

*Get Ready!*

## Jesus Begins His Ministry

By: Marsha Crockett



### Text

Luke 2:41-52

### Key Quest Verse

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

### Bible Background

The beautiful area of Galilee in the northern section of the Holy Land was the home of Jesus. He lived in the city of Nazareth with Mary, His mother, and Joseph, who was well-known as a carpenter.

When Jesus was thirty years of age, He was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River and began His public ministry in Galilee. The city of Capernaum on the northern shores of the Sea of Galilee, became the major center of His wonderful work.

From the time He was a newborn baby, recently born in Bethlehem, through the years of His boyhood, and as a young adult, Jesus had a normal human development. Jesus experienced a fourfold growth. Luke, the beloved physician, tells in his Gospel: “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

Note the four areas in which Jesus grew. They include: mental, physical, spiritual, and social aspects of growth. What a wonderful pattern for us today! Jesus possesses true humanity. He is not only the Son of God, He is also the Son of Man.

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest**

**What I want my students to:**

- Know:** That Jesus grew physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.
- Feel:** That Jesus understands them, because He grew up just like them.
- Do:** Find ways to grow in favor with God and in human relationships.

**Leader's Devotion**

We often limit our teaching of this passage to children in Sunday School. But, we would do well as adults to listen to the lessons of Jesus as a child. In it we can ask ourselves these meditative questions. You may want to respond and record your thoughts as prayers in a journal.

1. Like Mary and Joseph, do I care enough about Jesus to search Him out in every corner of my world?
2. How zealous am I to be in my Father's house?
3. In what ways am I growing wiser in God's knowledge?
4. Am I finding favor in my relationship with God? Is pleasing God of utmost importance to me?
5. How am I treasuring my relationship with Jesus? Do I ponder His presence and make steps to record and remember how He touches my life each day?

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**Get Set!**

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**Option A****JEOPARDY**

**Materials:** Resource Page, chalkboard or whiteboard, Bibles

**Procedure:** As the children arrive, ask them to pair up with one or two other students and read through the text (Luke 2:41-52). Encourage them to read each verse and then ask each other questions about the verse to “warm up” for the Jeopardy challenge later on. After everyone has read through the verses, divide the group up into two or three teams. Line up three chairs and have three contestants begin the game. When someone thinks they know the answer, the individual jumps up from his/her chair as quickly as possible. First person standing gets to try to answer first. If they get it right, they add the dollar amount to their total, if wrong, they subtract it.

Use the game categories and questions shown in the Resource Pages. You can write out the categories and the dollar amounts for each question on a chalkboard or whiteboard. When a question is chosen, simply erase the dollar amount so you know which questions have been asked. The board should look similar to the diagram in the Resource Pages.

After all the questions have been answered, remind the children that this is a story of Jesus’ early life and how He grew up loving God. Ask them, **What are some ways you can show that you love God?** (Being here at church, praying, helping a neighbor, etc . . .) **Whenever we please God in these ways, we grow closer to Him and can feel His favor or blessing on us. God never loves us less because of what we do or don’t do, but we can feel His closeness to us when we express our love to Him. Let’s pray about this.** Take time to pray for each child by name if your group isn’t too large. Pray a simple blessing over the children that they grow in favor with God and learn to love Him more each day.

<b>GO TO THE BIBLE STORY</b>
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*Get Set!*

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**Option B****WHAT IF IT WERE TODAY?**

**Materials:** Resource Page

**Procedure:** Sometimes it's fun to think of the Bible stories in modern settings to help us better understand what happened. Have the students fill in the blanks of this story using words, reactions, and settings from their own world (see Resource Pages). As time permits, have several students share their take on the story.

<b>GO TO THE BIBLE STORY</b>
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**Get Set!**

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**Bible Story**

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**Teacher Tip:** Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Read Luke 2:41-52 together as a class. It says, “Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover.

**When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom.**

**After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.**

**Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.**

**When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.**

**After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.**

**Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.**

**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.’**

**‘Why were you searching for me?’ he asked. ‘Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?’**

**But they did not understand what he was saying to them.**

**Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.**

**And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”**

**Go!****Interview****GUEST QUEST**

**Materials:** Invite your pastor or other ministry worker to your class

**Quest Connection**

**We are going to have a guest join us for class. I want you to come up with questions you would ask this person relating to his or her ministry.**

**Procedure:** Tell them that they will be interviewed about their childhood and how they began their ministry of teaching, preaching, or whatever area of ministry they are involved in. Ask your students to come up with several questions relating to this. Some examples may include:

1. How old were you when you started talking to other people about God?
2. How did you learn about God?
3. When did you know you wanted to be involved in ministry?
4. What are some of the challenges of your job?
5. What is the best part of your job?
6. What are some ways for kids to begin to think about working in a church?

**Close**

Ask your guest to pray for your students and their futures.

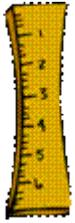
**Go!****Worksheet and Sharing****JOURNAL****Materials:** Resource Page**Quest Connection**

**This is a good reminder of how much Jesus is like us and understands us and how we grow through the years. Our Bible verse tells us that Jesus grew just like we do.**

**Procedure:** Ask the children to take out their journal pages and either write or draw a series of pictures showing things they could do at one-year-old, three-years-old, five, seven, ten, and so on. Then reflect on some of their drawings or journaling.

**Close**

**What are some of the frustrations you have or that you remember from when you were littler and couldn't do the things you can do today? What things are you looking forward to doing as you grow into your teen years or adulthood?**

**Go!****Paper Outlines****ARTS/CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Butcher paper for each student, markers, scissors

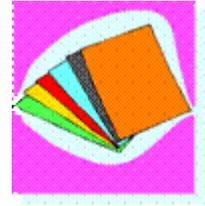
**Quest Connection**

Remind the children that in today's story about Jesus, He was about the same height as many of you, especially those who are 11 or 12 years old.

**Procedure:** Cut pieces of butcher paper (or banquet table paper) long enough for each student to lie down on a piece. Have children work in pairs and trace their outlines as they are lying down. After each student has been outlined, have them cut out their figures and add facial features, hair, clothing, etc. Hang each of the figures on a wall side-by-side. Pay attention to the differences in height (stature), hair styles, eye color, etc. (If you don't have access to butcher paper, have the students trace their hands and feet and cut them out and display them on a wall or bulletin board.)

**Close**

Let's keep these on our walls for awhile to help us see how we're all part of the family of God, and that we're connected to each other because of Him.

**Go!****Growing in Favor With Each Other****CHRISTIAN LIVING**

**Materials:** Variety of construction paper for cards and letters, markers, glitter, stickers and any other items that can be used to decorate a card

**Quest Connection**

**In our story today, we found out that Jesus was missing for a while, and Jesus was missed by His friends and family when He was gone. Who from our class is missing today? If there is no one missing, consider who might be missing from the congregation as a whole today. We also learned that Jesus grew in favor with God and with people. What do you think it means to grow in favor? (It means that we are more blessed by God and grow to love Him more. People like us better the more they get to know us and we get to know them, etc.) Let's combine our thoughts about people who are missing and think about how we can grow in favor with them.**

**Procedure:** Let's let our absent classmates know how much we miss them by creating a card or letters to send to them.

**Close**

After completing the cards and addressing envelopes, ask the students to join you in a time to pray for missing classmates and church members, perhaps even those who have not been with you for a long time. Encourage the children to pray during the week for these individuals and see how God will bless them for it.

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**Go!**

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**Snack Packs**

**FOOD:** Please check for food allergies!

**Materials:** Cloth (one piece per student), hole punch, ribbon or string, ingredients for Gorp, which is the snack food for backpackers and wilderness hikers (Any granola type combination of salty, sweet, candy, dried fruit, raisins, nuts, coconut, fish crackers, etc.)

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**Quest Connection**

**When Jesus and His family went on a trip, they had to walk for several days. Today we're going to make a hiking snack to remind us of this journey and also a snack pack to carry it in.**

**Procedure:** Take a piece of cloth cut in a circle about the size of a large dinner plate. Punch holes around the edge of the cloth every two to three inches. Weave ribbon or string through the holes in the cloth. Place the Gorp inside the snack pack. After they have the pack ready, let them scoop out a small amount of several different ingredients to put in their pack to take home. Then combine all the ingredients and sit on the floor together enjoying your snack.

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**Close**

Have students imagine what it would have been like to be on a walking trip like Jesus was.

**Go!****Ministry of Jesus****COMPUTER**

**Materials:** Computer software “The Life and Ministry of Jesus” available from [www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com), computer

**Quest Connection**

Today we are going to do some activities on the computer.

**Procedure:** Go to the Main menu and click on “Bible Quiz” or “Fun and Games.”

**Close**

We have reviewed many facts about Jesus’ ministry on earth. Wouldn’t it have been amazing to be where Jesus was preaching? Have you ever wondered what Jesus looks like? What does His voice sound like? Isn’t it exciting that we will know the answers to those questions when Jesus comes again?

## Resource Page

THE TRIP	LOST & FOUND	TEMPLE TALK	GOING HOME	WHO AM I?
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

### JEOPARDY QUESTIONS

#### The Trip

- \$100 – To what City did Mary and Joseph travel for the Feast of Passover? (Jerusalem.)  
\$200 – Why did Mary, Joseph and Jesus go to Jerusalem? (For Passover.)  
\$300 – How old was Jesus when He went to Jerusalem with His parents? (12.)  
\$400 – How often did Mary and Joseph go to Jerusalem for Passover? (Every year.)  
\$500 – Why did Jesus go to Passover when He was 12? (Because it was their custom.)

#### Lost & Found

- \$100 – What did Jesus do when it was time to leave Jerusalem? (Stayed behind in the city.)  
\$200 – How long had they been traveling when Mary and Joseph realized Jesus was missing? (One day.)  
\$300 – Where did Mary and Joseph begin to look for Jesus first? (Among friends and relatives.)  
\$400 – How long did His parents look for Jesus before they found him? (3 days.)  
\$500 – Where did His parents finally find Jesus? (In the temple.)

#### Temple Talk

- \$100 – What was Jesus doing when His parents found Him in the temple? (Sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions.)  
\$200 – Why was everyone amazed at Jesus? (Because of His understanding and His answers.)  
\$300 – What word described how His parents reacted when they saw Jesus? (Astonished.)  
\$400 – What question did Mary ask Jesus? (Why have You treated us like this?)  
\$500 – Why did Jesus stay at the temple? (To be in His Father's house.)

#### Going Home

- \$100 – After they found Him, where did Jesus go next? (Home to Nazareth.)  
\$200 – What was Jesus' attitude and action toward His parents after this? (Obedient.)  
\$300 – What did Mary do after this adventure was all over? (Treasured all these things in her heart.)  
\$400 – In what two ways did Jesus grow in favor? (With God and with man.)  
\$500 – What are two other ways Jesus grew? (Wisdom and Stature.)

#### Who Am I?

- \$100 – Our names are never mentioned in this story, but we are Jesus' parents. (Mary and Joseph.)  
\$200 – I didn't mean to worry my parents, but I was so excited to be in the Temple. (Jesus.)  
\$300 – We all talked for hours to the boy from Nazareth, listening to Him and His amazing questions and answers. (The teachers in the temple.)  
\$400 – We hadn't seen Jesus even though His parents thought He was with us. (Friends and relatives.)  
\$500 – My temple is called "my Father's house," in this story. (God).

## Resource Page

### WHAT IF IT WERE TODAY?

Fill in the blanks of the story of Jesus getting lost, but use places, reactions, and words from our modern world. What would it have been like if it were today that Jesus was lost from His parents?

Every year Jesus and his parents went to \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. When Jesus was 12 years old, they \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ because it was the tradition to do so.

After it was all over, when His parents started home by \_\_\_\_\_,  
Jesus decided to \_\_\_\_\_, but his parents didn't  
know about it. They thought He was \_\_\_\_\_.

When they didn't find Him, they started \_\_\_\_\_.

Finally, they \_\_\_\_\_. After three days they  
found Him \_\_\_\_\_.

Everyone who heard Jesus talk was amazed. But His parents said, “ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

But Jesus responded, “Why are you searching for Me? Didn't you know \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

Then they all went \_\_\_\_\_.

And Jesus was obedient to His parents. And to remember this day, His mother \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

And Jesus grew wiser, stronger, deeper, and happier.

THE END

# Journal Page

**Either write or draw a series of pictures showing things you could do at one-year-old, three-years-old, five, seven, ten, and so on. What things do you look forward to doing as you grow older?**



**“And Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).**

# Amazing Jesus

In our story today people were amazed and astonished by Jesus. Using the words JESUS CHRIST, fill in one word for each letter to describe Jesus. The first one is done for you (or see if you can think of a new word for the letter J).

J \_\_\_ Just (fair) \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

U \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

**Game: Traveling with Jesus**

Materials: game page for each student, button or rocks for game pieces, dice

Preparation: Copy game pages for each student.

Quest Connection: Jesus grew and traveled to tell others about His Father.

Wherever you go or whatever you do, you should remember God.

Procedure: Move game pieces according to number on dice. Follow directions on game page. Let each student take turns rolling the dice and moving until they win.

JESUS WAS FOUND You Win!		They searched!		They called Jesus (go back 1)
They celebrated Passover in Jerusalem		The temple was God's house		Mary and Joseph lost Jesus, forward 5
There were no cars Go back 3		Jesus family took a trip to celebrate (forward 4)		Jesus was happy
Boys usually helped their father work		Jesus lived in Nazareth move forward 2		Most 6 year old boys went to school
Joseph was a Carpenter		John the Baptist was Jesus cousin		Jesus had brothers to play with
Anna sees Jesus Move forward 3		They went to Egypt Go back 1		Mary taught Jesus move forward 3
Simeon watched For babies		Baby Jesus went to temple		Horrible news, King kills Babies, move forward 2
Start →	God promised A Savior	Jesus was born move forward 3		King Herod was mean, go back 2

“Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”(Luke 2:52.)