

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus' Childhood

Luke 2:39-52

Opening

- Gathering: In what ways do we grow when we are in our Father's house?
- Today's Focus: Jesus was obedient to His Heavenly Father even as a child.
- Key Verses: *Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?* Luke 2:49
Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:52

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Preparing for the Messiah (*Luke 1, Matthew 11*)

- How did Luke begin the story of Jesus' life?
Luke 1:5, 7, 13, 17, 24 (5-25)
- What similar, but more important, story came next?
Luke 1:26-27, 30-33 (26-38)
- What crisis resulted that Matthew recorded to show God's plan being fulfilled?
Matthew 1:18, 20-23 (18-25)
- What did the pregnant fiancée do that further showed who the child would be?
Luke 1:39-43, 56 (39-56)
- What final preparation did Luke record to prepare for Jesus' birth?
Luke 1:57, 62-63, 66, 80 (57-80)

Jesus is Born (*Luke 2*)

- How did Luke show the promise fulfilled that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem?
Luke 2:1, 4, 6-7 (1-7)
- Who first learned of this great event in God's plan?
Luke 2:8-12, 17 (8-20)
- How did Luke record the early days of Jesus' life to show His perfect obedience?
Luke 2:21-22 (21-24)
- What happened in the temple that further confirmed who Jesus was?
Luke 2:34-36a, 38 (25-38)

King of the Jews, Savior of the World (*Matthew 2*)

- How did Matthew begin his story of Jesus' life that show Jesus came for all people?
Matthew 2:1-2, 11 (1-12)
- What story did this lead to that showed Jesus as the new Israel, head of the new covenant?
Matthew 2:13-15 (13-18)
- What was Matthew's last story of Jesus before His ministry began at around age 30?
Matthew 2:19, 21, 23 (19-23)

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Luke's Comments on Jesus' Early Childhood (*Luke 2:39-40*)

With a focus on Jesus' perfect obedience as a human, what did Luke say about the Magi and Egypt?

Luke 2:39

Did Luke give us any more detail on Jesus' childhood?

Luke 2:40

Jesus' Childhood - Education (*Proverbs 1:8*)

As a Jewish boy, what would have begun in Jesus' life around age 3?

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

What would Jesus have learned in synagogue school beginning at age 5 or 6?

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Who was responsible for Jesus' education - His teachers? priests? school board?

Proverbs 1:8

Jesus' Childhood - Faith Development (*Luke 2:41*)

How likely is it that Joseph and Mary would have brought Jesus up in the Jewish faith?

Matthew 1:19

Luke 1:30

Did Joseph and Mary remain faithful as Jesus grew in childhood?

Luke 2:41

Are we told how regularly Jesus' family "went to synagogue"?

Luke 4:16

Jesus' Childhood - Ordinary or Not (*Matthew 13:54-56*)

Did Jesus perform or practice miracles as a child?

John 2:11

Did His neighbors notice anything special in the boy Jesus?

Matthew 13:54-56

The Completeness of Twelve (*Luke 2:42*)

Hebrew Meanings behind Numbers

3

4

7 (3 + 4)

6 (7 - 1)

12 (3 x 4)

After 12 years, at 13 years old, a boy was considered to be completely a man

Bar Mitzvah - "Son of the Law"

Ceremony to celebrate passage into adulthood and personal responsibility to God

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Jesus at Twelve (*Luke 2:42*)

What was one of the commands a faithful 12 or 13 year old would begin to obey?

Deuteronomy 16:16

What were these three major festivals?

Leviticus 23:4-8

Leviticus 23:10, 15-16

Leviticus 23:34, 42-43

Did Jesus' parents see to it that Jesus perfectly obeyed this command?

Luke 2:42

Jesus Is Missing (*Luke 2:43-44*)

What happened after Jesus' first visit to the temple as an adult?

Luke 2:43

How could Mary and Joseph leave their oldest son behind and how long was it before they missed Him?

Luke 2:44

People traveled long distances in caravans to protect from attacks and provide help as needed

Parties would separate into groups - fast / slow walkers, women and children / men

Groups would meet at predetermined stopping point

A lot of traffic would have been on the road the day after the festival

Mary and Joseph assumed Jesus was with the other or with friends or relatives

Didn't realize He was missing until they regrouped that evening at the stopping point

Seek and Find Jesus (*Luke 2:45-46*)

What did Mary and Joseph do when they couldn't find Jesus among the travelers?

Luke 2:45

How long did it take Mary and Joseph to find Jesus and where did they finally find Him?

Luke 2:46a

What is significant about this length of time, when Jesus' parents likely feared their son's death?

Acts 10:39-40

What promise do we have that this searching reminds us of?

Jeremiah 29:13

Teaching the Teacher (*Luke 2:46-47*)

What was Jesus doing in the temple?

Luke 2:46

Did the teachers see Jesus as a typical "green behind the ears" boy with a lot to learn?

Luke 2:47

Rabbis often taught by asking questions that pushed students to think and come to conclusions

How did Jesus change roles for the rest of His life?

John 3:2

How did His teaching as an adult compare to His learning as a child?

Luke 4:32

Did Jesus use the questioning approach in His teaching?

Luke 10:25-28 (20:20-26)

How wise of a teacher was Jesus considered to be?

Luke 11:31

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Jesus Perfectly Obeys His Father *(Luke 2:48-50)*

After finally finding Jesus after 3 days, how did Jesus' frantic Jewish mother react?

Luke 2:48

How did Jesus respond to His mother?

Luke 2:49-50

Were people later able to understand what Jesus meant by this?

John 8:19

Jesus Perfectly Obeys His Other Two Parents *(Luke 2:51)*

What important note did Luke add to emphasize Jesus' life of perfect obedience?

Luke 2:51

Why was it important for Jesus to obey Mary and Joseph?

Exodus 20:12

How obedient did Jesus remain?

Philippians 2:8

Jesus From Thirteen to Thirty *(Luke 2:52)*

What are we told about Jesus after the temple story?

Luke 2:52

When is the last time we hear about Joseph?

Luke 2:48

What might we understand from this about Jesus' life in adolescence and/or early adulthood?

Mark 6:3

At what point in Jesus' life do the gospel writers pick back up?

Luke 3:23a

How did Jesus "begin His ministry"?

Luke 3:21-22

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How regularly does my family go to God's house to worship Him with other Christians?
(Luke 2:41; 4:16; Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 1:21; 6:2; John 4:20-24; Acts 13:14, 42; 16:13; 18:4; 1 Corinthians 14:26; 16:1-2)
2. Do I regularly remember and celebrate the great things God has done for me?
(Luke 2:42; Leviticus 23; Deuteronomy 16:16-17; John 5:1; 10:22-23; 11:55-12:1)
3. How intently do I learn from God's teachers?
(Luke 2:46-47; 6:40; 11:1; Matthew 5:1-2; John 13:13-14; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Galatians 6:6)
4. When have I taught God's truths to others?
(Exodus 12:25-27; Deuteronomy 4:5-14; 6:6-7; 2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 2; Hebrews 5:11-14; James 3:1)
5. Would I be considered as being obedient to my parents and to others in authority?
(Luke 2:51; Exodus 20:12; Matthew 21:23-27; 22:17-21; 23:1-3; Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14)