



Bonus Lesson: *Jesus Grows Up* (Condensed Version)

Objectives: To explain that:

- Jesus grew and became strong and filled with wisdom.
- Jesus had special wisdom and insight into the Scriptures even as a boy, because he was God the Son.
- Jesus felt that the best place for him to be was in his Father's House, the temple, but he obeyed his parents and went back to Nazareth with them.

"I Wonder"

What do you see in this picture? (A boy talking, teachers in the temple etc.)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder who the boy is and who he is talking to.... I wonder what they are talking about.

I wonder why they are so interested in what he is saying.

I wonder if those are his parents coming into the temple. Let's find out more in our story...

Lesson Summary: Last week we learned that God told Joseph in a dream to take Mary and Jesus and quickly escape to Egypt because King Herod had made plans to kill the child Jesus. By obeying God, Joseph and Mary kept Jesus safe from the wicked King. After King Herod died, they moved back to their home town of Nazareth, in Galilee. The Bible tells us that Jesus grew up there, and that he became strong and filled with wisdom. When Jesus was 12 years old, he and his parents visited Jerusalem again for the Feast of the Passover. After the feast was over, they left to go back to Nazareth. They were travelling with a large group of relatives and friends. But after a while, Mary and Joseph realized they could not find Jesus anywhere, and they became worried. They went back to Jerusalem to look for him, and finally found Jesus in the temple. There he was sitting talking with the teachers in the temple, listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. Mary and Joseph were upset that he had stayed behind without telling them. But Jesus answered them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Mary and Joseph did not understand what he meant. You see, Jesus was telling them that he was God's Son, and that he needed to be in his Heavenly Father's house. Jesus would have studied the Scriptures since he was a little boy, but the reason he had such special wisdom and understanding was because he was God. Then Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents, and he obeyed them. But his mother treasured in her heart all these things she had seen and heard. As he grew, Jesus became even wiser and stronger, and he became more and more pleasing to God and to people.

Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about Jesus? (He is God's Son and wanted to be in his Heavenly Father's house, he was very wise as a boy and had special insight into the Scriptures. He obeyed his parents.)

- Where did Jesus and his parents go when he was 12 years old? (To Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover)
- Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus after they realized he was missing? (In the temple in Jerusalem, where he had stayed behind)
- What was Jesus doing in the temple? (He was talking with the teachers, listening to them and asking questions)
- What did the teachers in the temple think of him? (They were amazed at his understanding and his answers.)
- Why did Jesus have such special understanding of the Scriptures? (He had studied them, but he had special understanding because he was God.)
- Why did Jesus call the temple "his father's house"? (Because he was God's Son.)

Bible Memory Verse:

"And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2: 49 - ESV)