



AND JESUS GREW

LUKE 2:21-52

◦ **Big Idea** As a boy, Jesus honored God and grew wise and strong.

Lesson Summary

Because the Bible contains so few details about Jesus' childhood, we sometimes forget that He developed just like any other boy in His time. He grew up in a small town, had brothers and sisters, and probably learned the occupation of His father, carpentry. He was obedient to His parents (Luke 2:51). They worried about Him just like any parents would (Luke 2:48).

But the grace of God was upon Jesus in a special way (Luke 2:40, 52). This lesson shows us two special days in Jesus' childhood: His encounter with Simeon and Anna shortly after His birth, and His visit with the teachers in the Temple at age twelve. Your students will realize that even as a child, Jesus grew in ways they will want to imitate.

Bible Background

The Mosaic Law required Jewish boys to be circumcised on the eighth day of their lives. Forty days after the birth of a son, Jewish mothers came to the Temple to offer a sacrifice for purification. Joseph and Mary willingly fulfilled those responsibilities. They also faithfully participated in the Passover Feast each year. The Scriptures confirm Joseph and Mary's sincere devotion to God and their desire to raise their children according to the Law.

Jewish culture expected all boys to learn a trade. Generally, boys became apprentices of their fathers, joined them in their trade, and eventually chose that occupation as a livelihood. It has been traditionally assumed that Jesus learned the trade of carpentry from Joseph.

Teacher Devotional

As Jesus grew up, He was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him (Luke 2:40). Isn't this what you want as a teacher? As adults we stop growing up physically, but we continue to grow spiritually all our lives. You can ask for God's wisdom and grace, just as the Apostle Paul prayed for the believers in Ephesians 1:16-19.

Lord, as I consider the role You have put me in and the circumstances that are molding me, my prayer is that I am growing in stature and favor in Your eyes. More than anything, I long to please You in every situation. Please fill me with Your wisdom and grace as I teach the children. In Jesus' name, amen.



DISCIPLE TARGETS In this lesson, your children will...

KNOWLEDGE (truths)

- K** • Simeon and Anna recognized the baby Jesus as the promised Messiah. (Luke 2:26, 38)
- N** • Jewish teachers were amazed at Jesus' understanding of God. (Luke 2:47)
- O** • As Jesus grew He became strong and wise and gained the favor of both God and people. (Luke 2:52)

CHARACTER (emotions)

- F** • Amazed at the wisdom Jesus had as a child.
- E** • Inspired to be more like Jesus was as a child.
- E** • Confident that God will help them develop physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.
- L**

CONDUCT (actions)

- D** • Measure their own growth in four key areas.
- O** • Determine the distance from Nazareth to Jerusalem.
- Disciple Skill: POWER—Practice different kinds of prayer.

Make Disciples

Teacher—Decide where to place these elements into this lesson.

Opening Prayer

Thank God for each child in the class, by name if possible. Pray that the children would see Jesus' childhood on earth in a new way today and consider how they might be more like Him. Ask God to help the students grow in wisdom and stature, and to honor God with their lives.

WorldWatch

Missionary Biography 3 of 12—Hudson Taylor—The Preparation *Missionary stories can have a profound impact on a child. Take 1-2 minutes to read this brief narrative. Download discussion questions at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.*

Hudson Taylor cannot wait to go to China! But he is still too young. So, Hudson Taylor decides to begin preparing to be a missionary. He reads books about China. He prays for China. At five o'clock each morning, Hudson Taylor wakes up to study other languages like Hebrew, Latin, and Greek so that he can translate the Bible into Chinese. At night, Hudson Taylor sleeps on hard wooden boards instead of his soft bed; he is making his body tough for the challenges of missionary life.

Hudson's younger sister, Amelia, becomes his friend and teammate. Brother and sister pray together and go into the poor neighborhoods together. Hudson and Amelia tell the poor people about Jesus, and they invite them to attend church. Hudson Taylor knows that traveling across the ocean will not make him a missionary. He must tell people in his own city about God's love and forgiveness.

How would you prepare to be a missionary? What things can you do right now?

DISCIPLESHIP TIP

The way you set up chairs and tables does much to set the mood in your classroom each week. Chairs placed in rows may invite students to be seated. When chairs are in a circle, kids know they will be invited to participate in a discussion. Tables tell students they will be working with paper and pencil or projects. No tables may signal that special learning activities are planned that require more space. Think about your classroom. Change the setup now and then to keep kids excited about learning.

Missions Education—One Mandate

To add this component to the lesson, download the teacher script at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.

KeyVerse

Topic: And Jesus Grew

Reference: *Luke 2:52*

Memorization Activity: Write the memory verse from your favorite Bible translation on a board for your children to see. Toss a beach ball or balloon in the air and when a child catches it, he or she can say the first word in the verse. Let the child toss the ball to someone else, and so on. As children get more proficient saying the verse, begin erasing words on the board and allow them to volley rather than catch the ball.

Bonus Resources

Access free downloads for this lesson at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.

- Dee Cy Paul Chip (discipleship) story
- More activity ideas
- Activity templates and resources
- *Explore Scripture* teacher notecards

SUPPLIES

General Supplies

Bibles, Disciple Guides (pages 9-12)
Pencils, markers, crayons
Paper, notecards, scissors, tape, glue

Make Disciples

Beach ball or balloon

Spark Interest

- **MARY POPPINS MEASUREMENTS:** *Mary Poppins* DVD, video or book, tape measure
- **STUDENT BODIES:** butcher paper or newsprint
- **MEASURING STATURE:** tape measure

Explore Scripture

Teaching Picture 3A.5—Simeon and Jesus
Teaching Picture 3A.6—Jesus teaching in Temple

Inspire Action

- **OBEDIENCE:** none
- **GOING TO JERUSALEM:** none

Spark Interest

Teacher—Choose one activity that will involve students and grab their attention.

Mary Poppins Measurements (15 minutes)

This imagination activity motivates children to think about their character. **Supplies:** video or book of *Mary Poppins*, tape measure

Show the clip of the movie *Mary Poppins* (or read the passage) when Mary Poppins pulls a tape measure out of her bag and measures Jane and Michael Banks. Though she just met them, her special tape measures their character qualities. Ask the children, **If God used a special tape measure on us, what would He find?** Consider going around the room and “measuring” your children with a positive quality for each child.

OR

Student Bodies (15 minutes)

This drawing activity illustrates how to be healthy physically and spiritually. **Supplies:** butcher paper, markers

Ask your children to trace two of their fellow students on butcher paper. Place each outline on a table or clear floor area, or tape to wall. Invite each child to list or draw an item on one of the papers that might help kids grow a healthy body. Include healthy foods, fruits, vegetables, vitamins, sleep, exercise, play, fresh air, water, and so on.

Ask your students what kids need to grow healthy hearts of love for God. On the second outline, have them list or draw key ingredients that will help them grow spiritually. Discuss items such as God’s word, prayer, obedience, and fellowship.

OR

Measuring Stature (10 minutes)

This measuring activity prompts children to consider how to measure their internal character qualities. **Supplies:** tape measure

Read Luke 2:52. Ask the students, **Of these four areas, which is easiest to measure?** (Stature). Take out the tape measure and measure everyone’s height. If you like, record heights on the board and make a height graph. Now ask the class, **How can we measure the other three areas mentioned in this verse?** Gather several responses.

Disciple Guide—page 9

Have your children complete the word puzzle. Complete this page at the beginning of class or after a *Spark Interest* activity.

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When Jesus was eight days old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem where they presented Him to God. They met two people who recognized that this baby was the Savior.

Their names were **Simeon** (Luke 2:25) and **Anna** (2:36).

Answer True or False by coloring the boxes in the correct column. Then copy the colored letters to spell out a word below.

True False

R **S** 1. Jesus was circumcised when He was seven days old (Luke 2:21).

A **N** 2. Mary and Joseph offered a sacrifice to obey the law (2:24).

E **V** 3. Simeon knew that he would die before he saw the Christ (2:26).

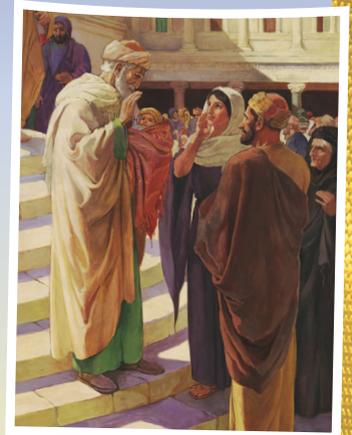
I **N** 4. Simeon held Jesus and blessed Him (2:28).

A **O** 5. Anna had never been married (2:36).

R **P** 6. Anna gave thanks to God (2:38).

S A V I O R

1 2 3 4 5 6



Explore Scripture

Teacher—Teach the Bible lesson. Include Teaching Pictures and exercises from the student Disciple Guides.

Luke 2:21-52

Today we are going to learn about two times Jesus visited the Temple in Jerusalem. The first time He was a baby, and the second time He had grown up to be a big kid. Because of Christmas, we hear a lot about how Jesus was a little baby. But have you ever thought about how Jesus grew up? He must have run and played with the other children, just like you. He must have helped His mother and father with chores, just like you. Let's find out what else we know about Jesus after He was born.

Read or tell the story of Jesus as a baby in the Temple (Luke 2:21-39), and have children follow along in their Bibles. Explain that an Old Testament commandment from God required the parents to bring an offering after a baby was born. **Mary and Joseph were obeying God's laws. In Jerusalem they met two faithful servants of God, Simeon and Anna. How did Simeon know that this baby was God's promised Messiah?** (Verses 26-27—God revealed it to him.) Show the Teaching Picture 3A.5 of Simeon and Jesus. **Have you ever had to wait a long time for something wonderful? Simeon had to wait his whole life!**



How did Simeon know that this baby was God's promised Messiah? (Verses 26-27—God revealed it to him.) Show the Teaching Picture 3A.5 of Simeon and Jesus.

Have you ever had to wait a long time for something wonderful? Simeon had to wait his whole life!

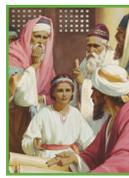
Disciple Guide—page 10

As you read or tell the story of Luke 2:40-52, pause and let children fill in the boxes on the top half of the page.

Why had Mary and Joseph taken Jesus to Jerusalem? (Verse 41—To celebrate the Passover Feast.) Explain to the students that a boy would first participate in the Passover Feast at around twelve years of age. This was probably Jesus' first trip to the Temple in Jerusalem for the Passover.

Why didn't Mary and Joseph realize that Jesus was missing right away? (Verse 44—They thought He was going home with friends or relatives.)

How long did it take to find Him? (Verse 46—three days.) **How do you think His parents must have felt?**



Where was Jesus for those three days, and what was He doing? (Verse 46—He was in the Temple talking with the teachers.) Show the Teaching Picture 3A.6 of Jesus teaching in the Temple. **Even the learned religious teachers were astounded at Jesus' knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures. Why did Jesus have this amazing knowledge when He was only twelve years old?** (He was the Son of God.)

What did Jesus mean by "My Father's House?" (God was Jesus' Father, and the Temple was God's House.)

What did Jesus do after Mary and Joseph came for Him? (Verse 51—He obeyed them and went home with them.) Emphasize the fact that although God was His real Father, Jesus lived with and obeyed Mary and Joseph, His earthly parents.

Even as a little child, Jesus gave us a good example of how to live, didn't He? Aren't you glad to learn more about God just like Jesus did in the Temple? You are all growing up every day! You are getting bigger and taller! Are you

10

Jesus Honors God

Fill in the blanks with the correct word. The shapes of the boxes will help you. Read Luke 2:41-52 to find the answers.

- Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the **Passover** Feast (2:41).
- Jesus went with them when He was **twelve** years old (2:42).
- After looking for Jesus, they finally found Him in the **Temple** (2:46).
- The Jewish teachers were amazed at His understanding and **answers** (2:47).

Jesus' family traveled from Nazareth to Jerusalem every year. How far was it?
about 60 miles

Circle the forms of transportation they probably used.

becoming wiser and making good decisions? Are you learning to love God more and more?

People were amazed at how much Jesus understood about God. I am amazed at how much you just learned as we explored Scripture together. I know that with God's help, I will see all of you grow up so much this year. It will be exciting to see all the ways we can become more and more like Jesus.

Disciple Guide—page 10

Consider the distance from Nazareth to Jerusalem, and think about Jesus' family making this trip every year. How did they travel? How long did it take?

Disciple Guide—page 11

Let the students match the words with their definitions. Complete the HeartBeat, encouraging children to think about their own growth.

Inspire Action

Teacher—Choose one activity that will encourage learners to apply the Bible truth to their lives.

Obedience (10 minutes)

This discussion emphasizes the importance of obeying one's parents as Jesus did.

Remind the children that Jesus obeyed His parents (Luke 2:51). Write on the board, "Why obey?" Tell the class, **People are always telling you to obey your parents, teachers, and so on. Why is this important?** After listening to some guesses, have children look up the following verses about obedience: Exodus 20:12, Proverbs 5:1-2, Ephesians 6:1, and Colossians 3:20. Each of these verses gives a reason to obey one's parents. Write the reasons on the board.

OR

11

Going to Jerusalem (10-15 minutes)

This memory game prompts children to think about travel in Bible times.

Have children sit in a circle. Start clapping and snapping in a natural rhythm. The first person says, "I'm going to Jerusalem and I'm taking my scrolls (or some Bible-times item)." The second person must recall what the first person said *plus* add one new item that she wants to take. Each player must try to recall all of the items in order and then add one new item. Encourage children to name items that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus may have really taken to Jerusalem for the Passover. End the game by discussing things children can "take" with them to grow spiritually.

Match the ways the Bible says Jesus grew with the things He did.

Favor with men	→	Became a friend of God
Wisdom	→	Got along with people and became their friend
Stature	→	Understood and did what was right and good
Favor with God	→	Became taller and stronger

As a boy, Jesus honored God and grew wise and strong. These "growthmeters" show four ways that Jesus grew. Color each one to show your own growth.

Max	Max	Max	Max
Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
Average	Average	Average	Average
Weak	Weak	Weak	Weak
Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero
Wisdom	Stature	Favor with God	Favor with people



Think of one way you can honor God and grow to be more like Jesus.

treat all people well

Closing Prayer

Pray that each student will desire to grow to be more like Jesus. Challenge your children to spend time in silent prayer asking God to help them grow in the area they identified in the Heartbeat. Pray for the personal requests of students. Encourage children to voice their prayer concerns. Be sure to pray for each one.

Closing Words

Jesus was one amazing person, even as a child. Next time we will learn more about His cousin, John the Baptist, and what he did to make sure Jesus got off to a great start!

Lesson 3



Teacher—Children should complete this page on their own or at home with a parent.

Disciple Skill *How to Be Jesus' Disciple*

During this quarter, your children will consider “healthy habits for spiritual growth” as outlined in the acrostic P-O-W-E-R. This tool will give them the basics of being a disciple. Review the POWER acrostic weekly so the children learn it by memory.

The P in POWER stands for Pray. Present the H-E-A-R-T acrostic to help your students remember various types of prayer: praise, confession, requests, and thanksgiving. These types of prayer are discussed in Philippians 4:6-7 and James 5:13-16. If you have time in your lesson, have the children look up these passages and find the elements of prayer.

DiscipleZone.com

Direct children to DiscipleZone.com/3A3 for:

XploreMore *Discover more about how Jesus grew as a boy.*

SwordWork *Read Luke 3.*

WorldWatch *Look closely at Jesus' last words.*

Dee-Cy-Paul Live! *Paul realizes all the ways he has grown.*

KeyVerse *Memorize Luke 2:52.*

HymnNotes *Discover the lyrics to “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”*

Disciple Guide—page 12

Encourage kids to complete DiscipleZone before the next lesson. Explain that activities are available at a special website—

DiscipleZone.com—where kids go to grow! Children should visit the website with their parents to complete the online activities.

12

DiscipleSkill How to Be Jesus' Disciple

POWER Pray from your HEART.

Honor God with praise.
Examine your life.
Ask for personal needs.
Request help for others.
Thank God for blessing you.

This heart can help you remember how to pray. Circle which kind of prayer you will practice this week!

SWORDWORK Name one of Jesus' ancestors.

KeyVerse And Jesus Grew Verse Luke 2:52

answers vary Find the answer at DiscipleZone.com/3A3