



# TEACHER BOOK

## YEAR 2 • BOOK 3

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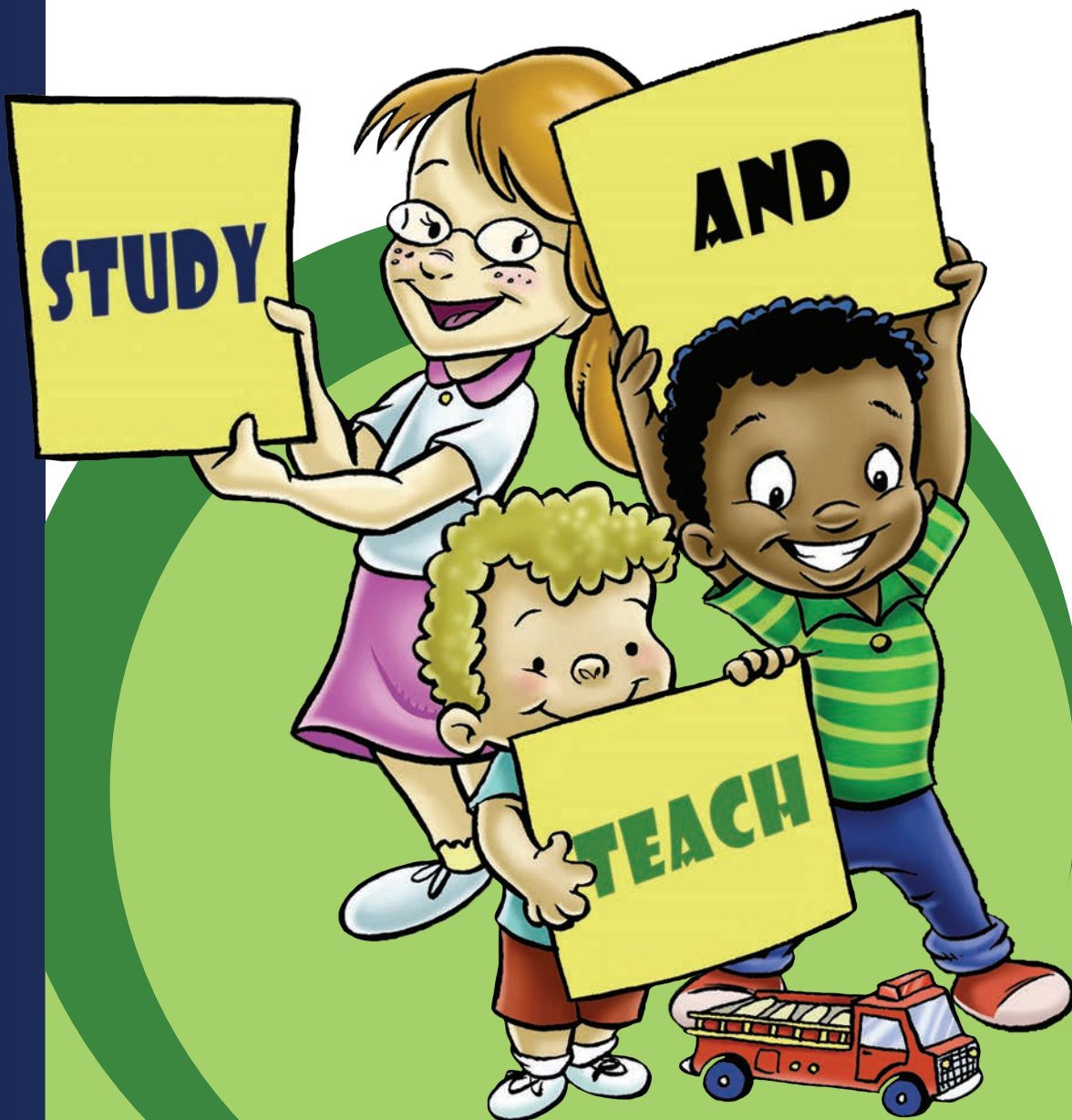
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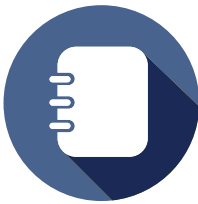
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WELCOME TO  
*Generations of Grace*



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 edify your teachers, evangelize your children, and encourage your families.



## Study the Lesson

This section is designed to edify and equip teachers and to guide you through the preparation of an age appropriate Bible lesson.

- **Central Truth** – Identifies the theme and focal point of lesson.
- **Supporting Truths** – Provides appropriate objectives for mastering the central truth.
- **Spotlight on the Gospel** – Explains how each lesson connects to the gospel.
- **Lesson Commentary** – Communicates the truth of each lesson to the teacher's heart and mind.



## Teach the Lesson

Use the child involvement resources to engage children from the moment they walk into the classroom until pick-up time.

- **Outlines** – Guide both teachers and children through the lesson.
- **Lesson Questions** – Foster greater interaction between teacher and child.
- **Activities** – Creative opening ideas, visual aids, and crafts to introduce, illustrate, and apply lesson.

## 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**
- **Family Devotional**

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# CHRISTMAS LESSON 1

*The Son of Man is born in Bethlehem*

LUKE 2:1-20





**Jesus was born to save people like us.**



*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:11–12).*

## Supporting Truths

1. Jesus was born to save sinners.
2. Jesus was born to bring joy and peace to those who believe.
3. Jesus was born to glorify God.
4. Jesus’ birth really happened.
5. Jesus was born into ordinary human life.

## Objectives

1. State why Jesus needed to be born.
2. Explain why Jesus’ birth brings joy and peace, and describe the shepherds’ faith.
3. Describe how the angels and people praised God.
4. List several details that show that Jesus’ birth really happened.
5. Explain how Jesus entered ordinary human history as an ordinary human child to save ordinary human beings.



## Lesson Summary

Jesus' birth was both lowly and exalted. He was born to ordinary parents in an animal shelter in a tiny town in an obscure part of the Roman Empire. His birth came at an inconvenient time and place for His parents, and it was announced to lowly shepherds. But it was also perfectly orchestrated by God Himself—announced by angels and accompanied by God's glory. It is the center of all history, when God became man to bring salvation to the world.

## Spotlight on the Gospel

The birth of Jesus is rich with meaning. His birth exposes our sin, revealing our need of salvation. It also reveals God's commitment to save, since He was willing to leave the splendor of heaven to save those who had set their hearts against Him. And it shows that God saves, not to remove us from our lives and trouble, but to enter into them Himself in order to give us joy and peace through the struggles of life.

THIS WEEK



**The Son of Man is born  
in Bethlehem**  
*Luke 2:1-20*

NEXT WEEK



**The Son of Man is  
presented in Jerusalem**  
*Luke 2:21-38*

IN TWO WEEKS



**The Son of Man is  
identified in the temple**  
*Luke 2:39-52*

# Lesson Commentary

*Jesus was born to save people like us.*

In the midst of the memories and traditions, Christmas can easily become only that—memories and traditions. But Luke recorded this story not as tradition or legend, but as real history. Unlike good memories or nostalgia, Luke tells of a real Jesus, one who is able to provide real answers for all the hopes and needs of the human race. The story of Jesus' birth is a story of how a real child was born into a real world to save real people—people like us.

## Setting: A Child was born into the world (2:1–7)

Luke carefully recorded the time of Jesus' birth to show us that Jesus entered real history. It was during the reign of Caesar Augustus, emperor of Rome from 29 BC to 14 AD (Luke 2:1). Although Augustus was viewed by many as a savior because of the peace he had brought to the empire, 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 Augustus in 8 BC but implemented in Palestine between 6 BC and 4 BC.

Jesus was born into the difficulties of a real world. Mary was about to give birth to her firstborn child, but nothing seemed to be going right. The registration required a journey of more than 70 miles, which took several days, not to mention the time spent in Bethlehem (2:3–5). On top of that, the timing of Jesus' birth seemed terrible (2:6). Instead of enjoying privacy and peace, 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. The decrees of far away rulers seemed to be making everything go wrong.

But everything was going exactly right. Mary had to be pregnant while a virgin (2:5) to fulfill prophecy (Isa 7:14) and to show that the Messiah was the Holy One and the Son of God (Luke 1:35). The Messiah

also needed to be born in David's hometown of Bethlehem (Mic 5:2) in order to show that Jesus was the promised son of David (1 Sam 17:12; 2 Sam 7:12, 16). The great Caesar Augustus, like all rulers, was simply a tool used by the hand of God (Prov 21:1) to move the family from Nazareth to Bethlehem at just the right time. When we suffer disappointments and inconveniences, we can be encouraged, knowing that God is at work in all the troubles of real life to perfectly accomplish His good plan (Ps 115:3; Rom 8:28).

We can also be encouraged by remembering that Jesus has been there too. He was born into all the disadvantages of poverty and oppression. Although equal to God, He became a humble man (Phil 2:6–7). Although He was the highest, He became the lowest so that the lowest could be lifted up to God (2 Cor 8:9). When God came to save, He did so by truly entering our 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 in the *incarnation*, *when Jesus took on human flesh* (Luke 2:7; John 1:14), God Himself entered the real world as a real child named Jesus.

## Purpose: A Child was born to save (2:8–14)

God chose to announce Jesus' birth to shepherds first, which helps us to understand three things about our Savior (Luke 2:8). First, Jesus came to offer salvation to the lowly, because shepherds were generally uneducated and unskilled. Second, Jesus came as the promised good shepherd (Ezek 34:23; John 10:11). Third, Jesus came to die for sins. The sheep near Bethlehem were just 5 miles from Jerusalem, many of which were used as temple sacrifices. So Jesus would die as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world (Isa 53:7; John 1:29).

**THINK ABOUT IT**  
As the great Shepherd and the perfect Lamb, Jesus came to save even lowly people like us.





# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

*The Son of Man is born in Bethlehem • Luke 2:1–20*



Imagine the amazement of the shepherds when the light of God's glory suddenly pierced the darkness of the night. The shepherds saw what few have ever seen—the glory of God's presence. God's glory had come upon the tabernacle (Exod 40:35) and later upon the temple (1 Kings 8:11), but now, almost 600 years since God's glory had departed from Israel (cf. Ezek 11:22–23), these common shepherds had the privilege of seeing God's glorious presence. When Jesus came to save, He came to lead sinners back into God's presence to delight in His glory forever (Rev 21:23).

The angel confirmed Jesus' divine rescue mission by giving Him three titles: Savior, Christ, and Lord (Luke 2:11). 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 Yahweh Himself. Indeed,

there is no Savior besides the LORD (Isa 43:11), and He promised to personally shepherd His people (Ezek 34:15). This is what Christmas is about: God Himself becoming the human Messiah to save us from our sins.

To show just how incredible this truth is, God arranged something incredibly unusual. Angels had delivered messages in the past, but never before had they been accompanied by a multitude of the **heavenly host** (Luke 2:13)! Why so many *angels*? Because God was about to display His glory in bringing peace to earth (2:14). This is peace, first and foremost, between God and man (Rom 5:1). To have peace with God is to have true peace, no matter how turbulent the times (Phil 4:7). But the peace believers experience now is only a foretaste

of the peace to come. What Christ began at His first coming He will finish at His second coming, when He comes to establish perfect peace in the new creation (Rev 21:4, 25).

This gift of peace is for “those with whom he is pleased” (Luke 2:14). Literally, it is for “men of favor.” It is for those God has made the object of His love. In other words, peace is a gift from God, not something that we deserve or could ever earn. Those who receive this peace do not merit it by their own efforts. Rather, it is for those who fear God (Luke 1:50); for those who receive God's free gift of salvation by faith (Rom 5:1).

## Response: A Child was born to be trusted (2:15–20)

This is exactly how the shepherds respond: by faith. Like the shepherds, those who believe obey and hurry quickly to come to Jesus (2:15–16; Matt 11:28). They become true witnesses to others of God's true word and salvation (2:17). Mary showed another aspect of faith when she treasured all that had happened in her heart (2:19). She pondered and considered, reflecting deeply on everything that had happened. So those who believe meditate on the truth of God (1 Tim 4:15), grow in knowledge (2 Pet 3:18), and long to know God more (Phil 3:10).

After all this, the shepherds returned to their sheep (Luke 2:20). They were still humble shepherds, but their lives would never be the same: they returned glorifying and praising God (2:20). That is how God saves: He saves real people in the real world. Instead of lifting us out of this world, He enters into our world. Instead of taking us out of difficulty, He puts His life, joy, and peace in us in the midst of difficulty. This is the message of Christmas: Jesus came as a real child into our real world to save real people like us.



**THINK ABOUT IT**  
Christmas reminds us of the sad reality of our own sin, but also the great joy of having our sins forgiven.

# Lesson Outline

*Jesus was born to save people like us.*



## AGES 3-5 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Jesus was born(2:1-7).
2. Jesus was born to save (2:8-14).
2. Jesus was born to save all those who trust in Him (2:15-20).



## AGES 6-11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Setting: A Child was born into the world (2:1-7).**
  - He was born into real human history (2:1-3).
  - He was born in the right place and in the right family (2:4-5).
  - He was born in an ordinary and humble way (2:6-7).
2. **Purpose: A Child was born to save (2:8-14).**
  - His salvation brings the glory of God (2:8-9).
  - His salvation brings joy from God (2:10-12).
  - His salvation brings peace with God (2:13-14)..
3. **Response: A Child was born to be trusted (2:15-20).**
  - The shepherds believed, came to Jesus, and told others (2:15-18).
  - Mary thought deeply about all that had happened (2:19).
  - The shepherds returned to their common life with uncommon praise (2:20).





## Lesson Questions

*Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.*



### Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Where was Jesus born?**  
Bethlehem, the city of David.
- 2. Who announced Jesus' birth?**  
An angel, and then a multitude of angels.
- 3. To whom did the angel announce Jesus' birth?**  
To shepherds.
- 4. Did the shepherds believe? How do you know?**  
Yes. We know because they immediately obeyed. Then they told others and glorified God.



### Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 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. Why was Jesus' birth announced to Shepherds?**  
To show that He came to save even the lowly, to show that He would be the chief shepherd, and to show that He would be the sacrificial lamb.
- 5. What did the angel say Jesus came to do?**  
He came to bring salvation, joy, and peace.
- 6. What three titles did the angel give Jesus?**  
Savior (He came to save), Messiah (He is the promised King), and Lord (He is God).
- 7. 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.
- 8. What did the shepherds do afterward?**  
They went back to their sheep. Life went on, but it would never be the same.

# Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CENSUS

Before the lesson, call up each child in order to take a “census” of your classroom. Ask each child to state his first and last names, sibling’s names, birthplace, month of birth, favorite color, etc. After all the children are registered, you might divide the class into groups based on the information you collected: boys on one side of the room, girls on the other; those with siblings here, those without there; January birthdays here, February birthdays there; etc. Use this activity to explain why Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be registered.

## A VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Decorate the room with birthday related items: streamers, party favors, wrapped gifts, birthday cake (or cupcakes), candles, etc. As the children arrive, ask them whose birthday it is. Tell the children that today we will learn about a very special birthday: the birth of Jesus.



ILLUSTRATE

## FROM THE EYES OF A SHEPHERD

Tell the story from the perspective of one of the shepherds to whom the angel spoke. Dress like a shepherd and bring in various items to help illustrate the story: clipboard and pencil (census), stuffed donkey, stuffed sheep, manger, baby boy doll, shepherd’s staff, etc.

## THE LAMB OF GOD

Tell the children that many of the sheep the shepherds in our story watched over were used as temple sacrifices. Explain that these sacrifices for sin were offered year after year in the temple, but their blood could never pay the penalty for the people’s sin. Like the sheep, Jesus came to give His life as a sacrifice for sin. The Bible even calls Jesus the “Lamb of God” (John 1:29). However, unlike the sheep, God accepted Jesus’ sacrifice as payment for sin. Now all who trust in Jesus have their sins forgiven. You may illustrate this by giving the children a dark colored dot (sin) to place on a stuffed lamb (Jesus). Tell the children that Jesus is “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).



APPLY

## FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*.

**Materials:** Craft sheets, construction paper, scissors, glue, and crayons.

**Directions:** Pre-cut pictures, “JESUS” strip, and the verse from the craft sheets and tear tiny pieces of red and green construction paper. Have children color and glue the pictures to a sheet of construction paper. Glue “JESUS” strip to construction paper and glue tiny pieces of red and green construction paper to fill in the letters. Glue on the verse.

*For Unto You Is Born*  
See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*





# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

The Son of Man is born in Bethlehem • Luke 2:1–20



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

## THE HUMILITY OF CHRISTMAS

Ask the children to describe Christmas and the birth of Jesus in just one word. While many words could be used to describe Christmas, one of the most fitting is the word “humility.” As a class, read Philippians 2:3–11 and identify the numerous ways Jesus humbled Himself when He left His throne in heaven in order to rescue His enemies on earth.

## MEANINGFUL NAMES

Bring a baby-name book to class. Use it to look up the children’s names and share the meanings with the class. Then ask the children if any of them know what the name of Jesus means. Give them a hint: the meaning is found in Matthew 1:21 (“Savior”). Tell the children that in today’s lesson we will learn about the Savior who was born to save people like us.



ILLUSTRATE

## ACT IT OUT

Today’s lesson will be very familiar to most children. They have likely heard it taught each year at Christmas time and will know the basic storyline. Assign the children roles in the Christmas story the week before. You may also want to give them short lines to learn during the week. Ask them to bring in a costume to wear during the play. The story can then be acted out during the lesson time.

## BORN TO DIE

Bring in various plans: a blueprint, a sport’s playbook, a set of directions, an itinerary, a program, etc. Use these to show that it was always God’s plan that His Son would die as a sacrifice for sin (Acts 2:22–23; 2 Tim 1:9; Rev 13:8).



APPLY

## THE ANGEL’S ANNOUNCEMENT

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2.

**Materials:** Craft sheets, white cardstock, black construction paper, scissors, tape, and gold and silver glitter glue.

**Directions:** Copy the angel template onto a piece of white cardstock, or draw it onto a paperplate. Cut along all the solid lines. Fold along dotted lines A and B. Fold A toward B and tape lines A and B together. Flip arms down in front of head and fold along dotted line in center. Tape the angel and the verse to a sheet of black construction paper that has been folded in the middle. Instruct the students to decorate the paper with glitter glue to represent the glory of the Lord.

The Angel’s Announcement  
See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

### GOD IS BORN

Help the children understand what a unique and incomprehensible event Jesus' incarnation was. Begin by reminding the children of God's incommunicable characteristics (those characteristics that only God has), such as His eternity, omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence. As God the Son, Christ has all these characteristics. However, when He came to earth as a man, He laid aside independent exercise of some of them, though He still was fully God. This is something that our finite minds cannot fully comprehend. Understanding this should cause us to praise Him for who He is and what He has done.

### IT REALLY HAPPENED

*Ripley's Believe It or Not!* is an American company that presents unusual events and facts that seem too bizarre to be true. Share some true, albeit unusual or bizarre, facts with the children before the lesson. Use this activity to begin a discussion about the birth of Jesus. While some might say that Jesus' birth is too strange to be true, we can be confident that it really happened. In our lesson today, we're going to see that Jesus came as a real child into our real world in order to save real people like us.



ILLUSTRATE

### AN AMAZING INSTRUCTION

The angel gave the shepherds an unusual instruction, but they obeyed and were blessed. To illustrate this, give a child an unusual instruction. It could be something like, "Look in the piano bench" (where you have hidden some candy). Did the child follow your instruction? The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see the child of whom the angel spoke.

### PEACE WITH GOD

Show the children a picture of a traditional peace sign as made popular in America during the 1960s and 1970s. Ask them if they know what this means. Explain that this kind of peace—the absence of war among mankind—is not the type of peace this verse is talking about. Nor is it talking about an internal sense of calm or tranquility. It describes the ending of the sinner's war with God (Rom 5:10) and is a result of the justification we receive by faith (Rom 5:1; Col 1:21–22).



APPLY

### THE PERFECT SACRIFICE

In the Old Testament we learn about the sacrificial system that God set up for the Jews. An unblemished lamb, one with no defect, had to be sacrificed. Tell the children that Jesus was that perfect lamb for us (John 1:29). Explain that God's requirement for a perfect sacrifice never was compromised through Jesus. He lived a perfect life, without sin. Talk to the children about how this, along with Jesus' virgin birth and His genealogy, was to show the Jews that He was the Messiah, the Chosen One.



## CHRISTMAS LESSON 2

*The Son of Man is presented in Jerusalem*

LUKE 2:21-38





The righteous ones testify that Jesus is the human Savior.



*“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:29–32).*

## Supporting Truths

1. Jesus is the human Savior.
2. The righteous ones testify that Jesus is the Messiah.
3. Jesus is the light and salvation of all nations.
4. Jesus is the glory, consolation, and redemption of Israel.
5. Jesus saves through great suffering and despite much opposition.

## Objectives

1. List at least three descriptions of Jesus as Savior.
2. Describe the righteousness of Joseph, Mary, Simeon, and Anna, and state why it matters to us.
3. State that Jesus offers salvation to all people.
4. Explain how Jesus came especially to save His chosen nation of Israel.
5. Contrast the two responses to Jesus and their corresponding results.





## Lesson Summary

God had already sent an angel to announce Jesus' destiny to Joseph and Mary, and He confirmed this through the shepherds. But the message is so incredible it is hard to believe. So He provided more evidence through the testimony of Joseph and Mary themselves, as well as through faithful Simeon and prayerful Anna. Their testimony compels us to listen and acknowledge that Jesus is indeed the Comforter, Savior, Light, and Redeemer, for the Jews first but also for all nations.

## Spotlight on the Gospel

The testimony of these witnesses reveals the greatness of the gospel, which God accomplished through His Son. Jesus came to live and die for humans. He brings relief from sin and the curse. He is the Messiah, dying to save but rising to rule. He satisfies Israel's hopes, and He extends grace to all nations. He lifts up those who believe, and He crushes those who rebel. He redeems, rescuing by His blood so that what was broken can be made whole.

LAST WEEK



The Son of Man is born in  
Bethlehem  
*Luke 2:1–20*

THIS WEEK



The Son of Man is  
presented in Jerusalem  
*Luke 2:21–38*

NEXT WEEK



The Son of Man is  
identified in the temple  
*Luke 2:39–52*

# Lesson Commentary

## *The righteous ones testify that Jesus is the human Savior.*

Many people enjoy Christmas even though they do not care what it is about. But they must care. According to the Old Testament, if two or three witnesses agreed, then the judge had to consider their testimony (Deut 19:15). Luke applies this same principle to the birth of Jesus. He already gave the testimony of holy angels (Luke 1:35; 2:9–14) and faithful shepherds (2:16–20). Now, he adds the testimony of three more godly witnesses: Jesus' parents, Simeon, and Anna. Since these trustworthy witnesses agree, we must listen to their message. So who do they say Jesus was born to be?

### Law-abiding parents testified that Jesus is Savior (2:21–24)

The first witnesses are Jesus' own parents. They are truthful witnesses because they are righteous and love God (Matt 1:19; Luke 1:47). They are careful to follow God's law in everything regarding the birth of their firstborn son (Luke 2:22, 23, 27, 39; Lev 12:1–5).

So what do they say about Jesus? First, by naming Him Jesus, which means "the LORD saves," they confirmed 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 humanity, because circumcision shows that all humans are born with sin that needs to be removed (Deut 10:16; Ps 51:5; Col 2:11). Although Jesus was sinless from birth (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 the Lord (Luke 2:22). Although all firstborns were to be dedicated (Exod

13:1–2, 12–15), Jesus was especially set apart for God. His whole life would satisfy the righteous demands of the Law (Matt 5:17; Gal 4:4). He would live and die in utter submission to the Father's will (John 5:19; Matt 26:39). So Jesus' parents testified by their words and actions that their baby was set apart to the Lord in order to provide salvation from sin.

### Abraham obeyed God because he trusted God (22:3–10)

Simeon's testimony can also be trusted. He was righteous (Luke 2:25–26), a man of true faith (Gen 15:6). He was also *devout, thoughtful and careful to live according to God's commands*. He had godly *hope*, his life characterized by *confident expectation that God would keep His promises*. Finally, He was sensitive to God's leading, yielding to the special influence of the Holy Spirit in his life.

So we must listen to Simeon's testimony. First, Simeon identified Jesus as Israel's *consolation* (Luke 2:25). Because of Israel's rebellion and apostasy, they have 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).

Second, Simeon identified Jesus as the Lord's Messiah (Luke 2:26). *Messiah* literally means *anointed one, the one appointed by God both to save and to rule*. By His suffering and death He would set free from sin (Isa 61:1; Dan 9:26). By His righteousness and power He will rule as Israel's king over the entire world (Ps 2).

Third, 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



**THINK ABOUT IT**  
Is your hope in Jesus? There is salvation in no one else (Acts 4:12).



**THINK ABOUT IT**  
God will not fail to keep His promises to Israel.

# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

*The Son of Man is presented in Jerusalem • Luke 2:21–38*



because God alone is Savior, the only one to whom we should look to be saved (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). Then salvation will be complete, because all the redeemed

will be perfect people living in God's perfect presence on a perfect Earth, just like they were designed to do in the beginning (Rev 21:1–22:5; Gen 1:26–28). This is the salvation that God prepared (Luke 2:31).



## THINK ABOUT IT

All of history—including Christ's rejection and crucifixion (Acts 2:23)—is part of God's plan of salvation through Jesus.

Fourth, Simeon rejoiced that Jesus came to save both Jews and Gentiles (Luke 2:31–32). He would be a light for revelation to the **Gentiles**. Even believing Jews were shocked that salvation could come to non-Jews, but this was something promised long ago (Gen 12:3). God considered it too small a thing for the Servant Messiah to rescue Israel; He would be a light of salvation to all nations (Isa 49:6). But He would also be a light for the glory of Israel. Israel was still God's special nation. After all, Gentile nations are saved through Israel's witness, covenant, and Messiah (John 4:22; Rom 9:1–5). Thus Israel will be radiant with God's glory and honored by all the nations (Isa 60:1–5).

Fifth, Simeon warned that Jesus was destined for conflict (Luke 2:34–35; cf. 12:51). Although He brings God's salvation, He also brings God's justice, causing some to rise and others to fall. The humble submit to Him and are raised up, resting upon Him as their precious cornerstone (Isa 28:16). The proud refuse to submit to Him and are brought low, stumbling over the rock of offense (8:13–15; 1 Pet 2:8). Jesus was destined to offend because He would expose the great unbelief among God's people (Luke 2:34–35). This is why people so often respond to Jesus with such hostility: He

exposes their sin (John 3:19).

So Simeon tells us much about this newborn baby. He 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. As Messiah He would be both the sacrificial sin offering and the sovereign judge of all.

## Prophetess Anna testified that Jesus is Savior (2:36–39)

The testimony of Anna is also true (Luke 2:36–37). It's likely she was over 100 years old, having spent the majority of her life in prayer and fasting. So what did she testify? She called Jesus the **redemption** of Jerusalem (2:38), the One who would rescue and deliver His people. However, this deliverance would come at great cost. God had made Jerusalem His city (1 Kings 11:36) and promised to redeem it (Isa 52:9; Rev 21:10), but few Jews at that time realized that this redemption would require the precious blood of a spotless, unblemished lamb (52:13–53:12; 1 Pet 1:19).

So as we enjoy the Christmas season, we must also consider the testimony of these faithful witnesses. Do we embrace Jesus as the certain answer to all of our hopes and fears? We must, for Jesus is the Savior of men. Do we contemplate the magnitude of the salvation He provides? We should, for His plan encompasses the entire universe. Jesus will restore Israel, rescue all nations, crush the wicked, rule the earth, and undo the curse. In the end, His glory will radiate through the New Jerusalem to the great delight of all the redeemed (Rev 21:23). That was the destiny for the baby in Mary's arms.

# Lesson Outline

*The righteous ones testify that Jesus is the human Savior.*

## AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



We know Jesus is the Savior because...

1. Jesus' parents called Him "the LORD saves" (2:21–24).
2. Simeon called Him the light for all nations (2:25–35).
3. Anna called Him the redeemer of Jerusalem (2:36–38).

## AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. Law-abiding parents testified that Jesus is Savior (2:21–24, 39).
  - True witness: Jesus' parents obeyed God's instructions (2:21–24, 39).
  - Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham and representative of all mankind (2:21).
  - Jesus means "the LORD saves" (2:21).
  - Jesus is dedicated to doing the Father's will (2:22–24).
2. Righteous Simeon testified that Jesus is Savior (2:25–35).
  - True witness: Simeon was righteous, devout, hopeful, and sensitive to God's leading (2:25).
  - Jesus is Israel's consolation and Messiah (2:25–26).
  - Jesus is light and salvation to Gentiles, but especially to Israel (2:27–32).
  - Jesus is the cause of the rise and fall of many (2:33–35).
3. Prophetess Anna testified that Jesus is Savior (2:36–38).
  - True witness: Anna was devoted to the Lord (2:36–37).
  - Jesus is the redemption of Jerusalem (2:38).







## Lesson Questions

*Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.*



### Ages 3-5 Lesson Questions

- 1. What does Jesus mean?**  
Yahweh saves.
- 2. Who did Simeon say Jesus would be?**  
He said Jesus would be a light for all nations.
- 3. Who was Anna?**  
She was a very old prophetess and widow. She prayed and fasted all the time.
- 4. What did Anna say Jesus would do?**  
She said He would rescue Jerusalem.



### Ages 6-11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why did God provide many different witnesses to testify concerning Jesus?**  
To demonstrate the validity of Jesus' person and work and to demonstrate the necessity of believing that Jesus is the Savior.
- 2. How were Jesus' parents trustworthy witnesses?**  
They trusted God, loved God, and carefully followed God's commands.
- 3. How was Simeon a trustworthy witness?**  
He was righteous, devout, hopeful, and sensitive to God's leading.
- 4. Who was Simeon waiting for?**  
The consolation of Israel: someone to give comfort and relief from sin and the curse. The Lord's Messiah: the one anointed to suffer, save, and rule over Israel and the world.
- 5. What does it mean that Jesus came to save?**  
It means that He came to completely overcome sin and undo sin's curse.
- 6. Who did Simeon say Jesus came to be a light to?**  
He was a light of revelation to all nations and a light of glory to Israel in particular.
- 7. 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).
- 8. How would Jesus provide redemption?**  
He would pay the price of His own blood to set sinners free from sin and death.

# Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

## CAN YOU TRUST ME?

Pretend to be the following characters (one after the other) and ask the children if they can trust what you say: policeman, pastor, criminal. Tell the children that today we're going to meet three groups of people in our lesson, and we can trust what they have to tell us about Jesus.

## "A LIGHT OF REVELATION"

In our lesson today, Simeon calls Jesus "a light of revelation." To help the children understand this concept, turn off the lights and ask the children if they can see what's in your hand (you might hold a Bible or a small cross). Next, turn on a flashlight and shine the light on what's in your hand. Did the light help the children see it better? In a similar way, Jesus is the "light" that has come to reveal God and His salvation to all the people of the world.



ILLUSTRATE

## ACT IT OUT

Pretend to be each of the three different groups of witnesses in today's lesson and share your testimony about Jesus with the class. If there is more than one teacher in the room, one teacher might dress up as the witnesses while the other teacher "introduces" them to the class. Bring different visuals to help the children identify each witness: Jesus' parents (staff for journey, stuffed birds for sacrifice), Simeon (clock to symbolize waiting, glasses for eyes that have seen the Lord's salvation), Anna (cane, empty plate, folded hands, megaphone).

## RISE AND FALL

Although Jesus came to bring God's salvation, He also brings God's justice, causing some to rise and others to fall. Tell the class that the humble (those who trust in Jesus) are lifted up, while the proud (those who trust in themselves) are brought low. This can be illustrated by allowing the children to stand or sit when your back is toward the class. When you turn around and face the class, all the proud (those standing) must sit down while all the humble (those sitting) may stand up.



APPLY

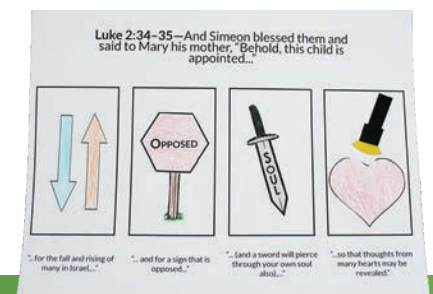
## BEHOLD, THIS CHILD IS APPOINTED

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*.

**Materials:** Craft sheets, black and yellow construction paper, scissors, glue, and crayons.

**Directions:** Pre-cut pieces out of the craft sheet. Cut pieces for a flash light from construction paper. Have children color the pieces and glue them to the appropriate locations on the other craft sheet.

*Behold, This Child Is Appointed*  
See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*



# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

*The Son of Man is presented in Jerusalem • Luke 2:21–38*



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

## TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Make a special announcement to the class. Begin small, but slowly build it up to unbelievable proportions. Ask them, “Does this sound too good to be true?” Yes. That’s because it is. Ask the children if they’ve ever experienced something like this. However, tell them that in today’s lesson we’re going to learn what the Bible says about Jesus, and though it sounds too good to be true, it is true. We can trust what the Bible says about Jesus. Now, let’s see what our three witnesses in our story today have to tell us about Jesus.

## DESTINED FOR CONFLICT

In our lesson today, we’re going to learn that Jesus was destined for conflict (Luke 2:34–35; cf. 12:51). His life and ministry would divide people based on their responses to God’s offer of salvation through Jesus. Introduce this concept by dividing the class over two favorite local sports teams, foods, music, movies, etc. While these divisions over trivial things can be fun, the division that Jesus creates is very serious. Those who deny Jesus and reject Him will spend all of eternity separated from Him.



ILLUSTRATE

## A ROCK OF OFFENSE

Although Jesus brings God’s salvation, He also brings God’s justice, causing some to rise and others to fall. The humble submit to Him and are raised up, resting upon Him as their precious cornerstone (Isa 28:16). The proud refuse to submit to Him and are brought low, stumbling over the rock of offense (Isa 8:13–15; 1 Pet 2:8). You can illustrate this by bringing a cinder block (or other large stone) to class. Point out this block can either serve as a solid foundation to lift up or tripping hazard to bring low.

## PINOCCHIO

Is the name of a fictional character featured in many popular children’s stories, cartoons, and movies. This wooden marionette, supposedly created by a woodcarver named Geppetto, dreams of becoming a real boy. However, he is also prone to telling lies and getting into mischief. Ask the children if they remember what happens to Pinocchio when he lies (his nose grows). Unlike this make-believe character, we can trust the testimony of Joseph, Mary, Simeon, and Anna. These people really lived and were chosen and prepared by God to tell the truth about His Son.



APPLY

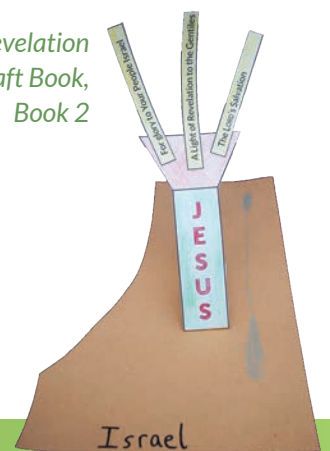
## A LIGHT OF REVELATION

*See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2.*

**Materials:** Craft sheet, tan construction paper, scissors, glue, tape, and crayons.

**Directions:** Copy craft sheet onto cardstock. Have children color and cut out the flashlight and light beams. Cut a tan sheet of construction paper with a curve and add 2 small bodies of water to make it look like the land of Israel (see picture below). Glue light beams on flashlight. Fold the bottom of the flashlight along the dotted line and attach a strip of spare white cardstock to the back to add support to help it stand up. Glue the base of the flashlight to the construction paper.

*A Light of Revelation  
See Year 2 Craft Book,  
Book 2*



AGES 9–11



### HELLO, MY NAME IS

Bring four stickers to class that read, “Hello, My Name Is.” Write the names of the four different witnesses on the stickers, one name per sticker. As you come to each witness in today’s lesson, put on the appropriate sticker(s) and introduce yourself to the class.

### LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES

Jesus came to save all people—every nation, tongue, and tribe (Rev 7:9). Introduce this truth by asking the children to name as many different countries as they can (the class could be split into two teams to compete to see which team can name the most countries). There are currently 196 officially recognized countries



### SCHINDLER’S LIST

Oskar Schindler was a German businessman who saved the lives of more than a thousand Jews during World War II. Deeply affected by the Nazi’s mistreatment and murder of innocent Jews, Oskar used his influence and immense fortune to rescue Jews from certain death in Nazi concentration camps. His effort to save the Jewish people is an amazing example of what it means to redeem: to buy back something for a price. He risked his life and sacrificed his fortune to redeem the Jewish people. His life is remembered in the book *Schindler’s Ark* by Thomas Keneally and the movie, “Schindler’s List,” directed by Steven Spielberg.

### CONSOLATION PRIZE?

Ask the children what a consolation prize is. Explain that it is a prize given to someone who fails to win or finishes last. Then ask the children if this is what Simeon was waiting for in Luke 2:25. It was not. Tell the class that Simeon identified Jesus as Israel’s consolation because He would bring comfort, encouragement, and relief (Isa 40:1–2) when God Himself would come to save and care for His people Israel (Isa 40:9–11).



### DESTINED TO DIVIDE

Simeon warned that Jesus was destined for conflict (Luke 2:34–35; cf. 12:51). He causes a division between those who trust in Him and those who trust in themselves. Read Luke 12:51–53 as a class and discuss how the person and work of Jesus may even create divisions within the family. Explain that all the people of the world can be placed in one of two categories: humble lovers of Jesus or prideful lovers of self. As Simeon explained to Mary, the opposition to Jesus was destined to expose the rampant unbelief present among God’s people (Luke 2:34–35).





## CHRISTMAS LESSON 3

*The Son of Man is identified in the temple*

LUKE 2:39-52





Jesus' childhood shows that He is the human Savior.



*"And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52).*

## Supporting Truths

1. Jesus grew like a normal child.
2. Jesus' love for and growing knowledge of God's word shows He is the Savior.
3. Jesus' devotion to God the Father shows He is the Savior.
4. Jesus' perfect obedience to His earthly parents shows He is the human Savior.
5. Jesus' favor with God and man shows He is the Savior.

## Objectives

1. Recite Luke 2:52 to see that Jesus grew up as a real human.
2. Describe the reaction of the people to Jesus' questions and answers.
3. State that Jesus perfectly obeyed God's will for Him, even dying on a cross.
4. Contrast Jesus' obedience with Adam's disobedience, along with the results.
5. Explain that Jesus lived both by God's grace and for God's pleasure.



## Lesson Summary

As Luke's account of Jesus' birth draws to an end, he provides one final witness: the testimony of young Jesus. When Jesus was twelve, He stayed behind in the temple, asking and answering questions that astonished Israel's wisest teachers. To His concerned parents, He expressed His true relationship to God and His devotion to God's mission for Him. All this confirms once again that Jesus is the human Savior of the human race.

## Spotlight on the Gospel

As the human Savior, Jesus came to be the saving representative of the human race. He fulfilled the law on behalf of humans. He learned obedience, He resisted temptation, He satisfied the law, and He revealed the Father to mankind. As the human Savior, He died as man's substitute sacrifice, and rose again as a sympathetic high priest. He stands as the human example for us to follow, and one day He will return to fulfill man's purpose to rule over all creation.

TWO WEEKS AGO



The Son of Man is born  
in Bethlehem  
*Luke 2:1-20*

LAST WEEK



The Son of Man is  
presented in Jerusalem  
*Luke 2:21-38*

THIS WEEK



The Son of Man is  
identified in the temple  
*Luke 2:39-52*

## Lesson Commentary

### *Jesus' childhood shows that He is the human Savior.*

Generally, Christians have no trouble thinking of Jesus as fully God. Yet we often struggle to remember that Jesus is fully human too. But the humanity of Jesus is essential to the Christian faith. Only a human can die for sins (Phil 2:8; Heb 2:16–17). Only a human could personally experience the struggles and sorrows we endure (Heb 4:15; John 19:28). Only a human can fulfill God's mission for humanity to rule the earth in obedience and so spread God's glory through the entire world (Gen 1:26; Ps 8; Rom 5:19). So Luke is very careful to show us that Jesus is a truly human Savior in His birth (Luke 2:1–7, 12), at His dedication (2:21), and now in His childhood (2:40–52).

#### Jesus grew as God's special child (2:40)

The child grew (2:40). That seems ordinary enough. But that's the point. Jesus was human. 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). In fact, His growth in wisdom (Luke 2:40) shows that He was limited in His knowledge as a human (Matt 24:36). Like all other children, He had to learn. It was likely through His ongoing study of Scripture that He realized, when He was 12 years old, the full reality of what He had been born to do (Luke 24:27).

Although human, Jesus was clearly a very special human. He was filled with *wisdom*, far beyond any that had come before or will follow after (11:31). He had *a deep understanding of the mind of God*, and even at such a young age, had *clear knowledge of the will of God*. Also, God's favor was on Him (2:40b). The Father deeply loved His Son and rejoiced in Him (3:22). Jesus

was not a child with superpowers, but a child with super commitment to and super dependence on God, Scripture, and the Holy Spirit. When we combine Jesus' ordinary humanness with His extraordinary wisdom and grace, we see that He is qualified to be both our Savior (Heb 2:14–17) and our example to follow (12:2).

#### Jesus grew to understand God's special mission for Him (2:41–50)

The account of Jesus' temple visit illustrates His growth, wisdom, and grace. His parents, proving their obedience once again (Exod 23:14–17), faithfully traveled to Jerusalem for *Passover, the festival when Israelite families sacrificed a lamb to celebrate Israel's rescue from Egypt*. Immediately following Passover was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, a celebration lasting another 7 days. What might have been going through Jesus' mind 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 must have realized that He Himself was the Lamb of God who would die for the sins of the world (John 1:29). It was a terrifying mission, but one He had resolved to perform (Matt 26:39). Truly, we celebrate an amazing child every Christmas.

When His parents left Jerusalem to return home, Jesus stayed behind (Luke 2:43). He was hungry for God's word and seized this opportunity to talk with Israel's foremost teachers (2:46). In the temple He asked and answered questions, following the customary method of instruction (cf. Acts 17:2). Not only did God's word show Him His own mission, but it also equipped Him to resist temptation (Matt 4:10), answer objections (22:17–40), and confound the Jewish teachers who later opposed Him (22:41–46). But though He continued to learn as a human, He possessed unparalleled wisdom, as illustrated by the teachers' reaction. All who heard Him were astounded by His understanding (Luke 2:47). For the rest of His life, Jesus would continually produce such wonder, for He is the most amazing human the world has



#### THINK ABOUT IT

Jesus was not a child with superpowers, but a child with super commitment to and super dependence on God, Scripture, and the Holy Spirit.

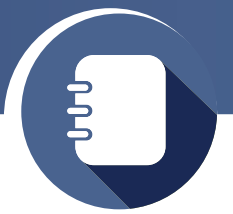
#### THINK ABOUT IT

Jesus was wiser than His teachers because He knew and loved God's Word (Ps 119:99).



# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

*The Son of Man is identified in the temple • Luke 2:39–52*



ever known (Luke 2:18, 33, 48; 4:22, 32, 36; 5:9; 8:25; 9:43; 11:14; 20:26; 24:41).

After an anxious search, Jesus' parents finally found Him (2:44–46). As any normal mother would, Mary scolded Jesus for making her and Joseph worry so much (2:48), but Jesus hadn't done wrong. He didn't hide from His parents or resist their authority. Jesus' words to His mother gave Mary a glimpse into what Simeon meant when he said that a sword would pierce Mary's soul (2:35). Although Jesus was truly human, the son of Mary and Joseph, His unique calling meant that His primary responsibility was to His heavenly Father, not His earthly parents (2:49). Although Jesus perfectly obeyed His parents (2:51), He recognized that God was His true Father. His single-minded devotion to His mission caused Him to identify more with His spiritual family than His earthly one (8:21). This came to a climax when the crucifixion completely separated Son from mother (John 19:26–27). Yet Mary's temporary loss would prove eternal gain—for herself and for all the redeemed.

Jesus' words to Mary are His first recorded words. Luke left no stone unturned in his effort to correctly identify Jesus (Luke 1:1–4). After providing so many witnesses before, during, and after Jesus' birth, Luke now presents the testimony of Jesus Himself. By the time He was 12, Jesus 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 expressed His unique relationship with God (10:21–22), He was claiming divinity (John 19:7). 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?

## Jesus grew into God's special man (2:51–52)

Jesus understood that His primary responsibility was to God, but He still continued in obedience to His earthly parents (2:51). Here again we see both His humanity and divinity. As a human, He learned obedience (Heb 5:8). He never disobeyed, and His obedience in small things as a child prepared Him to obey as an adult in increasingly difficult situations. Through it all His obedience never wavered. Nothing, not even the threat of death, could move Him from His commitment to God (Phil 2:8). As Savior, He perfectly fulfilled the law (Matt 3:15), including the 5th commandment which requires children to honor their parents (Exod 20:12). Thus He was qualified to die as the perfect sacrifice, a human Savior for human sinners (1 Pet 3:18).

Despite all they had seen and heard, 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? As the Christmas season draws to an end, will you continue to ponder like Mary? In the middle of the doubts and fears of this world, we can confidently look to Jesus. He is the certain answer to all our human hopes and fears, because He is our human Savior.



### THINK ABOUT IT

A son is equal in nature to his father (John 5:18).



# Lesson Outline

*Jesus' childhood shows that He is the human Savior.*



## AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

We know Jesus is the human Savior because...

1. He grew up as a perfect human child(2:40, 51–52).
2. He learned His mission from Scripture (2:41–47).
3. He received His Father's mission (2:48–50).



## AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Jesus grew as God's special child(2:40).
  - He grew in wisdom (2:40a).
  - He grew with God's grace upon Him (2:40b).
2. Jesus grew to understand God's special mission for Him(2:41–50).
  - He observed the Passover sacrifice with His family (2:41–42).
  - He stayed in the temple (2:43–46a).
  - He loved, learned, and understood God's law in an amazing way (2:46b–47).
  - He was devoted to God as His Father (2:48–50).
3. Jesus grew into God's special man(2:51–52).
  - He grew up obeying His earthly parents (2:51).
  - He grew up in every way: intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially (2:52).





## Lesson Questions

*Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.*



### Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Is Jesus still a baby in our story today?**  
No. He began growing up, just like other humans.
- 2. 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.
- 3. What did Jesus call God?**  
My Father. Jesus knew He was God's Son sent to save the world.
- 4. Did Jesus obey Joseph and Mary?**  
Yes. He showed us that it is right to obey our parents.



### Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. Since Jesus was God, did He know everything during His life on earth?**  
No. As a child, He grew in wisdom. He learned His mission from Scripture.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 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.
- 5. When Jesus went home, how did His behavior show that He was worthy to be Savior?**  
He obeyed His parents and lived in a way that earned approval from both God and man.
- 6. What does Jesus' childhood show us about Him?**  
He is both human and God. He is the human Savior.
- 7. 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 for us. To come again to rule as our representative king.
- 8. What did Mary do when she saw and heard all this?**  
She did not understand it all, but she kept thinking carefully about it.

# Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3-5



INTRODUCE

## INCREASED IN STATURE

Show the class pictures of babies, toddlers, and children. Ask the children: What do you call a person who is just born? (A baby.) What do you call a person who is two years old? (A toddler.) What do you call a person who is between about 3 and 12 years old? (A child or boy or girl.) Today we're going to see that Jesus was all of these, just like all of you.

## ABCs

Bring in some magnetic refrigerator letters or letter flashcards. Show these to the children (one letter at a time) and ask the children if they can identify the letter and its sound. Ask the children if any of them are learning about letters at home or at school. Tell the class that today we're going to see that Jesus had to learn His letters and numbers just like us because He grew up as a human child.



ILLUSTRATE

## THE LAMB OF GOD

Bring in a stuffed lamb. When you explain the Passover, use the lamb as a prop and explain that Jesus watched this every year, growing to realize that this lamb was showing what would eventually happen to Him. Ask the children to try to imagine themselves in that situation to help them grasp that Jesus was truly human even though He alone is Savior.

## WHAT WE COULDN'T DO

Arrange a few activities for the children that are too difficult for them, but able to be accomplished by the teacher. Examples include: Trying to jump and touch an object, trying to jump across a great distance, opening a jar with a tightly screwed on lid, etc. After each child has tried and failed, ask them if they would like someone to do the task for them. Explain that this person is called a representative. Tell the children that Jesus was born as a man in order to represent us before God. He came to earth to do what we couldn't do: perfectly obey God's Law.



APPLY

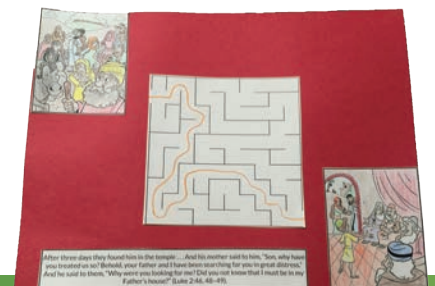
## FINDING JESUS IN JERUSALEM

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*.

**Materials:** Craft sheet, construction paper, scissors, glue, crayons.

**Directions:** Have children color and cut out the two pictures on the craft sheet. Cut out the maze and glue it to a sheet of construction paper. Glue on the two pictures, as shown below. Instruct the children to complete the maze.

*Finding Jesus in Jerusalem*  
See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*



# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

*The Son of Man is identified in the temple • Luke 2:39-52*



AGES 6-8



INTRODUCE

## JESUS, OUR REPRESENTATIVE

As the human Savior, Jesus came to be the saving representative of the human race (Rom 5:18-19). Introduce this truth by having the children perform some fun, 1 minute activities that are impossible to complete: (1) Cookie Face: Place two cookies on forehead and move both to mouth without hands; (2) Stack It Up: Stack 40 pennies using only one hand; (3) Red Cup, Blue Cup: Begin with a stack of 35 red cups and 1 blue cup on top. Move blue cup to bottom of stack and back to top by moving all the red cups. Later, explain how a representative would be needed to accomplish each task in their place.

## THE BOY JESUS

It's common to think of Jesus in one of two ways: As a baby (around Christmas) or as a man (around Easter). However, Jesus grew just like us. Help the children understand the time that has elapsed from the previous weeks' lessons when Jesus was born to today's lesson when Jesus was left at the temple by displaying different size boy clothes from ages 1 to 12 at the front of the room (arrange the clothes from smallest to largest).



ILLUSTRATE

## LIFELONG LEARNER

Ask the children the following questions: (1) What's your favorite subject at school? (2) Can anyone tell us something you learned this week? (3) Is anything hard to learn? (4) Do you have a favorite verse? (5) Can you recite it? (6) Is it hard to memorize verses? Thinking about all the things we are learning helps us to imagine what life was like for Jesus as a child, because he had to learn things just like you and me.

## LEFT BEHIND

Talk about a time your parents accidentally left you behind and describe what you did and how you felt. Ask the children if any of them have had a similar experience.



APPLY

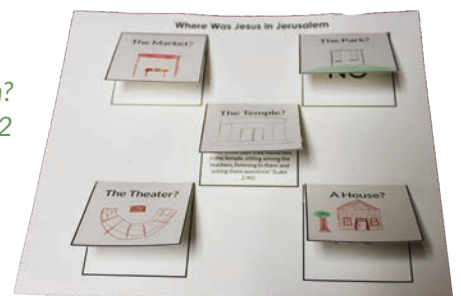
## WHERE WAS JESUS IN JERUSALEM?

*See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2.*

**Materials:** Craft sheets, scissors, glue, and crayons.

**Directions:** Have children cut out rectangles with places listed on them. Draw pictures that match each description on the rectangles. Glue rectangles onto template. Use the rectangle that says "The Temple?" on the space that says, "YES."

*Where Was Jesus in Jerusalem?*  
*See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*





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INTRODUCE

### CHILD PRODIGY

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is one of the most famous composers of all time. He began to display his remarkable abilities at an early age. He was playing the keyboard by ear at age three and had begun composing his own music by the time he was six. He toured Europe as a child with his older sister, performing both private and public concerts. By the time he was eight years old he had already composed his first symphony. However, no child prodigy, no matter how extraordinary their abilities, can compare with the child Jesus. Even though He was an ordinary human child, Jesus was the most remarkable human being ever born.

### THE HUMANITY OF JESUS

Use the following references to Jesus' humanity in a series of sword drills to help prepare the children for today's lesson: Luke 2:52 (Jesus grew); John 4:6 (Jesus got tired); Matthew 4:2 (Jesus was hungry); John 19:28 (Jesus was thirsty); Matthew 26:37 (Jesus experienced human emotions); John 19:33–35 (Jesus died).



ILLUSTRATE

### OUR SUBSTITUTE

When we trust in Jesus for salvation, He represents us before God. Jesus' sacrificial death satisfies God's righteous anger over our sin, and Jesus' perfect righteousness is credited to us (2 Cor 5:21). This may be illustrated by the following discussion. Tell the children to imagine they've been asked to compete in a variety of competitions. However, each child may pick any one person in the world to represent them in each competition. Which person would they pick for a game of one-on-one basketball? A 100 meter race? A vocal competition? Have the children explain why they would pick these individuals to represent them.

### HE UNDERSTANDS

As we grow older, there may come a time when we feel like we're experiencing something that no one has ever experienced before. This may cause us to feel discouraged or hopelessly lost. However, talking with someone who has already gone through the same thing we're experiencing can provide much needed encouragement (consider sharing an appropriate example with the class). Tell the class that Jesus, because of His earthly life, perfectly understands our trials and struggles. He experienced all this life has to offer, yet He never sinned (Heb 4:15).



APPLY

### HONOR MOM AND DAD

As a twelve year-old boy, Jesus understood that His primary responsibility was to God, but He still continued to obey His earthly parents (Luke 2:51). In so doing, He not only fulfilled the righteous requirement of the Law (Exod 20:12), He also provided us an example to follow. Identify three ways you can honor your mother and father this week, following in the footsteps of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.