



Jesus Grows Up

Luke 2:39-52

Third- and fourth-graders often know a great deal about Jesus but may not feel they have much in common with God's Son. One reason is that we know so little about Jesus' childhood in the home of Joseph and Mary. It's hard to imagine a child who was both fully human and fully divine, a child who never sinned. Use this lesson to help kids seek what they have in common with Jesus rather than focus exclusively on how Jesus isn't like them.



► Bible Point

Jesus is special.

Key Verse

"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).

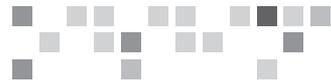
Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will ask God to help them to grow to be more like Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	What's So Special About That? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Write things they're too young to do, and discuss challenges of growing up.	pens, index cards, tape, individually wrapped candies, paper	
2 Bible Exploration	On the Road <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Act in an instant drama, and discuss Jesus' trip to Jerusalem.	Bibles Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline 	
	One and the Same <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and compare cups of ice and water.	1 paper cup per child, bag of ice, cooler, ice packs, pitcher of water	Pack ice in the cooler with ice packs so the ice doesn't melt before you need it.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Growing Up <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Look at the characteristics of Jesus, and discuss how they can grow to be more like him.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





What's So Special About That? Supplies

pens
index cards
tape
individually wrapped candies
paper

! ALLERGY ALERT

1 GETTING STARTED

What's So Special About That?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Distribute index cards and pens. Have kids each think of something they want to do but can't because they're not yet old enough. Ask kids to write their ideas on their index cards. As kids finish, have them return their cards to you so you can tape them to a wall. Tape the cards high enough so they're just slightly out of kids' reach while they're standing.

Say: **When each person has retrieved his or her card, you'll each get a piece of candy. You'll have to find a way to work together to reach these cards without jumping or standing on your tiptoes.** Provide one piece of paper per child, and encourage kids to think of creative ways to use their papers to get the index cards down. Kids might try sliding the paper along the wall behind the cards to dislodge the tape, or several kids might combine their papers into a paper roll that's strong enough to knock their index cards down. Encourage kids to work together so they all get their cards down.

Once kids all have their index cards, sit in a circle. Distribute candy to the kids, and encourage willing kids to share the things they hope to do when they grow up and tell why they're looking forward to those things. Ask kids to tell what age they'll have to be to do the things they wrote.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

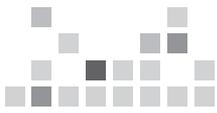
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's it like to be told you're too young to do something?**
- **What's the most challenging thing about growing up?**
- **In what ways do you think Jesus' younger years were similar to or different from your life right now?**

Say: **Jesus was human, just as we are. He was the same age as you at one point. But Jesus was also different. Today we'll hear about a time Jesus' parents couldn't find him. They were worried because ► JESUS IS SPECIAL. And we'll learn what makes him so special.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

On the Road

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show kids the “Jesus Grows Up” picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **Our Bible passage today comes from Luke 2:39-52. It tells about a journey Jesus made with his parents, Mary and Joseph, to Jerusalem when he was 12 years old. You are now going to be a drama troupe, and you'll be performing the world premiere of a retelling of that trip to Jerusalem.**

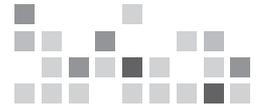
This is a play that tells about a time Jesus traveled to Jerusalem with his parents. When his parents left, Jesus stayed in Jerusalem and his parents worried when they realized he wasn't with them. Decide which part of your room will be the stage, and form four groups. Assign each group one of these sections of the Bible passage to read and prepare as a scene from a drama: Act 1—Luke 2:39-42; Act 2—Luke 2:43-45; Act 3—Luke 2:46-48; Act 4—Luke 2:49-52. If you have a small group, you might want to keep the kids all together and help them create a scene for each section of the passage and then have them perform their drama after they go through that section of the passage.

Say: **Your act of this play can be no longer than one minute.** Make sure groups each have a Bible, and allow five minutes for groups to prepare their acts of this play. Then have kids perform their scenes for each other.

If you have four groups, tell groups to listen closely for their sections and then go to the center of the stage for their scenes. When they're not performing, encourage them to pay close attention to the action.

Say: **Joseph and Mary were accustomed to going to Jerusalem for Passover, and when Jesus was 12, they took him along. In this time, men traveled with men and women traveled with women and children when they traveled in crowds. When a boy was 12, he was considered a man. So Mary probably assumed Jesus was with Joseph, and Joseph probably thought the opposite.**

Have kids form groups of four or five. In each group, have kids create a short (30 seconds or less) scene to show what might happen in their own families if they disappeared in a crowd for several days. Allow a couple of minutes for kids to create their scenes; then have each group show the large group its scene.



On the Road Supplies

-
- Bibles
- Teacher Pack**
- Bible Timeline





One and the Same Supplies

1 paper cup per child
bag of ice
cooler
ice packs
pitcher of water

One and the Same Easy Prep

Pack ice in the cooler with ice packs so the ice doesn't melt before you need it.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were the most notable differences between the first play and the ones you created yourselves?
- Why do you think it was okay for Jesus to do things it's not okay for you to do?
- How does this event show us Jesus is special?

Say: ► **JESUS IS SPECIAL** in lots of ways. No other 12-year-old would be able to teach church leaders about God! Jesus is God's Son—and he *is* God—but he was also a person. He was tempted to be mean, just as we're tempted. He had friends disappoint him. He had to learn new things in his father's carpentry shop. But Jesus didn't ever sin. ► **JESUS IS SPECIAL!**

One and the Same

What You'll Do

Say: In our Bible passage today, Jesus said, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

Ask:

- Who is the "Father" that Jesus is talking about?

Say: Our Key Verse for today says, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). How do you think that can be? Let's do an activity to help us see how this can be true.

Give each child a paper cup. Instruct the kids in half of the group to fill their cups with water. To the kids in the other half, provide a bag of ice and have them scoop some into their cups. Have kids all set their cups on a table. Ask the kids to separate out the cups that contain water.

When kids have grouped the cups, say: **Some of you future scientists already know that water can exist in three forms: liquid; solid, like the ice; and vapor, like clouds. All of the cups contain water!**

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what ways are these cups of water and ice helpful in understanding Jesus and his Father?
- What do you think of Jesus being a child and being God at the same time?
- What about Jesus is special to you?





Say: **When Jesus said he and the Father are one, Jesus didn't mean they just had a family resemblance. Jesus and God are one. Jesus was present when God created the universe. Jesus will be present when the earth ends. Jesus is God's Son—and Jesus is God! When Jesus was here on earth, he lived just like you or me. He had to do chores and other things that you do, but he was also God. ► JESUS IS SPECIAL.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Growing Up

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **In our Bible passage today, we learned about how Jesus grew up and some of what happened to him as he grew. Let's talk about what it means to grow in our own lives the way Jesus did.**

Distribute Bibles, pens, and the Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids find the "Growing Up" activity.

Say: **Let's take a look at the things mentioned in the verses that are listed under the "What was Jesus like?" heading.**

Have kids form pairs and look up each of the verses listed. Then have kids write what these verses show them about Jesus under the verse headings.

Ask:

- **Share what you learned about Jesus from Luke 2:46, which says, "After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions."**
- **Why do you think it's important to not only listen but also ask questions?**

Have kids write their own answers to this question in the "How can I grow like Jesus?" column on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Say: **Let's take a look at the next verse on your Bible Truth Sleuth page. Luke 2:51 says, "Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them." Even though Jesus was God's Son, Jesus obeyed his parents.**

Ask:

- **Share what you learned about Jesus from Luke 2:51.**
- **How does Jesus' obedience to his parents show you that it's important to obey your parents?**

Have kids write their answers to this question in the "How can I grow like Jesus?" column on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.



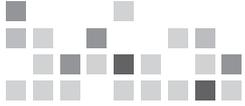
Growing Up Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
pens

Growing Up Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 5
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.





Say: **Okay, now let's look at Luke 2:52. This verse says, "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."**

Ask:

- **What's something wise you can do?**

Say: **Luke 2:46 tells us how Jesus showed wisdom. Jesus was willing to listen to his teachers and ask questions. As he grew, he listened to what God told him, and because he was willing to listen, he learned. By learning from God, he grew in wisdom. ► JESUS IS SPECIAL.**

Ask:

- **How can you grow in wisdom?**

Have kids write their answers to this question in the "How can I grow like Jesus?" column on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Say: **Stature refers to the size and height of your body. It simply means you grow physically. Because we know that Jesus obeyed his parents and grew in wisdom, we know he probably did things to help him grow well, such as eating the right food and exercising.**

Ask:

- **How have you grown physically?**

Have kids write their answers to this question in the "How can I grow like Jesus?" column on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Say: **Now let's look at the last kind of growth mentioned in this passage.**

Once again read aloud Luke 2:52.

Ask:

- **What do you think it means that Jesus grew "in favor with God and men"?**
- **How can you grow in favor with God and men?**

Have kids write their answers to this question in the "How can I grow like Jesus?" column on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

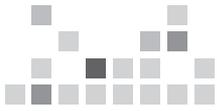
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Ask:

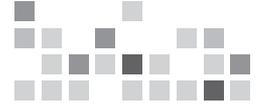
- **Explain which of Jesus' areas of growth are most impressive to you.**
- **What do you want to do to try to grow like Jesus did?**
- **What about Jesus' growth seems special to you?**

Say: **Jesus grew up facing the same pressures you face. He knows what it's like to be your age, and he understands everything you're going through. But**





► **JESUS IS SPECIAL**, so he also had other things to figure out. Jesus never sinned; he followed God rather than following the people around him. Remember the ways Jesus grew as you continue to grow and learn new things.



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's consider this week that ► **JESUS IS SPECIAL** as we do our Daily Challenges.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Make a list of things you need help to do. Pray and thank Jesus that he can do all of those things because he's special.**
- **When you wake up in the morning, think of three special things about Jesus. As you go through your day, thank Jesus for the ways he's special.**
- **Write a letter to Jesus thanking him for the ways he's special to you. When you finish your letter, put it someplace you will see it often during the week. When you see it, try to add a new reason you're thankful for Jesus.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

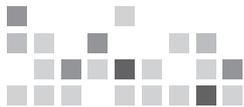
Say: Jesus grew up just like you. He had things he had to learn and figure out.

► **JESUS IS SPECIAL**, and we can ask him to help us be more like him. Let's remember how special Jesus is by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how special Jesus is. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Say: **Find a partner and pray together, thanking Jesus for the ways he is special in your life.**

When pairs have finished praying, ask children to stand in a line, side by side, facing the front of your room. Walk down the line and look into the eyes of each child. Say: [Child’s name], **you are important and special to God. God loves you so much.** Pause at least five seconds between children so the full impact of your words can sink in. Your words will become a blessing that may change a child forever.

