



# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

## YEAR 2

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# WELCOME TO *Generations of Grace*



This curriculum has been designed to deepen your own study of God's word so that you might be able to properly understand and accurately teach each lesson. It's our prayer that this curriculum would be a blessing to your ministry and home as God uses it to encourage your family.



## Share the Lesson

- **Five-Day Devotionals** – Guides the family through the Generations of Grace lesson, a cross-reference passage, and a passage about Christ to lead the family through the whole counsel of God.
- **Generations of Grace Passages** – Reinforces the lesson that your child learned in Sunday School.
- **Cross-Reference Passage** – Points to another passage that reinforces the central truth of each week's lesson.
- **Christ-Centered Passage** – Connects each week's lesson to Jesus Christ and to the gospel.
- **Explain** – Communicates the truth of each day to the parent's heart and mind to prepare them to lead their child through the passage.
- **Ask** – Foster greater interaction between parent and children whether they're 3 years old or 11 years old.
- **Discuss** – Enable the conversation about the truth to progress to a deeper level.

## Additional Resources

Use these additional resources to help support your lessons and to knit together the church and the home, ensuring that what is taught on Sunday matches what is learned throughout the week.

- **Coloring Book**
- **Craft Book**
- **Activity Book**
- **Student Journal**
- **Teacher Book**

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# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## CHRISTMAS WEEK 1

### The Son of Man is born in Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-20



## DAY 1

*A Child was born into the world • Luke 2:1-7*

### READ

Luke 2:1-7

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:1-7

Jesus was not a story-book character living a fairytale life. He was a real, historical person like us. He was born during the reign of Caesar Augustus, emperor of Rome from 29 BC to 14 AD (Luke 2:1). Although many said Augustus was a savior who brought peace, the real Savior and Prince of Peace was born in a small corner of his empire. Jesus was born during the first census administered by Quirinius, a census ordered by Caesar in 8 BC but implemented in Palestine between 6 BC and 4 BC. So Jesus' parents traveled to Bethlehem, which took several days to cover 70 miles, not to mention the time in Bethlehem (2:3-5). Then, instead of giving birth in a private and peaceful place, Mary was surrounded by noisy crowds. Instead of giving birth in her own home with everything arranged just right, she gave birth in an animal shelter (2:7). Instead of leaning on family for help and support, she was at the mercy of strangers. So you can trust in Jesus: not only was He a real person, but He also knows the struggles we face.

### ASK

1. Who was emperor and who was governor when Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem?  
*Caesar Augustus was emperor and Quirinius was governor.*
2. Why does it matter who the rulers were?  
*It shows us that Jesus' birth is real history. It really happened. It also shows that Jesus, not rulers like Augustus, is to be honored as the Savior and Prince of Peace.*
3. Was Jesus born in a nice place?  
*No. He was born in an animal shelter in a crowded, tiny town.*
4. Where was Jesus born?  
*Bethlehem, the city of David.*

### DISCUSS

1. How was Jesus' birth similar to all other human births?
2. How was Jesus' birth different from all other human births (Isa 7:14; Luke 1:30-35)?

## DAY 2

A Child was born to save • Luke 2:8–14

### READ

Luke 2:8–14

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:8–14

Why was Jesus born? The angel tells us by giving Him three titles: Savior, Christ, and Lord (Luke 2:8–11). First, Jesus is Savior. He was born to save us from our sins (Matt 1:21). That means He was born to die (Isa 53), because sin cannot be atoned for apart from the blood of a spotless sacrifice (Lev 17:11). Second, Jesus is the Christ. He is Israel's long-expected Messiah, the one anointed by God (Dan 9:25–26) to be both Savior and King (Luke 1:32–33). Third, He is Lord, meaning that He is God Himself. This is the most amazing thing ever, so God arranged something very unusual. Angels had delivered messages in the past, but never before had they been accompanied by a multitude of the **heavenly host** (2:13)! Why so *many angels*? Because God was about to display His glory by bringing peace to earth (2:14). This is peace, first and foremost, between God and man (Rom 5:1). This gift of peace is for “those with whom he is pleased” (Luke 2:14). It is for those God has made the object of His love.

### ASK

1. Who announced Jesus' birth?  
*An angel, and then a multitude of angels*
2. To whom did the angel announce Jesus' birth?  
*To shepherds.*
3. What three titles did the angel give Jesus?  
*Savior (He came to save), Messiah (He is the promised King), and Lord (He is God).*
4. What kind of peace does Jesus bring?  
*Peace first between God and man. Only those at peace with God can have peace with one another.*

### DISCUSS

1. Does your attitude about the story of Jesus' birth match how glorious it is? Do you realize how big your sin problem is, and how great Jesus is?
2. How does the world try to create peace? Will this work? What is the real problem and the real solution?

## DAY 3

A Child was born to be trusted • Luke 2:15–20

### READ

Luke 2:15–20

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:15–20

If Jesus' birth was so real and so glorious, how should you respond? Like the shepherds, you should believe what the angels said. Then, if you truly believe, you will obey and hurry quickly to Jesus as the shepherds did (2:15–16), and you will eagerly tell others that God's word is true and that He saves (2:17). The circumstances of your life might not change, but

you will be transformed from the inside out as your praise and glorify God like the shepherds did (2:20). Also, respond like Mary (2:19). Take time to ponder, consider, and reflect deeply on this story. Meditate on God's truth (1 Tim 4:15), grow in knowledge (2 Pet 3:18), and long to know God more (Phil 3:10). If you respond like the shepherds and like Mary, you will be saved, for the shepherds show us that Jesus saves ordinary people in the ordinary world. Instead of lifting you out of this world, He enters into your world. Instead of taking you out of difficulty, He will put His life, joy, and peace into you in the midst of difficulty.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. Did the shepherds believe? How do you know?  
*Yes. We know because they immediately obeyed. Then they told others and glorified God.*
2. How did Mary respond to the shepherds' report?  
*She "treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). She thought deeply about what she heard, even though she didn't understand it all.*
3. What did the shepherds do afterward?  
*They went back to their sheep. Life went on, but it would never be the same.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. What do your actions show about what you truly believe (Jas 2:18)?
2. Do you ever read or hear things from the Bible that you don't understand? What do you do when that happens?

**DAY 4****Why shepherds? • Luke 2:8-9****READ** 

Luke 2:8-9

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Luke 2:8-9**

Why did God announce Jesus' birth to shepherds first? To teach us three things about our Savior (Luke 2:8). First, Jesus came to offer salvation to the lowly, because shepherds were generally uneducated and unskilled. Are you lowly? People usually think they are better than they really are, but you will only be ready to receive Jesus when you see how needy you are (1:51-52). Second, Jesus came as the promised Good Shepherd (Ezek 34:23; John 10:11). Do you remember an ancestor of Jesus who was also a shepherd? David shepherded his family's sheep in these same fields a thousand years earlier! But now Jesus is a shepherd of people, so you can trust Him to provide everything you need (Ps 23:1). Third, Jesus came to die for sins. The sheep near Bethlehem were just 5 miles from Jerusalem. Many of them were offered as temple sacrifices. So Jesus was the Lamb of God who died to take away the sin of the world (Isa 53:7; John 1:29). So when you hear the story of these lowly shepherds, humble yourself before the Good Shepherd whose death can take away your sins.

**ASK** 

1. What kind of people were shepherds?  
*They were not special people. They were uneducated and unskilled.*
2. How was Jesus like the shepherds (Ezek 34:23)?  
*Jesus came to be the great shepherd. He will be the perfect ruler of His people.*
3. How was Jesus like the sheep?  
*The sheep near Jerusalem would have been offered as sacrifices for sin. Jesus was the Lamb of God who died as the perfect and final sacrifice for sin.*
4. What appeared to the shepherds?  
*God's glory. It had been 600 years since God's glory had left Israel (Ezek 11:22-23).*

**DISCUSS** 

1. What do shepherds do for their sheep (Ps 23; Ezek 34)? How do sheep respond to their shepherd (John 10:1-16)?
2. Do you need to be better than other people before God will choose you (1 Cor 1:26-29)?



# DAY 5

Jesus the sympathetic high priest • Hebrews 4:15

## READ

Hebrews 4:14–16

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Hebrews 4:15

Jesus understands your weakness. He is a sympathetic because He knows what is like to be tempted (Heb 4:15). He truly understands your trials. He was born into all the troubles of poverty and oppression. Although equal to God, He became a humble man (Phil 2:6–7). Although rich, He became poor so that he could make poor people like you rich (2 Cor 8:9). When God came to save, He did so by truly entering this world. He entered it in the past through the tabernacle when He wandered with the Israelites in the wilderness (2 Sam 7:6). And He will enter it again in the future when He lives with the redeemed forever in the new heaven and new earth (Rev 21). But at the center is the **incarnation**, when the Son of God became a human (Luke 2:7; John 1:14). So when you are tempted, be encouraged. Remember that Jesus has been there too. His example shows you how to overcome temptation without sin (1 Pet 1:21–22), His presence strengthens you to overcome (1 John 4:4), and His mercy offers forgiveness when you do sin (Heb 4:16).

## ASK

1. Why is Jesus a sympathetic high priest?  
*He really understands our trials because He lived like us in this world. He was tempted like us.*
2. How was God present in the past?  
*Through the tabernacle.*
3. How will God be present in the future?  
*He will live with the redeemed in the New Creation.*
4. What does “incarnation” describe?  
*It means “in the flesh.” The Son became a man.*

## DISCUSS

1. Is God humble? Why is “humility” a good word to describe Jesus’ birth (Phil 2:3–8)?
2. When life is hard, what can you remember to help you resist temptation (or repent quickly when you do sin)?

## NEXT WEEK

### The Son of Man is presented in Jerusalem

Luke 2:21–38



# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## CHRISTMAS WEEK 2

### The Son of Man is presented in Jerusalem

Luke 2:21–38



## DAY 1

Law-abiding parents testified that Jesus is Savior • Luke 2:21–24

### READ

Luke 2:21–24

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:21–24

Have you made a decision about the meaning of Christmas? Everyone must think about it and decide, because you cannot ignore trustworthy witnesses (Deut 19:15). Jesus' own parents testify that Jesus is Savior. First, they named Him Jesus, which means "God saves," confirming that Jesus was born to "save His people from their sins" (Luke 2:21; Matt 1:21). Second, they circumcised Jesus according to God's command to Abraham (Luke 2:21; Gen 17:12–13). This shows that Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham who will fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant by restoring all Israel to their God (Gal 3:16; Isa 49:5). Jesus' circumcision also identified Him with sinful people (Deut 10:16; Ps 51:5; Col 2:11). Although Jesus was sinless (Luke 1:35; 1 Pet 2:22), He came as a human to bear the sins of humans (John 1:29). Third, they dedicated Jesus to God (Luke 2:22). Although all firstborns were to be dedicated (Exod 13:1–2, 12–15), Jesus was especially set apart to do God's will (Matt 5:17; Gal 4:4). So Jesus' parents testified that their baby was set apart to provide salvation from sin. Do you believe their testimony?

### ASK

1. What does Jesus mean?  
*God saves*
2. How did Jesus' parents show that Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham?  
*By circumcising Jesus according to God's command to Abraham.*
3. How was Jesus especially set apart for God?  
*His whole life would satisfy the righteous demands of the Law.*

### DISCUSS

1. According to the Old Testament, if two or three witnesses agreed, then the judge had to consider their testimony (Deut 19:15). Why is it wise to require more than one witness?
2. Have you decided what Christmas is really about? How would you explain it to someone else?

## DAY 2

Righteous Simeon testified that Jesus is Savior, Part 1 • Luke 2:25

### READ

Luke 2:25

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:25

What kind of person would you believe? Would you believe a man like Simeon? Simeon was righteous, a man of true faith (Luke 2:25; Gen 15:6). He was also *devout, thoughtful and careful to live according to God's commands*. He had godly *hope*, because he had *confident expectation that God would keep His promises*. He was also sensitive to God, yielding to the special influence of the Holy Spirit in his life. So you can trust Simeon's testimony. Then what did Simeon say? He said Jesus was Israel's *consolation* (Luke 2:25). Because of Israel's rebellion and apostasy, Israel has suffered greatly, as the prophets predicted. But the prophets also promised *comfort, encouragement, and relief* (Isa 40:1-2) when God Himself would come to save and care for His people Israel (40:9-11). This prophecy began to be fulfilled during Jesus' earthly ministry (Luke 4:18-21), but it won't be completely fulfilled until all Israel looks to Him and finally accepts Jesus as their Messiah and Savior (Zech 12:10; 14:11; Rom 11:26). Until then, the offer is made to you too: will you believe Simeon and find comfort in Jesus?

### ASK

1. Who was Simeon waiting for?  
*The consolation of Israel: someone to give comfort and relief from sin and the curse.*
2. Why has Israel suffered greatly since Simeon's testimony?  
*Because they rejected the Messiah.*
3. When will Simeon's words be completely fulfilled?  
*When all Israel finally accepts Jesus as the Messiah and Savior.*

### DISCUSS

1. How does Simeon's character give you confidence that his testimony is true? When you tell others about Jesus, does your character give people confidence that your testimony is true?
2. What are some hard things happening in your life? Does Jesus give you comfort in these things (2 Cor 4:16)? Do you have joy as you look forward to greater comfort to come (Rev 21:4)?

## DAY 3

Righteous Simeon testified that Jesus is Savior, Part 2 • Luke 2:26-30

### READ

Luke 2:26-30

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:26-30

Last time, Simeon said Jesus is the consolation of Israel. Now he adds that Jesus is the Lord's *Messiah* (Luke 2:26), *the anointed one appointed by God both to save and to rule*. Then Simeon rejoiced that Jesus is God's salvation (Luke 2:30). *Salvation* is a broad term, the *complete undoing of sin and the curse* that first came into the world in Genesis 3. Jesus is called God's

salvation because God alone is able to save sinners (Isa 45:21-22). So when Jesus was born, God Himself became a man to live a sinless life (Rom 5:19), die to pay the penalty for sin (1 Pet 3:18), and rise again to conquer death (Rom 6:9). One day He will return (Rev 19), reign over the earth (Rev 20), and establish the New Creation (Rev 21-22). If you believe, then this is when your salvation will be complete, when you will be a perfect person living in God's perfect presence on a perfect Earth, just like you were designed to do from the beginning (Rev 21:1-22:5; Gen 1:26-28).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. What did the Holy Spirit promise Simeon he would see before his death?  
*The Messiah (Luke 2:26).*
2. What does “Messiah” mean?  
*The one appointed by God to save and to rule.*
3. What did Simeon say his eyes had seen?  
*God’s “salvation” (Luke 2:30).*
4. What does it mean that Jesus came to save?  
*It means that He came to completely overcome sin and undo sin’s curse.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. How did God keep His promise that Simeon would see God’s salvation? What promises has God made to you? Can you trust Him?
2. How is salvation an undoing of the curse that first came into the world in Genesis 3? Are you excited to see this happen someday? Does this change the way you think and act now?

**DAY 4***Righteous Simeon testified that Jesus is Savior, Part 3 • Luke 2:31–35***READ** 

Luke 2:31–35

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Luke 2:31–35**

Simeon has even more to say! This time, Simeon rejoices that Jesus came to save both Jews and **Gentiles** (Luke 2:31–32). Even believing Jews were shocked that salvation could come to non-Jews, but this was something promised long ago (Gen 12:3). To show how great Jesus is, God made Him Savior not just of Israel but of the whole world (Isa 49:6)! But Simeon warned that Jesus was destined for conflict (Luke 2:34–35; cf. 12:51). Although He brings salvation, He also brings justice. He causes some to rise and others to fall, depending on whether they humbly repent or not. So a lot of people do not like Jesus because He exposes their unbelief and sin (John 3:19). What do you think? Will you love Him even for revealing your sin? Believe Simeon’s testimony: Jesus was born for Israel, but also for the whole world. He was born to save, but He was also born to be rejected, suffering and dying at the hands of wicked men. He was born to be the sacrificial sin offering but also the sovereign judge of all. Is this the Jesus you follow?

**ASK** 

1. Who did Simeon say Jesus would be?  
*He said Jesus would be a light for all nations*
2. How would Jesus be a light for all the nations?  
*He would provide salvation to all people, both Jew and Gentile.*
3. Would everyone welcome Jesus as the Messiah?  
Why not?  
*No. Most people would hate Him because He exposes the sin in their hearts (John 3:19).*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Have you ever tried to hide it when you did something bad? What happens if you don’t let Jesus expose your sin (John 3:18–21)?
2. Have people ever been upset at you for saying true things about Jesus? Even when you speak with gentleness and love, will there be people who do not like it when you talk about Jesus?

## DAY 5

Prophetess Anna testified that Jesus is Savior • Luke 2:36–39

### READ

Luke 2:36–39

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:36–39

In case you aren't convinced yet, here's a third witness. Anna was very, very old, probably over 100 years old. She was a prophetess devoted to prayer, so you can trust her. She called Jesus the **redemption** of Jerusalem, the One who would rescue and deliver Jerusalem. God had made Jerusalem His city (1 Kings 11:36), so He promised to redeem both the city and the people it represented (Isa 52:9; Rev 21:10). But few Jews realized that this redemption would be expensive. It would cost the precious blood of a perfect lamb (Isa 52:13–53:12; 1 Pet 1:19). Have you been redeemed? Are you thankful for the price that was paid for your soul? And now, after hearing the testimony of Jesus' parents, Simeon, and Anna, do you embrace Jesus as the certain answer to all of your hopes and fears? Do you realize who the baby in Mary's arms was born for? Jesus will restore Israel, rescue all nations, crush the wicked, rule the earth, and undo the curse. In the end, His glory will shine through the New Jerusalem to the great delight of all the redeemed (Rev 21:23).

### ASK

1. Who was Anna?  
*She was a very old prophetess and widow. She prayed and fasted all the time.*
2. What did Anna say Jesus would do?  
*She said He would rescue Jerusalem.*
3. How would Jesus provide redemption?  
*He would pay the price of His own blood to set sinners free from sin and death.*
4. Why did God provide many different witnesses to testify concerning Jesus?  
*To prove who Jesus really was, to prove what He would really do, and to prove that you must believe that He is the Savior.*

### DISCUSS

1. If you have been redeemed at such great cost, how should this affect your behavior (1 Pet 1:16–19)?
2. What do you hope for? What are you afraid of? How is Jesus the answer to all your hopes and fears?

## NEXT WEEK

The Son of Man is identified in the temple

Luke 2:39–52



# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## CHRISTMAS WEEK 3

### The Son of Man is identified in the temple

Luke 2:39–52



## DAY 1

Jesus grew as God's special child • Luke 2:40

### READ

Luke 2:40

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:40

What's so special about saying, "The child grew" (Luke 2:40)? That's the point: in many ways, it was not special. Jesus was a human like you. Not only was He born as a human (2:7) and grow as a human (2:40), but as a human He was also tired (John 4:6), hungry (Matt 4:2), thirsty (John 19:28), and dependent on Scripture (Matt 4:4), God (Matt 27:43), prayer (Heb 5:7), and the Spirit (Matt 12:28). Like all other children, He had to learn. In fact, it was probably by studying Scripture that He realized, by the time He was 12 years old, that He was born to die for sin (Luke 24:27). But even though He was human, Jesus was a very special human. He was filled with wisdom, far than anyone else ever (11:31). Also, God's favor was on Him (2:40b). The Father deeply loved His Son and rejoiced in Him (3:22). When you see both Jesus' ordinary humanness and His extraordinary wisdom and grace, do you realize that He is qualified to be both your Savior (Heb 2:14–17) and your example to follow (12:2)?

### ASK

1. Is Jesus still a baby in our story today?  
*No. He began growing up, just like other humans.*
2. Since Jesus was God, did He know everything during His life on earth?  
*No. As a child, He grew in wisdom. He learned what it meant to be the Messiah as He studied Scripture.*
3. Whose favor was upon Jesus?  
*God the Father's. He deeply loved His Son and rejoiced in Him.*

### DISCUSS

1. Jesus had to learn as a child, just like you. How does this encourage you to be faithful in your studies?
2. How was Jesus like all other children? How was He unlike all other children? Why did both of these aspects need to be true?

## DAY 2

Jesus grew to understand God's special mission for Him, Part 1 •  
Luke 2:41–47

### READ

Luke 2:41–47

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:41–47

What do you suppose Jesus was thinking as He watched the Passover lamb die each year? As He grew from toddler to child, He must have come to understand that this lamb represented Him. He realized that He Himself was the Lamb of God who would die for the sins of the world (John 1:29). So when His parents left Jerusalem to return home, Jesus stayed behind to learn more (Luke 2:43). He was hungry for God's word and wanted to talk with Israel's foremost teachers (2:46). There in the temple He asked and answered questions, which was the normal way education was done (cf. Acts 17:2). But though He continued to learn as a human, the religious teachers realized that He also had unparalleled wisdom. All those who heard Him were astounded by His understanding (Luke 2:47). Jesus was wiser than His teachers because He knew and loved God's Word (Ps 119:99). For the rest of His life, Jesus would continually produce such wonder, for He is the most amazing human the world has ever known.

### ASK

1. What did Jesus do with His family in Jerusalem?  
*He joined in the Passover sacrifice, realizing over time that He Himself would be the final Passover Lamb.*
2. What was Jesus doing in the temple after His parents left?  
*He was asking and answering questions with the teachers of God's law. God's word would enable Him to live a perfect life even as a human.*
3. What did the people think about Jesus' questions and answers?  
*They were astonished! He was so wise because He knew and loved God's word.*

### DISCUSS

1. Who is the most remarkable child you've ever met? How does this child compare with the child Jesus?
2. Do you desire to grow in wisdom? Do you study God's word carefully and ask your parents lots of questions about God's word?

## DAY 3

Jesus grew to understand God's special mission for Him, Part 2 •  
Luke 2:48–49

### READ

Luke 2:48–49

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Luke 2:48–49

Like any normal mother, Mary scolded Jesus for making her and Joseph worry so much (Luke 2:44–48). But Jesus hadn't done wrong. He wasn't trying to hide from His parents or resist their authority. So why had he stayed in Jerusalem? Because of His heavenly Father. Jesus' words to His mother gave Mary a glimpse of what Simeon meant when he said that a sword would pierce Mary's soul (2:35). Jesus was truly human, the son of

Mary and Joseph, but He was called to be especially devoted to His heavenly Father, even more than to His earthly parents (2:49). Although Jesus perfectly obeyed His parents (2:51), He knew that God was His true Father. Because of His relationship to God and special mission, Jesus was closer to His spiritual family than to His earthly one (8:21). The distance between Jesus and Mary grew until crucifixion completely separated Son from mother (John 19:26–27). Mary was sad that there was a part of Jesus' life that she could not share. But her temporary loss was worth it, since Jesus would bring her and many others to the Father forever.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. Where did Jesus' parents find Him?  
*In the temple.*
2. Did Jesus disobey His parents?  
*No. He wasn't trying to hide from them. He was left behind.*
3. What did Jesus call God?  
*My Father. Jesus knew He was God's Son sent to save the world.*
4. Why did Jesus say He stayed in the temple?  
*He said He had to be in His Father's house. He was devoted to doing the Father's will by being the Savior of the world.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Have you ever been left behind? How did that make you feel? What did you do?
2. Are there ever times when your love for God might get between you and your friends or family (Luke 12:35)? Who is your truest family (Gal 6:10)? Does this mean you can ignore your earthly family (Eph 6:1)?

**DAY 4**

*Jesus grew to understand God's special mission for Him, Part 3 • Luke 2:49*

**READ** 

Luke 2:49

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Luke 2:49**

What does Jesus say the first time we hear him speak? Jesus' first words show us His own understanding of who He is. He is another witness added to the list we already have (angels, shepherds, parents, Simeon, and Anna). Luke gives us so many witnesses so that we can be sure about who Jesus is (Luke 1:1–4). So by the time Jesus was 12, He understood that God was His Father (2:49). God was known as the Father of all creation and especially of Israel, but no Jew claimed God as his personal Father. So when Jesus talked about His unique relationship with God (10:21–22), He was claiming divinity (John 19:7), because a son is equal in nature to his father (John 5:18). He was also testifying to His mission when He said He had to be in His Father's house (Luke 2:49). Jesus was completely committed to doing His Father's work. This 12 year-old knew He had been born as a human for a very special mission. Is this what you believe about Jesus?

**ASK** 

1. What did Jesus understand by the time He was twelve years old?  
*That God was His Father.*
2. When Jesus said that God was His Father, what was He claiming?  
*Divinity. Jesus was claiming to be equal to God; He was claiming to be God.*
3. Why is this story a rare glimpse into Jesus' childhood?  
*It's the only recorded event from Jesus' life as a child. It is Jesus' first recorded words.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. How are you like your parents? How was Jesus like His heavenly Father?
2. By the time Jesus was 12, He had consciously determined to do the difficult job God had given Him. What are some things God calls you do to? Have you decided to live for Him?



# DAY 5

Jesus grew into God's special man • Luke 2:51–52

## READ

Luke 2:51–52

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Luke 2:51–52

Since Jesus was the perfect Son of God, do you think He needed to obey His parents? Yes, He did (Luke 2:51). That's because He was needed to be a sinless human in order to be the Savior. As a human, He learned obedience (Heb 5:8). He never disobeyed, and by learning how to obey in small things as a child, He was prepared to obey God in bigger things as an adult. His childhood obedience prepared Him to obey when God sent Him to the cross (Matt 26:39; Phil 2:8). His obedience also perfectly fulfilled the law (Matt 3:15), since the 5th commandment requires children to honor their parents (Exod 20:12). Because Jesus always obeyed, He was sinless and able to be our Savior (1 Pet 3:18). At this point, Joseph and Mary still did not understand the full reality of their Son (Luke 2:50). Yet Mary continued to ponder all that had happened (2:51). What about you? As you read the testimony of 12 year-old Jesus, how do you respond? And as the Christmas season draws to an end, will you continue to ponder like Mary?

## ASK

1. When Jesus went home, how did His behavior show that He was worthy to be Savior?  
*He obeyed His parents and continued to grow in favor with God and man.*
2. Why did Jesus have to be a human?  
*To be our representative by living a perfect life on our behalf. To die as our substitute sacrifice. To show us how to live as a human example. To come again to rule as our representative king.*
3. What did Mary do when she did not understand all this?  
*She kept thinking carefully about it.*

## DISCUSS

1. Do you ever think you know better than your parents? Jesus was more perfect than His parents were, but He still obeyed them. Shouldn't you?
2. What if Jesus had not obeyed? Could He have become your Savior? Are you thankful that He perfectly obeyed on your behalf?