lived in Nazareth. (pronounce as Na-zer-uth)
Mary and Joseph loved Him much.

When He was 12 they took a trip,
And to the temple in Jerusalem went.

CHORUS:

Oh, how exciting! Oh, how exciting!
Oh, how exciting, to go to Jerusalem!

VERSE 2:

When the Feast was done they started home,
Where Jesus was they did not know.
Mary thought He was with them,
But He'd stayed in Jerusalem.

2nd CHORUS:

“Oh, where is Jesus? Oh, where is Jesus? Oh, where is Jesus?”
Asked Mary of her friends.

VERSE 3:

He was in the temple where,
He talked and learned from teachers there.
Mary said, “We were so anxious!”
“But I must be about my Father’s business.”

3rd CHORUS:

Jesus obeyed her. Jesus obeyed her.
Jesus obeyed her, as God would have Him do.

“THE BOY JESUS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune : “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”)

Jesus went to Jerusalem. There He talked with rabbis.
Mary and Joseph looked and looked, but they could not find Him.

CHORUS:

Oh, they looked! Oh, they looked!
On the third day they found Him,
Sitting in the Temple there, with the rabbis around Him.

“READ YOUR BIBLE AND PRAY EVERYDAY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

If you read your Bible and pray everyday, you'll grow, grow, grow. (REPEAT)

Grow, grow, grow, grow,

Grow, grow, grow.

If you read your Bible and pray everyday, you'll grow, grow, grow.
(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.)

If you neglect your Bible and forget to pray, you'll shrink, shrink, shrink.
(Make hand movements as if closing Bible, head gesture saying "No," and like a child shrinking.)
(REPEAT)

Shrink, shrink, shrink, shrink,
Shrink, shrink, shrink.

If you neglect your Bible and forget to pray, you'll shrink, shrink, shrink.
(Make hand movements as if closing Bible, head gesture saying "No," and like a child shrinking.)

So read your Bible and pray everyday, and you'll grow, grow, grow.
(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.) (REPEAT)

Grow, grow, grow, grow,
Grow, grow, grow.

So read your Bible and pray everyday, and you'll grow, grow, grow.
(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.)

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE
"SUGGESTION" BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE
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Part 1: Early Life of Christ

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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MEMORY WORK:

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- Teachers wear tunics to class and bring tunics or other Bible-times clothes for students to see/try on.
- Bring foods that Jesus might have eaten for the students to try (dates, pomegranates,



figs, olives, grapes, bread, almonds, walnuts, apricots, honey, barley bread, etc.). Be aware of any allergies the children might have.

- Pictures of houses, cities, farms, etc. from that period in Israel's history.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

With God's help, I can grow in the same ways that Jesus did.

INTRODUCTION:

Review Sunday's lesson (see [N.T. 1 Review Questions](#) for example questions). Remind them that Jesus was a special little boy with a special name

[N.T. 1 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under "N.T. 1 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Spend most of the class period talking about how children's lives today are different from the days that Jesus grew up: what He wore, what foods He would have eaten, the kind of house He probably lived in, the kind of school that Jesus and His brothers went to, the kinds of games He might have played. Re-emphasize the fact that Jesus grew up just like other children of His time and children of today.

1. **Clothing:** Men's and women's clothing was very much the same.
 - Tunic—Was as short as knee-length or as long as ankle-length. Tunics made of rough goat's or camel's hair were worn by poor people. The rich could afford tunics made of softer linen or wool that was dyed (colored).
 - Girdle—A belt (usually made of cloth) used to hold the tunic closer to the body. A fold in the girdle was used as a place to keep money, instead of carrying a wallet as we do today. When one needed to move around more freely (to run or to work, for example), he could pull up his tunic and wrap it around his "loin" area, tucking it into the girdle. This was called "girding up your loins."
 - Cloaks—A blanket-type covering or a long coat worn over the tunic. Poor people especially needed their cloaks to wrap around them at night during cooler weather.
2. **Foods:** raisins, dates, olives, figs, honey, olive oil, barley bread, grapes, fish, flat bread, onions, fish.
3. **House:** Jesus' house was probably a one-room house made of mud bricks. Many people had to keep their animals inside the house with them at night to keep them from being stolen. The houses usually only had one window and one door. Since the houses could get stuffy and hot, especially if cooking was being done inside, the flat roof was an especially nice place to go for fresh air.
4. **Games:** Jesus might have played marbles using small stones. He might have played stick ball with a stick and wooden ball. He also might have played games that we play today, like chase, hide-and-seek, or He could have gone swimming in the river.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday's lesson

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