



**PRAY** *Have a parent open up this lesson in prayer*

“Dear God, we thank you for our families. We thank you that we can know you more. We love you God, Amen”

## **OPENING ACTIVITY**

*Tough Questions?*

*This activity will be a little silly. Invite kids to come up with appropriate, silly questions. One child will volunteer. The volunteer must attempt to answer the questions without laughing or smiling. He/she may make up answers, and they do not have to be accurate. If the person laughs or smiles, have them switch.*

**Say:** Those questions were pretty silly. Sometimes though, we face real questions that are difficult to answer because they require more wisdom than we might have. Today we will learn about a time Jesus proved that he understood difficult questions and had lots of wise answers—even while he was just boy!

**Say:** Jesus was fully human, and fully God. We have been learning about that over the last several weeks. This is important because, as a human, Jesus knows our experiences. He knows what it is like to be a kid, and to be an adult. He lived a perfect life! Let’s learn one story, from Jesus’ childhood

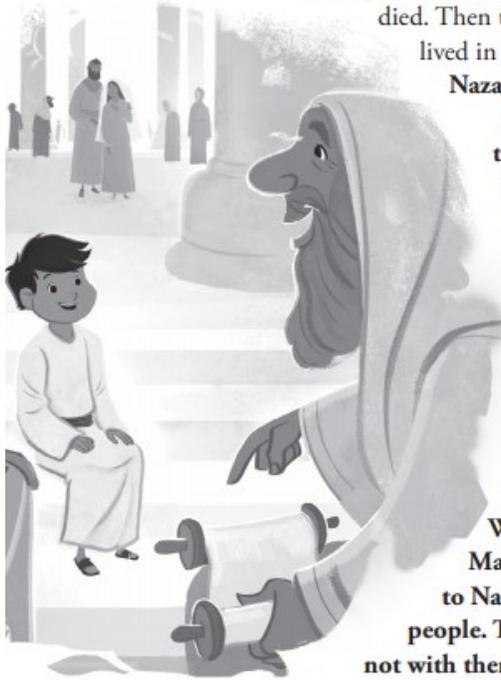
## READ

### The **BIBLE** Story

#### **Jesus as a Child**

*Matthew 2; Luke 2*

After Jesus was born, wise men followed a star to Bethlehem to find the new king of the Jews. The wise men worshiped Jesus as King. When they left, an angel told Joseph in a dream to leave Bethlehem because King Herod wanted to kill Jesus. So **Mary, Joseph, and Jesus** went to Egypt until Herod died. Then they **went back to** Israel and lived in **Nazareth. Jesus grew up in Nazareth.**



Every year, Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the **Passover feast**. Passover was the biggest holiday for the Jewish people. Many people traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate and remember when God saved His people from slavery in Egypt.

**When Jesus was 12 years old, Jesus and His family went to Jerusalem together.**

When it was time to go home, **Mary and Joseph began traveling to Nazareth with a large group of people. They didn't notice that Jesus was not with them; they thought He was among the group of travelers. But Jesus was not with the group. He had stayed behind in Jerusalem.**

**Mary and Joseph had been walking for a whole day when they started to look for Jesus. They looked among their relatives and**

friends, but they could not find Him. So Mary and Joseph **went back to Jerusalem. They searched everywhere for Jesus.** The city was so big, and Jesus was just a boy.

**Finally, they found Him at the temple. Jesus was listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Jesus could hardly believe how much Jesus understood. When Jesus' parents saw Him, they were surprised. Mary said, "Son, why have You done this? Your father and I were worried. We've been looking everywhere for You."**

**"Why were you looking for Me?" Jesus asked. "Didn't you know that I had to be in My Father's house?"** But Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus was talking about. **Then Jesus went back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. Jesus was always obedient to them,** and Mary remembered all of these things.

**As Jesus grew up, He became even wiser. God was pleased with Him, and so was everyone who knew Him.**

*Christ Connection: God sent Jesus to earth with a purpose. Even as a child, Jesus wanted to honor God. God blessed Jesus as He got ready to follow His Father's plan: to die on the cross and rescue people from sin.*

**Bible  
Storytelling Tips**

- **Change positions:**  
Move around the room as you describe Mary and Joseph's journey.
- **Use facial expressions:**  
Reflect emotions of the story when Jesus was missing and when He was found.

## Take to Heart

*As a family, take time to memorize the Key Bible Passage over the next several weeks!  
Take it to heart and notice how God's Word becomes alive in you!*

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning”

— John 1:1-2

**LEARN** *Take turns reading as parents, OR have kids read parts of the lesson.*

**Say:** Wow, a lot happened in that story. What is one thing you remember from the story?

**Ask:** Do you remember why Mary & Joseph travelled to Jerusalem?

**Say:** Mary and Joseph were travelling to Jerusalem so that they could celebrate the Passover. In case you forgot, the Passover was a big feast, that celebrated how God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt a long time ago.



**Ask:** How would you feel if your parents forgot you in a strange city?

**Say:** Being forgotten, and left behind can be scary, especially in a crowded

place with lots of new people. Him! But Jesus was no ordinary child! Jesus knew God's will for His life, and so He was not scared!

**Ask:** What was Jesus doing when Mary & Joseph found Jesus?

**Say:** Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple! Remember, Jesus was no ordinary child. While you or I might have been afraid or gotten ourselves into trouble without parents around, Jesus was in the temple discussing God with the grown up teachers of the law! What is even more crazy is the Bible tells us that Jesus knew more than they did. The Bible tells us the teachers were amazed at Jesus' ability to understand the Bible. Even as a child, Jesus wanted to do His Father's plan. Jesus knew, even as a young boy, that He would glorify God by obeying God's plan.

**Ask:** Why is it important that Jesus was a young boy?

**Say:** It is important because as a human, Jesus knows our sadness, and brokenness. As fully God, Jesus is able to forgive our sins and do what only God can do for us.

## **PRACTICE YOUR FAITH**

*An important part of faith is practicing what we read about in the Bible! Take some time to think of ways to live out what we read in Nehemiah.*

**Ask:** *How can we live out God's plan for us?*

*Discuss the idea that God's plan for all believers is for us to glorify Him. We can do that by loving others and obeying God. We learn how to do these things by learning and understanding the Bible. Just like Jesus, even at a young age, we can glorify God—we don't have to wait to grow up.*

**PRAY** *Have someone in the family volunteer to read the closing prayer*

“Father, thank You for sending Jesus. Thank you that he wanted to obey your plan to rescue us from sin. Help us to love and obey You, so that you get all the glory, Amen.”

# THE GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



**GOD RULES.** Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



**WE SINNED.** Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



**GOD PROVIDED.** Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



**JESUS GIVES.** Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



**WE RESPOND.** Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

Hint for next week: Guess at what the story is about?



Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1) • Unit 20, Session 1 • © 2019 LifeWay OK to Print