

Jesus Grew Up Just Like We Do

FOR THE TEACHER:

This lesson focuses on Jesus' experience in the temple when he was 12 years old. The Son of God became a real flesh and blood human being who grew up from infancy just like a normal child - he learned to walk, talk, eat, and be a good boy. He also grew in his understanding of himself, just as we all do. By age 12 he was beginning to understand who his real Father is. Because, as God the Son in human nature, Jesus grew up without sinning he changed human nature, giving us his goodness and making us good (righteous) before the Father.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Missing treasure. Gather together 5-10 small objects. This could include almost anything (coins, rock, feather, book, toy, etc). For small kids choose less objects to display and for bigger kids choose more objects to display. Lay out all the items in the middle of the table and let the kids study them for 15 seconds. Then have all of them close their eyes while you remove one item from the table. Let the kids open their eyes and try and tell you what item is missing. Play this as many times as time permits. You can combine different objects on the table each time you play, or you can try taking away 2 items at a time to mix the game up a bit. Now lets read about when Jesus went missing from his parents when he was only 12 years old.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Luke 2:41-52. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

41Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. 42When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom.

**What nationality is Jesus? He is Jewish, from the tribe of Judah in the nation of Israel.*

**What is the nation of Israel? A special group of people the Father gathered together to create a place where Jesus could be born.*

**Who was the ancestor of the Israelites? Abraham*

**Who did the Father send to tell Israel about himself? Moses*

**Where do we read the story of Israel? The Old Testament*

The law that the Father gave Moses to give to Israel required them to come to Jerusalem every spring to celebrate Passover.

43After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44Thinking he was in their company, they

traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48When 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." 49"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" 50But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Who did Jesus mean when he said "my Father's house"? God the Father

*Who is Jesus' step-Father? Joseph

Jesus grew up as a normal boy, just like we all grow up as children. As he got older he understood more and more about how he was the Son of God.

51Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Jesus had to work at being good, just like we do, and he had to obey his parents and do what they told him when he was a kid. Because he did a perfect job of being good he made us good too.

PRIMARY LESSON: Jesus grew up as a normal boy even though he was also the Son of God. He had to work hard at being good, just like we do. He succeeded in being good and made us good.

SECOND ACTIVITY: Bible Basketball. For this activity you will need a small round trash can or bucket and some balls. Try to get balls that are soft like nerf balls or you can make balls out of crumpled up paper or foil. Have the kids divide up into at least two teams. Start with the Team 1 and ask one child from that team a review question taken from this lesson or any previous lessons. Other members of the same team can help answer the question but the kid being asked has to give the final answer for their team. If they get the answer correctly, they can try and make a basket with their team ball. (You will want to keep track of how many baskets each team makes.) Now move on to Team 2 and ask one child from that team a review question. Keep alternating teams and individuals on each team until everyone has had a chance to answer a question. The winning team is the one with the most baskets. Feel free to ask the same question more than once during the game to different teams to keep the kids attention.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to be our older brother and to make us your children. Thank you, Jesus, for living a normal life just like ours but living it perfectly so that we can be good. Holy Spirit, help us to believe that Jesus has made us good children of the Father like himself. In Jesus' name, Amen.