

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#06 – Jesus as a Boy Luke 2:39-52

PICTURES (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

6-1 Jesus as a boy in the temple talking to the leaders

REVIEW (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)
When was Jesus circumcised? Who gave him the name Jesus? When was Jesus presented at the temple? Why did Joseph and Mary present him at the temple? Who was Simeon? Why was Simeon at the temple? What did Simeon say about Jesus? Who was Anna? What did Anna say about Jesus?
- **Big Question Review:** Who did Jesus come to save?
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Luke 2:30-32
Jesus is the savior of and a light of revelation to all people who believe in him.
³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

In the last lesson Joseph and Mary completed all that the Jewish law required them to do for a first born son. What had they done for Jesus? (List on the board.)

- They named him Jesus. What does the name Jesus mean? Jesus is the Greek form of the name Joshua which means "the Lord saves".
- They had him circumcised. What is circumcision? Circumcision is when the fold of skin (foreskin) at the end of a penis is cut off. God instituted this custom with Abraham as an affirmation of faith in God and his promise. It is to be done when a baby boy is 8 days old.
- They completed the time of purification. What is purification? Purification is the ceremonial cleansing of a person who is considered unclean.
- They consecrated him to the Lord with a sacrifice. What is consecration? The first born son belonged to and was consecrated to God and had to be redeemed.

Who confirmed to Mary and Joseph who Jesus is? Simeon said that he would be a light of revelation to the Gentiles. Anna said that he would bring redemption to Israel (the Jewish people).

In this lesson we will read about the one recorded event of Jesus' childhood.

Luke 2:39-40

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

Where did Jesus grow up? Nazareth

What happened to Jesus as he grew up? He became strong both physically and spiritually and God's grace was on him.

Could that happen to you too? Yes How? If you seek after God and make learning from him and following him the most important goal of your life.

Luke 2:41-52 (picture 1)

⁴¹ Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the Feast 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 men.

What does the fact that Jesus' parents went every year to Jerusalem for the Passover feast tell you about them? They followed Jewish custom. They were devoted to God and doing what was right.

What did saying he was in his Father's house reveal about Jesus? He understood his special relationship with the one and only true God.

What did being obedient to his parents show about Jesus? He understood his relationship to them and even as a child he followed God's truth and chose to do what is right.

What is wisdom? Wisdom is knowing what is right to do and doing it.

What is stature? Stature can refer to how tall a person is (physical height) but it also can mean having an important place in the community or in the eyes of other people (good personal standing or character).

How would Jesus have grown in favor with God? Growing in wisdom would have cause him to grow in favor with God. He would have sought to know and obey the Father more through worship, prayer and the study of his Word.

How would Jesus have grown in favor with men? He would have followed the Golden Rule (Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.), treating them all fairly and respectfully and reflecting God's goodness and love to them.

Jesus is fully God and was also fully man. The reason he lived a perfect life is that he was completely devoted to his heavenly Father. He only wanted to please his Father and do what is good and right and true.

Our purpose in being given life is to reflect God's image and bring him glory and honor. To the degree we seek God and his truth through Jesus we will also grow spiritually strong and wise and God's grace will be upon us. It is a choice we must make every moment throughout the day. If we take our eyes off Jesus, we will follow our own ways and do things that are harmful to ourselves and others. We have to keep our eyes on Jesus and choose to go his way.

Hebrews 12:1b-2a says, *Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.* ² *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.*

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** Why did Jesus' parents go to Jerusalem every year? What happened when they were going home? Where did they find Jesus? What was he doing there?
- **Thought Questions:** What would be different about your experience growing up from that of Jesus? What causes you to sin? What keeps you on God's path?
- **Prayer:** Thank Jesus for being a light for you. Pray that you would keep your eyes on him, want to follow him and do what is right.
- **The Big Question: How do we grow to be like Jesus?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Hebrews 12:1b-2a**
We fix our eyes on Jesus.

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Questions: What are we to get rid of? How are we to run the race? How do we run that way?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: As a child Jesus was obedient to his parents and grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.

1. Jesus was raised in the town of Nazareth in the area of Galilee. Every year his parents went to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Passover.
2. The year Jesus was 12 he stayed in Jerusalem and his parents went home without realizing he wasn't with the people they were traveling with.
3. When his parents went back to find him, he was in the temple courts listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding.

Why do I need to know this? I need to understand more fully what it means that Jesus was not only fully God but fully human and grew in understanding. If I want to be more like Jesus than I need to grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the booklet and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse in the inside.

★ **Activity Page:** Growing in Wisdom

Instructions: Fill in the crossword puzzle to show the things a person would do to grow in wisdom and in favor with God and men.

Obey ____ those in authority.

Read ____ God's word daily.

Study ____ in school.

Show ____ respect to your parents.

Meditate ____ on God's Word.

Seek ____ after God.

Pray ____ for understanding.

Turn ____ away from evil.

Think ____ about what is good and right.

Want ____ God's will to be done.

★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

Instructions:

1. Read the whole passage below to the students as they read along in their Bibles or on the discussion notes.
2. Read the passage verse by verse and have the students explain each verse.
3. Have the students extract one important truth from the passage. This can be done as an entire class or you can break into pairs or small groups.
4. Have the students answer the additional two questions: How can you apply this truth in your life? What will be the result of applying that truth?

Hebrews 12:1-6 – We are to fix our eyes on Jesus.

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. ⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

Questions: What are we to get rid of? How are we to run the race? How do we run that way?

JOURNAL

The daily journal inside the booklet has six readings that relate to a theme. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Journal Focus: What should children learn to do?

Reading 1: Ephesians 6:1-4 Children are to obey and honor their parents.

What are children to do? Why?

Reading 2: Psalm 78:1-8 Children are to learn the deeds and statutes of God.

What are parents to teach their children? Why?

Reading 3: Proverbs 1:8-9, 3:11-12 Children are to receive instruction and correction.

How should a child respond to instruction? Why? How should a child respond to correction? Why?

Reading 4: Proverbs 4:1-9 Children are to listen and become wise.

Why should a child seek wisdom?

Reading 5: Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Children are to learn to love and obey God.

What were parents to teach their children? Why?

Reading 6: 1 Peter 2:13-17 Children are to submit to authority and respect others.

What are all believers to do? Why?