

4 year olds, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade Bible Lesson

Jesus as a Child

Matthew 2; Luke 2

Story Point: Jesus came to earth to do His Father's plan.

Memory Verse: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

PARENTS ONLY: Bible Study Guide

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)

Bible Fun:

- Look around the room and choose an item.
- Describe the item to your child. Mention its color and shape.
- Give additional clues if needed and ask if your child if they know where the item is.
- Ask him/her to walk over and point to the item.

Bible Review:

"In today's Bible story, Jesus was 12 years old. The Bible says Jesus got taller, just like you are getting taller. Listen to today's bible story to hear about what Jesus was like when He was a kid just like you!"

Bible Story: Jesus was Dedicated • 2:41-52

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?"^[a] 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.

Review Questions:

- What did Mary and Joseph discover after they were on their way home to Nazareth? (*Jesus was not with them; they couldn't find Jesus.*)
- Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? (*the temple*)
- Why did Jesus stay at the temple? (*to listen to the teachers and ask questions; to be in His Father's house.*)

Christ Connection – (all stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus)

"Jesus came to earth to do God's plan, and even as a boy, Jesus knew that. Jesus got ready to do what God sent Him to do. God sent Jesus into the world to die on the cross and rescue people from sin."

Bible Activities:

- Access Bible activity page for Lesson 5.
- Use the key to find the pictures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Prayer

"Thank You God for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin. Help us to share the good news of Jesus to other people. We love You, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen."