

Luke 2:22-52

Jesus's Family Album

Scripture: Luke 2:22-52

Memory Verse: Luke 2:52 *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”*

Lesson Focus: This passage of Scripture is precious as it gives us a tiny “sneak-peek” into the inner family life of Jesus as a child. Seeing Jesus as a baby and young boy reminds us that though Jesus is fully God, He is also fully human. Our hope is that the kids will relate to Jesus even more after seeing Him as a child (just like them!) and thus draw nearer to Him in faith.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of boy Jesus with religious leaders, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd grade: Boy Jesus in the Temple

Starter Activity: Guess Who Game

Almost all of the information we have about Jesus's earthly life centers around Him as an adult. But this passage of Scripture is one of the only one's where we learn a little about Him as a child.

To get the kids interested in the lesson, consider starting it off with a “Guess Who” game. We will provide some two-sided sheets with pictures of well-known grownups. One side will have a picture of them today and the other side with a picture of them as a child. Share the childhood picture first and ask them if they can guess who it is! * Then flip it over and they should recognize the person as they are today. And if you have one of yourself as a child, consider bringing it in and adding it to the mix for some fun! *

Afterwards, share the picture that we provide of Jesus (as He is portrayed in Superbook cartoons). Referencing this, transition into the lesson by asking a couple of questions:

Q: Who does this picture represent? A: Jesus, of course!

When we think of Jesus, we probably think of Him as a grown-up because that is what most of the Bible records about Him.

Q: But have you ever wondered what Jesus was like as a young person? *

Our Bible passage today is one of the only one's that gives us a little snapshot of Jesus as a baby and a child. Let's take a look!

Bible Study:

Luke 2:22-24: If you were here last week, we read about Jesus's birthday. Now Jesus is about 1-2 months old. Joseph and Mary, as good Jewish parents, are bringing Jesus to the temple to present Him to the Lord in obedience of Jewish law. The fact that Mary and Joseph could only bring pigeons for the sacrifice indicates that they were poor! *

Luke 2:25: As we began the book of Luke earlier this month, we talked about how people were to "GET READY" for Jesus. Well, this Simeon guy...he was READY!

Luke 2:26-33: Put yourself in Mary and Joseph's shoes for a moment. Remember they were ordinary folks just doing what all other Jewish families do with their firstborn son, kind of like how many families at RMC dedicate their young children at church. Imagine if at one of our baby dedications, a stranger came up and spoke these words over your baby! **Teachers:** Consider bringing in a baby boy doll * and inviting a boy and girl up to be Joseph and Mary to hold him as you read v. 29-32 (the words from Simeon).

Let's zoom in on what Simeon said about the baby Jesus:

v. 29-30: As God promised Simeon, he has seen with his eyes God's salvation.

Q: What have his eyes seen? A: The baby Jesus! * This is God's only Son sent to rescue people from sin and hell! (**John 3:16**)

v. 31: He says God had **prepared** to do this.

Q: What does it mean to "**prepare**" something? A: It means you make plans to do something. * God has been planning the coming of His Son to rescue the world from the beginning. People like Simeon had been waiting, but now the wait is over!

v. 32: This baby was special and He would be the Savior of not just the Jewish people, but of ALL people!

Luke 2:34-35: Simeon then speaks directly to Mary, Jesus's Mom. He speaks a prophecy about her and Jesus's future!

Q: What will happen to Jesus that will pierce or break Mary's heart? A: ~33 years later, He will die on the cross!

Remember Jesus could only save the world from sin by dying on the cross and paying for our sins. There was NO OTHER WAY and Simeon was giving Mary a preview of the sacrifice Jesus would make for all people, even you and me!

Luke 2:36-38: These few verses describe another old lady who was READY for Jesus! Both Simeon and Anna were excited and READY for God's promised Savior.

Luke 2:39-40: What a trip for Mary and Joseph! This section gives us a close-up snapshot of Jesus as a baby and closes with this mysterious statement about how Jesus grew, became strong, and was filled with wisdom.

Remember that baby Jesus is fully God AND fully human! As a human, He had to learn to walk, talk, dress, and everything else a little child has to learn, just like we did! *

Luke 2:41-42: Fast forward! Q: How old is Jesus now? A: 12 years old. And like good Jewish parents, they would observe the Jewish feast of Passover every year. *

Q: What is the big holiday that we celebrate in December every year? A: Christmas! Passover to the Jewish people was a big deal, just as Christmas is a big deal to us.

Luke 2:43-44: Uh-oh! Looks like Jesus accidentally got left behind! The Messiah, the Savior of the world, actually got LOST! *

Q: How many have you seen the movie *Home Alone*? Just like in that movie, there was a large group of family and friends of Jesus who traveled together and in the busyness of all of the travel, Jesus got left behind! *

Luke 2:45-46: Mary and Joseph realize Jesus wasn't with them and finally found Him back at the temple sorta "hanging out" with the religious leaders. I can only imagine what the boy Jesus was asking them and talking to them about. *

Luke 2:47-48: While He amazed the religious leaders with His wisdom as just a 12 year-old *, his parents seem to be quite upset at Him, maybe even blaming Him. But Jesus did nothing wrong! In fact, I think He was quite wise in remaining at a safe and public place until His parents came! *

Luke 2:49-50: These are the very first recorded words we have of Jesus! Even at this young age, He had an understanding that His life's mission was not from Mary or Joseph, but from God the Father. * Mary and Joseph, however, are understandably confused.

Luke 2:51a: Jesus was a good boy. He honored His parents and obeyed them. He calls all of you to do the same!

Q: Like Jesus, what are some ways you can honor your parents today?

Luke 2:51b-52: We have Mary to thank for this little snapshot of Jesus's childhood. It's like she invited us to come and look at a few pages of her family album. * And what we see is that while Jesus was an extraordinary boy, He grew up in a very ordinary home.

Key Point: This passage of Scripture is so important, especially for you kids. For it reminds us of Jesus's humanity. He experienced what we experience, even what you kids experience! * **Hebrews 4:15-16** talks about how Jesus is a Savior and Lord who understands everything we are going through. He had to go through "growing pains" just like you (**Luke 2:52**). Jesus wants all of you to also grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and men!

How can you do that? Draw near to Him! Not as a far away Savior, but One who is near and understands you as **Hebrews 4:15-16** says. *

Boys and Girls: Draw near to Jesus today! If you have worries and troubles in life, tell Jesus and tell your leaders so they can pray for you.

BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 2:30
What did Simeon's eyes see?

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Challenge:
What were Simeon and Anna "ready" for?

Read Luke 2:52
Like Jesus, how do you expect to grow this year?

