



## Family Lesson 51

**Principle:** We must grow in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and people.

**Bible Character(s):** Jesus

**Scripture Reference:** Luke 2:40-52

**1. Worship** - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Skit Video** - Watch the [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

**3. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

Last week, we studied about recognizing Jesus and worshiping him. Today, we are going to read about Jesus when he was twelve years old. What do you think Jesus did when he was that age? Do you think he played with other kids? What kinds of things do you think he did and experienced when he was young? (Allow responses.) I bet he did experience a lot of those things because he grew up and experienced life in the same way each of you do!

The Bible in Luke 2 [NLT] gives us a glimpse of Jesus when he was a young boy.

#### Luke 2:40

*<sup>40</sup> There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.*

As a child, Jesus grew taller and stronger, just as you are growing each day. He may have liked to run and play, just like many of you. He had to learn things as he grew, just as you learn things each day. Have you ever thought about how Jesus grew up and had to learn just like you do? (Allow responses.)

Let's continue reading the Bible.

#### Luke 2:41-42

*<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. <sup>42</sup> When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual.*

Have any of you participated in the Passover Seder we do in Camp Grace each spring? Who can remember what Passover is? (Allow responses.) Each year, the Israelites celebrated Passover to remind them of how God saved the Israelites by bringing them out of slavery in Egypt.

Let's continue to see what happened when they went to Jerusalem.

#### Luke 2:43-50

*<sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> 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."*

*<sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"[a] <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.*

## Tie It Together

It might seem odd to us that Jesus was left behind because we travel in vehicles. Your parents would notice if you were not in the car when you leave church or any other place. In Jesus' time, a whole community of families would travel together by walking. Jesus' parents probably thought he was with other family members or friends. When they realized he was not with them, they went looking for him. What do you think happened when his parents found him? Do you think his parents were upset that he stayed behind? How do you think they reacted? (Allow responses.)

**Why was Jesus not with his parents?** (He was in the temple learning from the religious teachers by listening and asking questions.)

**What did Jesus do in this story?** (He stayed at the temple even though his parents had left.)

**Does this look like obedience to you?** (The kids will probably respond with "no.")

**Did Jesus ever sin?** (No.)

Reading that Scripture, it seems that Jesus disobeyed his parents, doesn't it? We have to look at why Jesus stayed behind at the temple by looking at his heart. In Jesus' time, Jewish boys were given the responsibility at the age of 12 for keeping the law. It was not wrong for Jesus to stay at the temple. Jesus never sinned. He told his parents that he was in his Father's house. He was experiencing God's presence and desired to be there because he was keeping the law just as he was supposed to do. Some of the best rabbis (teachers) would have been at the temple; Jesus was talking with them and learning from them. Even the Son of God took time to worship, learn and grow in wisdom. He wanted to learn about his heavenly Father, ask questions, and spend time with those who had studied God's Word. Jesus wanted to be in God's presence and chose to learn more about God. We should want to learn more about God also. We need to follow Jesus' example.

Let's continue reading the Bible to see what happened next.

### Luke 2:51-52

*<sup>51</sup> Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart.*

*<sup>52</sup> Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.*

As Jesus grew up, the Bible tells us he understood what God wanted him to do. He made wise decisions. Everyone around him knew that he was wise. Jesus obeyed his parents even though he knew he needed to learn more from the teachers at the temple. Jesus did not sin; he responded with obedience and went with his parents. He knew the commandment that said, "Honor your father and mother." (Exodus 20:12) By obeying his earthly parents, Jesus was honoring and glorifying God. When we obey our parents, we honor and glorify God. When we disobey our parents, we sin. Think about the ways in which you can obey your parents.

## Prayer

Spend some time in prayer to close the lesson. Thank God for his love and mercy, even though we do not deserve it.

## Activity

### Jesus Growth Chart

The purpose is to list out the ways that Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and favor with God and people.

Supplies:

Worksheet – "Jesus Growth Chart" (found on [Kids Resource Page](#))

Explain the concepts of wisdom, stature, and favor with God and people.

Wisdom: the knowledge and experience needed to make good choices

Stature: a person's reputation or character

Favor: a person's approval or support

Read through Luke 2:40-52 again. As you read, have your child circle things Jesus did (followed the law and customs, worshiped God through celebrating Passover, went to the temple to be taught/to learn, listened to the Rabbis [teachers], asked questions, prayed, obeyed his parents, respected authority).

### **Tie It Together**

Jesus grew physically, just as we do. Jesus was twelve years old in this story, a little older than you. He did many of the things we do to grow physically. Jesus needed to grow in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and people as well. He had to learn and study just as we do, and this is why he stayed in the temple. We need to follow Jesus' example. We can grow in these areas

**by doing the things we have listed here. Jesus wanted to be in God's presence; he wanted to learn more about his Father. We should follow Jesus' heart and desire to be in God's presence.**

**Jesus was fully God and fully human. When he chose to come to earth as a human baby, he grew up going through the same stages in life that each of us experience. Jesus had to learn and study about God so that he could gain wisdom and understanding of who God is and who he was as God's Son. We also need to grow in our wisdom and understanding of who God is and who we are as his child. As we spend time with God, our faith increases more and more. As our faith grows stronger, we become better prepared to share Jesus with others.**

