



UNIT 19 | SESSION 5 | MARCH 28-29, 2020

2s-3s Lesson

Jesus as a Child

Bible Passage: Matthew 2; Luke 2

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

Key Passage: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

Christ Connection: Jesus grew, and God was with Him.

**KID CONNECT:
30 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

LEADER 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)

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

SCAVENGER HUNT

("Scavenger Hunt" printable, 1 per child, Crayons)

Provide a "Scavenger Hunt" printable and a crayon to each child. Help children discover each item in the classroom and circle the items they find on their paper.

SAY • Jesus' parents looked and looked for Him. They finally found Him at the temple asking the teacher's questions. God had a plan for Jesus to save people when He was older. When His parents finally found Him, Jesus told them He needed to be in the temple, His Father's house.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: OH, HAPPY DAY, VIDEO: JESUS LOVES ME)

Sing "Oh, Happy Day" and "Jesus Loves Me."

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible, Bookmark)

Invite preschoolers to hold up the number of fingers that represent their ages.

SAY • You boys and girls are [*ages they indicated*]. In our Bible story today, Jesus was 12 years old. Let's hear about a special trip Jesus took with His family.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God saves people through His Son, Jesus.

Place a bookmark at Luke 2 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • There is no other book like the Bible because only the Bible is God's Word. God's Word is true. Today's Bible story comes from the Books of Matthew and Luke. Listen to hear what Jesus did when He was a child like you.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: JESUS AS A CHILD, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

Show the Bible story video.

SAY • Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, were worried when they could not find Him. They were surprised to find Him in the temple talking to the teachers. Jesus knew about God's Word.

CHRIST CONNECTION

(CG: CHRIST CONNECTION)

SAY • The people were surprised at how much Jesus understood as He talked to the teachers and asked them questions. Jesus was a boy, but He was the most special boy of all. Jesus is God's Son. Jesus grew, and God was with Him.

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible, Key Passage Marker)

Place the key passage marker at John 1:1. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage out loud. Say the verse together several times.

"In the beginning was the Word, (*open hands like a book*) and the Word was with God, (*lift book up over head*) and the Word was God. (*point up*)" John 1:1 (*open hands like a book*).

SAY • Our key passage reminds us that Jesus was with God from the beginning. Jesus came to earth to do His Father's plan. God planned to send Jesus to earth to save people from sin.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Matthew 2; Luke 2

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

Key Passage: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

Christ Connection: Jesus grew, and God was with Him.

"J" FOR JESUS

(**"J" printable, 1 per child, Dot Stickers, 8 per child**)

Give each child a "J" printable and eight circle dot stickers. Show a child how to stick each dot on the worksheet to write a J. Mention that Mary and Joseph took Jesus with them to the temple in Jerusalem to worship God.

SAY • Jesus and His family went to the temple to worship God. When it was time for Mary and Joseph to return to home, Jesus was not with them. When His parents noticed Jesus was gone, they worried. They began to look for Him. They found Jesus in the temple talking to the teachers. Jesus came to earth to do His Father's plan, and even as a boy, Jesus knew that.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: WHERE IS IT?

(**No Supplies Needed**)

Look around the classroom and choose an item. Describe the item to preschoolers, mentioning its color and shape. Give additional clues and ask a child if he knows where the item is. Guide him to walk over and point to the item. Allow children to take turns describing items and guessing where each item is. Be prepared to offer assistance as needed.

SAY • When Mary and Joseph returned home, they discovered Jesus was missing. They did not know where He was. Jesus was in the temple. Jesus came to earth to do His Father's plan, and even as a boy, Jesus knew that. Jesus got ready to do what God sent Him to do.

KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

Say the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying. "In the beginning was the Word, (*open hands like a book*) and the Word was with God, (*lift book up over head*) and the Word was God. (*point up*)" John 1:1 (*open hands like a book*).

GOSPEL GEMS

(**Key Passage Card, 1 per group, Bible Story Picture, 1 per group, Small Bibles**)

Provide small Bibles for preschoolers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to Luke 2. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray.

- Jesus and His family went to the temple to worship God.
- Jesus knew about God's Word.
- Jesus grew and God was with Him.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Big Picture Card & Story Point Coloring Page (optional), 1 per child)

Two & three-year olds may color the optional Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool Christ Connection with their child this week.