

LESSON AIM:

To emphasize that Jesus was a real flesh and blood person: while he was both God (*divine*) and man (*human*), in this lesson we want to especially focus on His humanity. Because he was human, he understands our human trials that we have in these 'tents' of flesh and blood.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Luke 2:40-52**REVIEW QUESTIONS:**

- 1) Remember last week's story. Why did Daniel have to bold about praying so everyone could see him? Couldn't he have just hid in his room and prayed?
- 2) What happened when he was thrown into the den of lions?
- 3) What happened the next day?
- 4) Review the verse from last week's lesson; have students explain it in their own words.

INTRODUCTION:

- We want kids to especially identify with Jesus. He was once a kid just like them; He knows what it's like to be a ten year old!
- Have you ever fallen down and scraped up your knees? That probably happened to Jesus! Have you ever had someone you didn't get along with or was mean to you? Probably happened to Jesus too. He can relate to everything in our lives because He experienced it!
- Even though Jesus was God, He was still human. He still had to go to school, he still had to help his parents, do his chores, do his homework and memorize scripture.
- As you go through the lesson you might want to hold up pictures of kids at various stages of their life (*Or bring pictures of yourself or your kids to show the students.*)

LESSON:

As we learned in our Christmas lesson, Jesus was born on a clear winter night in a small village called Bethlehem. I'm sure Jesus was a normal baby--as a newborn, he cried when He was hungry, and His mom had to change His diapers (*show your class a picture of a baby*). Jesus was not born into a rich family, his father, Joseph, was a carpenter who had to work very hard to support his family. Jesus probably began to help Joseph around the carpentry shop at a very early age (*a picture of a six or seven year old boy or girl helping their father or mother would be effective*).

Although Jesus worked hard, I'm sure there was time to play with the kids in the village (*a picture of kids playing hockey, baseball, skateboards, etc*). The Bible says that Jesus "*grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him*" (**Luke 2:40**). Jesus began at an early age to hide the Word of God in His heart. Even though He was God, He still had to read it, study it, and learn it just like all of us have to go to school and learn and memorize. That was all part of being human. Later on in His ministry He would often quote passages from the Old Testament that He had memorized.

When Jesus was twelve years old, He and His parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. After the Passover, the caravan (a large group of families traveling together) in which His family was traveling was headed back to Galilee (Remember there were no cars with air conditioning or DVD players; you would travel in the hot sun in carts with donkeys and it would take days, or weeks. Mary and Joseph thought that Jesus was somewhere in the caravan with the other kids and families, but after they had traveled for an entire day, they realized that Jesus had been left behind. How do you think they felt when they realized that?!

Rushing back to Jerusalem, they searched all day and looked everywhere but couldn't find him. After 3 long days of searching and probably panicking, where do you think they found Jesus and what was He doing? He was in the temple! The temple was the place to worship God and hear His Word. The Bible tells us He was, *"sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers."* It wasn't normal for a 12 year old to be sitting with the teachers discussing scriptures! There was something different about this young man!

(Have one of your students read Luke 2:47-52).

At the age of twelve Jesus recognized that he *must* be about His Father's business. He was not speaking of Joseph, his earthly father; He was speaking of **God**, His heavenly Father. Even as a child, Jesus knew that He must begin preparing for what His heavenly Father had sent Him and called Him to do on earth.

Let's look at our memory verse and try to understand it. How can we make this apply to us? (Read memory verse together with students; have them explain it to you in their own words. Spend a few minutes playing a game to memorize it.

CLOSING:

So if Jesus experienced a lot of the things we experience, then He understands! He knows what it's like to be frustrated, to have people that don't like you or are mean to you; but yet Jesus never sinned. We are still going to mess up, but Jesus is with us and He will help us when we ask! Let's ask God together that He would help us to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men."

MEMORY VERSE:

(Even year):

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

(Odd year):

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." Luke 2:52