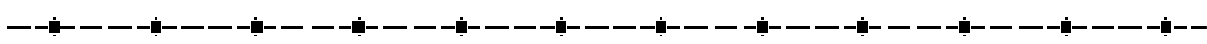


GOD'S BIG PLAN

The Boy Jesus in the Temple Luke 2:40-52

Supporting Scriptures: Exodus 12; Isaiah 9:1-7; Matthew 13:55-56; Mark 6:3



Lesson Goals:
To see that Jesus is man, human.
To see that Jesus is God.
To see that Jesus was obedient to His earthly parents, even though He was wiser.

Scripture Memory Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people. Luke 2:52 (NirV)

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Tell it as a STORY, not as “He said. . . She said” or read. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

The Lesson: Let’s review what we have learned so far. (Review the previous stories, focusing on the ones that specifically point to Christ’s birth. Encourage more and more students to share.)

Was Caesar Augustus the savior God had promised? (No.) Who was? (Jesus!) Right! Jesus was the Forever King that God had promised King David long ago. The people had waited and waited. And then, even after years of silence, God spoke. He spoke to Mary and then to Joseph. God blessed them, and all of us, with the birth of a baby boy, Jesus. But this little baby was no regular baby. This little baby was God’s Son. This little baby was God in a body. God protected Joseph, Mary and Jesus by sending them to Egypt. And when it was time, He brought them back. Joseph and Mary went back home to Galilee, to the town of Nazareth. Jesus lived there with them. Joseph was a carpenter. Joseph and Mary began to have other children. Jesus’ brothers were named James, Joseph, Simon and Judas. He also grew up with sisters. Jesus and His brothers and sisters grew up in Nazareth. The Bible, God’s story, says especially of Jesus that He grew and He became strong. Jesus was a very wise young man. When you are wise, you know the right thing to do and say at the right time. God was with Him.

Every year, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus went down to Jerusalem for a very special celebration. Who remembers what God told the people to remember year after year, for forever? Let’s see if this will remind you.

READ: Exodus 12:21-24 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

God had commanded His people to keep and remember the Passover, to remember how God had saved them from their slavery and rescued them. To do this, each person went to Jerusalem.

Joseph and Mary were obedient to God. Each year they traveled with Jesus to Jerusalem to celebrate. This year, when Jesus was twelve years old, they traveled just as they always did. Jerusalem was crowded with all the people there to celebrate. And the noise! There was all the bleating of sheep that would be chosen as Passover lambs.

After the Feast of the Passover, when Joseph, Mary, their relatives, and friends were leaving to return home, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. Joseph, Mary and their friends traveled all day. Joseph and Mary

didn't see Jesus at all that day, but they thought He was visiting with friends or family in the big group. They didn't know yet that Jesus had stayed behind. That evening, when they began to look for Him, He was nowhere to be found. Joseph and Mary looked everywhere, but they didn't find Jesus. Then they knew that Jesus had not traveled with them that day. They were worried. So, Joseph and Mary headed back to Jerusalem. They looked everywhere all the way back for one whole day. Then, when they arrived back in Jerusalem, they continued looking. After three whole days, Joseph and Mary found Jesus at the temple. Jesus was sitting with a bunch of teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone was amazed at how much He knew. They didn't know that God was sitting among them in the body of a twelve year old.

Joseph and Mary were amazed that Jesus was sitting there with the teachers. Mary was also a little upset, the way mothers sometimes are. She asked Jesus, "What have you done? We've been worried sick looking for you!" "You should have known this is right where I would be, in My Father's house," answered Jesus. Joseph and Mary didn't understand. But Jesus went back to Nazareth with His parents. Jesus always and only obeyed His parents. Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.

Review:

Let's review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

Our memory verse and story tell us that Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people. Who remembers what it means to be wise? (To do and say the right thing at the right time.) Wisdom comes from God. He gives wisdom when it's asked for. How about you? Are you wise? Do you do the right thing when you should? Do you say the right thing all of the time? If not, ask God to give you wisdom. Are you growing up stronger and stronger like Jesus everyday? And do you please people by the things you do or are you hurtful?

Even more important, are you pleasing God more and more each day? You may be asking, "How can I please God? How can I make God happy?" Well, the very first step to pleasing God is to come to Him believing that He loves you so much that He sent Jesus from heaven to die for all the times when you haven't said or done the right thing. He's waiting for you to come to Him. Will you?

The next step to pleasing God is to obey Him. What does it mean to obey God? Well, obeying God means obeying your parents, just like Jesus did. It also means obeying teachers and principals and policemen. God's story tells us that everyone in charge of us is there because God put them there. To obey your teacher at school means obeying God. But the reverse is also true. If you disobey your teachers, you have disobeyed God. Obeying God also means telling the truth, being good friends and helping others.

God also wants time with you. How can you spend time with God? One way is to pray. Prayer is simply talking to God. You don't have to pray exactly like me or your parents. All of us talk to God a little differently. The important thing is to talk to Him. Tell Him what you have liked about your day. Ask Him to help you when you mess up. Thank Him for your home, your clothes, etc. Another way to spend time with God is to read the wonderful letter He has written for you! What letter could that be? It's the Bible! Take time to read it, praying that God will help you understand it.

If you will do these things, people will be able to say about you what they said about Jesus. (Put the names of your students here) became wiser and stronger. He/She also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.

Planning for Next Week
Lesson 30 • Jesus' Baptism
Luke 3

PRESCHOOL LESSON

SING: “The B-I-B-L-E”

SHARE: Last week, we talked about wonderful news. A baby boy was born. Who was it? (Jesus!) Right! People had waited a long time. And then God spoke. He spoke to Mary. Then He spoke to Joseph. God gave them a baby boy. They named Him Jesus. But this little baby was no regular baby. This little baby was God’s Son. This little baby was God in a body. God protected Joseph, Mary, and Jesus by sending them to Egypt. And when it was time, He brought them back. Joseph and Mary went back home to Galilee, to the town of Nazareth. Joseph was a carpenter. He made things from wood. Joseph and Mary began to have other children. Jesus’ brothers were named James, Joseph, Simon and Judas. He also grew up with sisters. Jesus and His brothers and sisters grew up in Nazareth. The Bible, God’s story, says especially of Jesus that He grew and He became strong. Jesus was a very wise young man. When you are wise, you know the right thing to do and say at the right time. God was with Him.

Every year, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus went down to Jerusalem for a very special celebration. God wanted His people to remember the Passover. He wanted them to remember how God had saved them from slavery and rescued them. To do this, each person went to Jerusalem.

Joseph and Mary were obedient to God. Each year they traveled with Jesus to Jerusalem to celebrate. This year, when Jesus was twelve years old, they traveled just as they always did. Jerusalem was crowded with all the people there to celebrate. And the noise! There was all the bleating of sheep that would be chosen as Passover lambs. Can everyone sound like a sheep?

After the Feast of the Passover, Joseph, Mary, their relatives, and friends left to go home, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem by Himself. Joseph, Mary and their friends walked all day. Joseph and Mary didn’t see Jesus. They thought He was visiting with friends or family in the big group. They didn’t know that Jesus had stayed behind. That evening, when they began to look for Jesus, He was nowhere to be found. Joseph and Mary looked everywhere, but they didn’t find Jesus. They were worried. So, Joseph and Mary headed back to Jerusalem. They looked everywhere. Then, when they got to Jerusalem, they continued looking. After three whole days, Joseph and Mary found Jesus at the temple. Jesus was sitting with a bunch of teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone was amazed at how much He knew.

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PRAY: Thank you, God, for helping Jesus to grow. Please help me to grow and please you, too.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Write the memory verse on parchment paper, or something that looks equally as old. Roll each verse into a scroll.
- Make a Growth Chart. Measure each student and mark their height.
- If you have access to large butcher paper, make outlines of each student by rolling the paper on the floor the length of each student. Allow each student to decorate their own outline, being sure to add the memory verse, Luke 2:52.
- Make a “Growing Wiser and Stronger Tree.” Decorate a wall or bulletin board in your room. Make a brown tree trunk with long limbs. Write “I can grow wise and strong like Jesus. Luke 2:52” on the tree trunk. Encourage each student to design a leaf. Fill the tree with leaves, encouraging your students to spend time with God and to obey Him.
- Encourage your students to be helpers by making a “Chore Book.” Fill the book with “tickets” for chores they will help their parents with.
- Play “Backwards Hide and Seek.” Rather than have one person search for everyone else, have all but one of your students search for the person who has been chosen “it.” Talk about how Jesus’ parents searched everywhere for Him.