



LESSON 51

3rd and 4th Grade

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

Bible Character(s): Jesus

Scripture Reference: Luke 2:40-52



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Luke 2:40-52. As Jesus grew up, He had to study and learn just as we do. He sat in the temple to learn and grow. Jesus, who came to fulfill the law, took time to learn the law. He placed himself under the authority of the rabbis. Jesus' actions came from a heart that believed and trusted in His Father.

Do your actions come from a heart rooted in belief and trust in God, or do you act like others expect you to act? Do your campers follow rules because of a changed heart, or do their actions come from selfish motives?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Jesus & Me

Supplies:

Worksheet – "Jesus & Me" side (1 per camper)

Give each camper a "Jesus & Me" worksheet. Tell them to fill in the blanks in order to complete each sentence. During small group time, they can fill in the answers for Jesus as you go through the lesson.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting

them from their worship of God.
*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will study about Jesus as a young boy. We will see that Jesus grew up and experienced life in the same way that we do. We will look at the choices He made in Luke 2:40-52, and His heart behind His decisions.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What did you learn about Jesus when He was a young boy, around your age? (He was wise, He liked people.) How did Jesus live His life? (People liked Him, He loved others and never sinned.)

We have studied about recognizing Jesus and worshiping Him. Who were some of the people we studied about who recognized Jesus when He was a baby? (We learned about Simeon, Anna, and the Magi who recognized Jesus when He was just a baby.) What was their response to recognizing Jesus? (Their immediate response was to worship and praise God for Jesus.) We learned about how we can recognize Jesus in everything we do, and how we can make choices to worship 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.

Remind the campers they can fill in the answers on the worksheet from Plug In Time as you go along. You may need to review the story of Jesus' birth with the campers to answer some of the questions.

Luke 2:40

40 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

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

Who remembers what Passover is? Have any of you done the Passover Seder we do in Camp Grace each spring? (Allow responses.) Each year the Israelites celebrated Passover to remind them of how God delivered them from Egypt. Pharaoh would not let the Israelites leave Egypt, so God told the Israelites to put the blood of a perfect lamb on their doorposts. God passed over the Israelite homes that had blood on the doorposts and killed the firstborn of every Egyptian family. After this, Pharaoh let the Israelites leave Egypt. To celebrate their deliverance from Egypt, each family brought a perfect lamb to the Temple for sacrifice. This lamb represented the lamb whose blood was placed on their doorposts the night that God passed over their houses. The lamb also reminded the Israelites that they were sinners; they knew that something had to die to pay for their sins. There wasn't anything they could do to get rid of their sin. This is why they continued to make sacrifices. Let's continue reading the Bible to see what happened when they went to Jerusalem.

Luke 2:43-45

43 After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, 44 because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends.

45 When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there.

This might seem odd to us because we travel in minivans and SUVs. Your parents would notice if you were not in the car when you leave church today. In Jesus' time, a whole community of many families would travel together by walking. Jesus' parents would have thought he was with other family members or friends.

Luke 2:46-47

46 Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. 47 All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

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.)

Luke 2:48-50

48 His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere." 49 "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they didn't understand what he meant.

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 as He was supposed to do (and wanted to do!). Some of the best rabbis/teachers would have been at the temple; Jesus was having discussions with them and learning from them. Even the Son of God took time to worship, learn, and grow in wisdom. He needed to learn about His heavenly Father, ask questions and spend time with those that 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

51 Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart. 52 Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

Obey Your Parents



The purpose is to help the campers examine how Jesus obeyed His parents, and that God wants us to obey our parents.

Supplies:

Obey Your Parents bookmark (1 per camper)

Give each camper a bookmark. Ask them to complete the sentence "I can obey my parents by..." by writing or drawing ways that they can obey their parents.

Tie It Together



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, and keep this bookmark as a reminder.

Jesus' Growth Chart: Wisdom, Stature, & Favor with God & People



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" side (1 per camper)

Explain 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

Have campers turn their worksheets to the "Jesus Growth Chart" side. Read through Luke 2:40-52 again. As you read, have campers write down the things Jesus did in the passages (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 a 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.

Our Growth Charts: Wisdom, Stature, & Favor with God & Men



The purpose is to list out ways the campers can grow in wisdom.

Supplies:

Camper Growth Chart poster (1 per session)

Piece of butcher paper about 6' long (1 per session)

Markers

On the butcher paper, mark each camper's height. Discuss what the campers need to do to grow *physically*, and list these items on the butcher paper "growth chart." Hang the "Camper Growth Chart" on the board. **We also need to take care of our minds and hearts to become the people God wants us to be. How can you take care of your heart and mind, and grow up to be the person God wants you to be?** Write these things down on the "Camper Growth Chart." Examples: worship God; study Scripture; obey authority; treat others kindly; obey the Bible; obey God; serving others; pray; go to church; be the church; listen in big group and in class; ask questions; talk to parents about God; etc. As you write these down, compare them to Jesus' growth chart.

Tie It Together



We need to take care of our bodies to grow into healthy adults. All of these things we wrote down help us grow in different ways, just as eating well and exercising help our body grow. We also need to take care of our minds and hearts to grow into the people God wants us to be. Jesus had to grow in wisdom and stature as well. Jesus made these choices because He loved God and desired to serve God. We need to obey because we love God, not just because we don't want to get in trouble. As we grow in favor with God, He will continue to change our hearts into the person He wants us to be. He will help us make good choices as we learn more about Him by studying the Bible. As we grow in favor with other people, we can share with them who Jesus is and what He has done for them.

When others like and respect us, it gives us a chance to share with them what Jesus has done for all of us.

Wrapping Up:

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.

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to change each child's heart and to grow each child up into the godly man or woman that He wants them to be.



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