

Bible Story: Jesus as a Child • Luke 2:41-52

Memory Verse:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” **John 1:1**

Big Picture:

Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

FOR PARENTS ONLY: Bible Study

The Gospel of Luke records just two narratives about Jesus’ childhood: His dedication (Luke 2:21-40) and His visit to the temple when He was 12 years old (Luke 2:41-52). The Gospel of Matthew includes another story: a visit from some wise men. These stories of Jesus as a child set the stage for Jesus’ ministry as an adult.

After Jesus was born, God put a star in the sky as a sign. Wise men from the east followed the star to Jerusalem, looking for a new king. They found Jesus, who was probably 1 or 2 years old, in Bethlehem and they worshiped Him as King. Later, Jesus and His family settled in Nazareth, where Jesus grew up.

In Bible times, a Jewish boy became a man at 13. His father would train him to take on all the responsibilities of adulthood—social and spiritual. Joseph was a carpenter, and he likely trained Jesus in his trade. When Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, Joseph might have taken Jesus, who was about 12, around the city to teach Him the significance of the temple and to explain the purpose of the Passover feast.

Jesus’ parents headed home after the feast. They assumed Jesus was among their traveling companions, but He wasn’t. Jesus had stayed behind at the temple. A full day passed before Mary and Joseph noticed Jesus was missing. They hurried back to Jerusalem and finally found Him at the temple. Jesus asked His mother, “Didn’t you know that I had to be in My Father’s house?” Mary and Joseph did not understand. But Jesus is God’s Son, and it was necessary that He honor His true Father. In all this, Jesus did not sin.

The Bible does not give many details about Jesus’ childhood, but we know that as Jesus got older, He grew “in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people” (Luke 2:52). Jesus carried out God’s plan to reconcile the world to Himself. (2 Cor. 5:19)

“Do you remember what that lesson was last Sunday? It was about Jesus being dedicated by his parents and how long Simeon had waited to see God fulfill the promise to him that he would live see the Messiah.”

“Jesus was about five weeks old when Mary and Joseph dedicated Him to the Lord and offered the required sacrifice. Simeon was also at the temple that day, not by mere coincidence but by the Holy Spirit’s leading. (Luke 2:27) Simeon spent His life serving the Lord and looked forward to the day when God would keep His promise to comfort Israel. (See Isa. 57:18.) God promised that Simeon would live long enough to see the Messiah. That day had finally come. Imagine his joy. At last, the Savior was here!”

“Simeon saw the baby Jesus, took Him in his arms, and praised God. Simeon expressed prophetic praise, trusting by faith that God would keep His promise through this child: “My eyes have seen your salvation” (Luke 2:30). Through Jesus, everyone would be able to see God’s plan. Jesus would be a light for all the nations. He would bring honor to Israel.”

“Anna, a prophetess, also praised too. At well over a hundred years old, Anna began to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to God’s bringing salvation to His people”

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⁴¹ Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your

father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”⁴⁹ “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

“Even as a child, Jesus wanted to do His Father’s plan. He perfectly obeyed His earthly parents and all of God’s commands, eventually dying for our sin. When we allow God to control our time, talents, money, or other treasures, we are giving Him ourselves. He can use us to glorify Himself and lead others to believe in Jesus. It doesn’t matter that you are still young either.”

Christ Connection:

God sent Jesus to earth with a purpose. Even as a child, Jesus wanted to honor God. God blessed Jesus as He got ready to follow His Father’s plan: to die on the cross and rescue people from sin.

Ask the following questions and discuss:

- **Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Jerusalem each year?** (*for the Passover, Luke 2:41*)
- **How long did it take Mary and Joseph to find Jesus?** (*three days, Luke 2:46*)
- **What about Jesus astounded people?** (*His understanding and His answers, Luke 2:46-47*)
- **Why do you think Jesus’ understanding and wisdom were so surprising?** *Help kids understand that Jesus would have seemed like an ordinary 12-year-old just by looking at Him. Remind kids that Jesus is fully God and fully human. Jesus was able to understand and explain God’s Word as One who had studied it for many years, despite His young age.*
- **Why do you think Jesus said it was necessary for Him to be in His Father’s house?** *Guide kids to understand that Jesus’ Father is God. Remind them that Jesus is God the Son, and He knew God’s plans for His life: to make the way for sinners to have eternal life. Jesus understood that He would need to rely on God’s power to obey Him, and Jesus wanted to obey God always.*
- **How can we live out God’s plans for us?** *Discuss the idea that God’s plan for all believers is for us to glorify Him by loving others, obeying Him out of love, and sharing the gospel throughout the earth. Remind kids that we can live on mission no matter where we are.*

Review the **Memory Verse.**

Big Picture Question

“Remember, Jesus had an earthly mother—Mary—and Joseph raised Jesus as his own son. But Jesus is really God’s Son. That brings us to our big picture question and answer. ***Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.*** Jesus understands our pain, sadness, and brokenness that come from sin, but He never sinned. He carried God’s punishment for sin. Only Jesus could do both those things; only Jesus is fully God and human.”

“A few weeks back, we talked about Jesus’ family. We learned that **Jesus’ family line proved He is the Messiah.** Later we learned that **John was born to prepare the way for Jesus,** and **Jesus was born to be God’s promised Savior.** When Jesus was dedicated at the temple according to God’s law, **Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.** This week, we heard about something from Jesus’ childhood. God had a plan and He sent Jesus to fulfill that plan.”

Questions from Kids, Bible Story Video, Missions

Show the Lesson 5” [Questions from Kids video](https://www.sagemontchurch.org/connect/ministries/children/childrens-resources/) and the [Bible Story](https://www.sagemontchurch.org/connect/ministries/children/childrens-resources/) at <https://www.sagemontchurch.org/connect/ministries/children/childrens-resources/>. Ask kids to think about God’s plans for them. Discuss how they can confidently tell others about Jesus and what He’s done for them.

Ask the kids what they think it means for Christians to follow God’s plan on mission in Brazil, or anywhere we go. Allow time for kids to discuss. “Even as a child, Jesus wanted to do His Father’s plan. Though you are young, you can follow God’s plan and be on mission wherever you go! We live on mission by loving other people the way God loves us and by telling them about the forgiveness we can have through Jesus.”

Prayer

“Lord God, thank You for Your Word. We want to honor You. Help us to trust You and follow Your plan. Give us wisdom. Thank You that our future is secure because of Jesus. We love You. Amen.