



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

4s-5s 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, and they were worried for His safety. They finally found Him at the temple asking the teachers 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.

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 the Father from the beginning. Jesus came to earth to do His Father's plan. God planned to send Jesus to earth to die on the cross and 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, Circle Dot Stickers, 8 per child)

Give each child a "J" printable and eight circle dot stickers. Show a child how to stick a circle 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 • 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 returned to Jerusalem and began to search 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.

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.

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*).

REVIEW

(Bible Story Picture, 1 per group)

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

What did Jesus' parents do when they could not find him? (*they worried and searched for him*)

Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? (in the temple)

Why was Jesus talking to the teachers in the temple? (he was getting ready to do what God sent Him to do)

Why did God send Jesus? (*because He loves us and had a plan to save us*)

SAY • When Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus, they found Him in the temple listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Jesus came to earth to do His Father's plan, and even as a boy, Jesus knew that. Jesus grew, and God was with Him. God sent Jesus into the world to die on the cross and save people from their wrong choices.

PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you that He came to earth to do your plan and knew it even as a boy. Thank you for sending Jesus to save us. Help us to follow Him. Amen.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Preschool Activity Page, 1 per child, Crayons)

Preschoolers may color the Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage them to do the activity page at home with their family this week.