

Bible Lesson

6. Jesus Grows Up

Luke 2



Jesus grew wise and tall, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:52

Jesus Grows Up

Who was Jesus? A bright star greeted him at his birth. Angels sang the good news. Kings bowed low. They gave him gold. An old man told the secret, "He is the Messiah."

His mother Mary kept all these things hidden in her heart. She knew who her son was.

Jesus grew up in the quiet town of Nazareth. Jesus helped his father Joseph, who was a carpenter. They cut wood and pounded nails.

We do not know much about Jesus when he was a child. But we do know he never sinned. He never lied to his sisters. He never hurt his brothers. He was kind to everyone.

Jesus always obeyed his mother and father. He loved the Scriptures, God's holy word.

Jesus grew up strong and sweet. He was filled with wisdom.

God loved Jesus, his son. Jesus loved God and all people. Jesus grew in favor with God and men.

Questions

1. Jesus grew in wisdom. What helped him grow wise? How can you make wise choices?
2. Jesus grew tall and strong. How can you grow healthy and strong?
3. Jesus grew in favor with God. How can you please God as you grow?
4. Jesus grew in favor with all people. How can you get along better with others?

Pray this Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

I know that you want me to grow wise and tall and in favor with God and others. Please help me grow strong on the inside and outside. I mostly need help with this:

Amen.

If you have a wall where your family marks your height, cut out this poem. Tape it near your marks.

Dear Lord,
As I grow on the outside,
help me also grow on the inside.
Help me grow wise and tall
and in favor with God and all.
Amen

Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing

6. Jesus Grows Up

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) If God were to come to our planet, what he would look like or act like?
- b) What might it be like to have the Messiah – the Son of God – as your brother?
- c) What do you know about Jesus when he was a child?

After you read:

Growing Up Like God

The Scriptures tell us “Jesus grew wise and tall, and in favor with God and man.” This is a pattern for you to follow as you grow up. How can you grow up in each area: wisdom (how can you do well in school?); tall (how can you be healthy?); in favor with God (how can you please God?); in favor with others (how can you get along well with others?) Each person writes one way to grow on an index card. Label them: “Wisdom; Tall; In Favor with God; In Favor with Others.” On a Tall card, a child may write, “Drink milk every day.” Put the cards on four chairs. Each one will be in a corner. Go from chair to chair individually. Turn the suggestions into prayers that you will grow up like Jesus.

Story in Symbols

Give each child a piece of paper and perhaps a clipboard. Read through the story very slowly. Have the kids draw simple symbols as you read to illustrate most sentences. For example, for this line, “Who was Jesus?” they can draw a question mark. When the story is done, exchange papers and reread the story. The kids circle their classmate’s symbols as the story is retold. Were any of their symbols the same?

God or Human? (Part 1)

When Jesus came to earth, he was God. But he grew up looking like a normal child. What clues in the story show that he was human? What details make you think that he was also 100 percent God? Have the kids take lines from the story and write them on a markerboard under two columns: “More Like a God” or “More Like a Human.” For answers, see page 5, Part 2. Or, you can play charades. Each child gets a turn acting out one of the lines below and the kids guess what quality they are acting out. Ask them if they know anything from the gospels about Jesus’ actions that would make him seem God-like or human.

God or Human? (Part 2)

Was Jesus God, human, or both? These details from the story give you clues.

More Like God

A bright star greeted him at his birth.

Angels sang the good news.

Kings bowed low.

They gave him gold.

An old man told the secret, "He is the Messiah."

But, we do know he never sinned.

He never lied to his sisters.

He never hurt his brothers.

He was kind to everyone.

Jesus always obeyed his mother and father.

He was filled with wisdom.

More Like a Human

Jesus grew up in the quiet town of Nazareth.

Jesus helped his father Joseph, who was a carpenter.

They cut wood and pounded nails.

He loved the Scriptures, God's holy word.

Jesus grew up strong and sweet.

God loved Jesus, his son.

Jesus loved God and all people.

Jesus grew in favor with God and men.

Pieces of a Puzzle

Mary treasured every clue in her heart to realize that her son was indeed the Messiah – the Savior of the world. Photocopy the puzzle onto card stock. Kids cut out the pieces. On the back of each piece, write a clue from the story that shows that Jesus is the Messiah. For example, "He never sinned."

