

Date: 1.5.25 | Title: Jesus Prepared for Ministry | Scripture: Matthew 2 & Luke 2:21-52

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students:

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.
God wants us to live for His glory.
God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.
The Gospels tell us about the life and ministry of Jesus

High School Students:

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.
God wants us to live for His glory.
God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.
Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.
Jesus gave His life for us on the cross and He is the only way for salvation.
The Gospels tell us about the life and ministry of Jesus



MEMORY VERSE

"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."

1 John 4:9



INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Explain to the students that today we will play a quick game about people who have done amazing feats setting world records. Form two teams, describe a world record, and then ask the question. Have the teams agree and write their guess to the question on a piece of paper or dry erase board. Award a point to the team with the closest answer.

- 1- A 9 year old boy set the world record for most claps in one minute. How many times did he clap? (1,080)
- 2- A team of 12 jumpers and 2 rope holder set the record for the most jumps over a rope in 1 minute. How many times did they jump? (230)
- 3- A fifth grade girl set the record for the longest distance to stretch homemade slime in 30 seconds. How many inches did it stretch? (88)
- 4- A 17 year old boy set the record for the largest gathering of people dressed as rabbits. How many children participated? (1,119)

These are some amazing facts! Today we will learn that when Jesus was a child, “his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.” (Luke 2:33) and “all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished.” (Luke 2:44-48).

Today, let’s learn a little more about what Jesus was like as a child.



BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Scripture doesn't record very many details about Jesus' childhood. Today we will look at three snapshots of the savior's early years as recorded in the books of Matthew and Luke. These events show Jesus' family dynamic and human upbringing through Mary and Joseph's obedience to God, their faithfulness to the law and their commitment to faith as Jesus prepared for ministry.

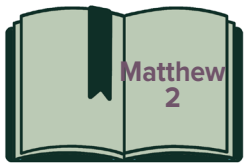
Locate the scripture in the Bible: Matthew 2 and Luke 2:21-52

Remind your group that we are now studying the New Testament. Matthew and Luke are two of the four gospels and tell the story of Jesus' time as a man on earth. The four gospels recall many of the same accounts, but from different authors.

the life of
Jesus

LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY

God Protected Jesus Through His Family's Obedience



After the savior's birth, Mary and Joseph remained in Bethlehem with Jesus. They were faithful to the Law of Moses and had Jesus circumcised when he was eight days old. During these days, Herod was king. He ruled firmly, and at times ruthlessly. He murdered his own wife, several of his sons and other relatives.

TELL
THE
STORY



After Jesus was born, the wise men saw "his star" and approached Herod about finding Jesus so they could worship him. Herod thought his power was being threatened so he sent the wise men on their way to find Jesus. His intentions were not to worship Jesus himself, but to have him killed. Up to two years later when the wisemen arrived, after "going into the house" and seeing "the child with Mary his mother, they fell down and worshipped him". The wise men were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they departed to their own country by another way. (Matthew 2:1-12)

Read directly from Scripture, use The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Biggest Story Bible, or the summary provided in the lesson

Once the wise men left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to flee to Egypt and stay until he was told to move because Herod was going to search for Jesus to kill Him. Joseph obeyed and took his family to Egypt. (Matthew 2:13-15) The gifts the wise men gave Jesus were likely used to support the family in their flight to Egypt. This trickery on the part of the wise men made Herod furious, so he had all the male children in Bethlehem born during that time (maybe 10-30 baby boys) killed in an attempt to wipe out the chosen one of God. (Matthew 2:16-18)

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord again appeared in a dream and told Joseph about Herod's death and that he should take his family to Galilee, where they lived in a city called Nazareth. (Matthew 2:19-23)

Joseph obeyed the angel of the Lord each time he was instructed. God protected Jesus through his family's obedience.

Re-Tell

The Bible
Story

God Blessed Jesus Through His Family's Faithfulness (Luke 2:21-40)

When Jesus was 40 days old, Mary and Joseph took him up the mountain to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord and to offer a sacrifice. This was in accordance with the law in Exodus 13:2, where God told Moses, "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine." According to the law in Leviticus 12 regarding a woman's purity after birth plus the days leading up to circumcision Mary and Joseph followed the law faithfully. (Luke 2:22-23)

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

the life of
Jesus

Since Mary and Joseph couldn't afford a lamb to sacrifice, they brought their best: a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. (Luke 2:24) During their time in Jerusalem, a righteous and devout man with the holy spirit upon him named Simeon, came into the temple where Jesus was with Mary and Joseph. The Holy Spirit had promised Simeon that he would not die before he saw the Lord's Christ. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and blessed God acknowledging His salvation through Jesus. (Luke 2:25-32) "And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him." (Luke 2:33) Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph as well. "And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him." (Luke 2:39-40) Mary and Joseph were pious in keeping the Mosaic law. They were faithful and obedient to God's commands. God blessed Jesus through their commitment and through Simeon.

God Prepared Jesus Through His Family's Commitment (Luke 2:41-52)

Every year, Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem at the Feast of the Passover- the opening day feast of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread. (Lev. 23:5-6) When Jesus was 12 years old, they went up like usual and as they were headed back, "the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem." (Luke 2:41-43). Mary and Joseph did not know this and assumed he was in the group traveling back. After traveling for a day and not seeing him, "they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished." (Luke 2:44-48). Mary questioned Jesus about where he had been and why they weren't aware of what he was doing. Jesus responded, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus meant, but he went back to Nazareth obediently with them. "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:52)

At age 12, Jesus was clearly aware of being the Son of God and having a sense of obligation to God's control. He also understood that teaching would be central to his ministry and that his first priority was to serve his heavenly Father.

Re-tell the Bible Story: put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.

Share the GOSPEL: Jesus is 100% God and 100% man. God sent His one and only perfect son, Jesus, to earth at the perfect time with the sole purpose of redeeming His people through death on the cross and resurrection three days later providing for our salvation.



ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

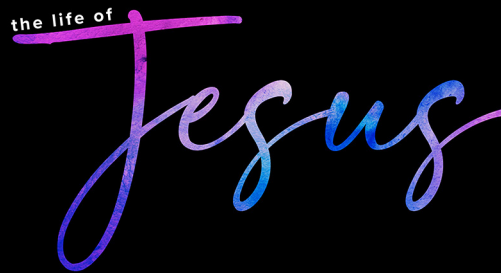
TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.



QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your 2nd-5th grade kids find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our kids to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture.

1. Who was king when Jesus was born? What kind of ruler was he? (Matthew 2:1)
2. Why was King Herod opposed to Jesus’ birth? How did he attempt to gain control? (Matthew 2:7-11)
3. How did an angel of the Lord intervene? How did Joseph respond? (Matthew 2:12-15)
4. Why did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to Jerusalem at 40 days old? What is the significance of the 40 days? What does this tell us about Mary and Joseph? (Luke 2:22-24)
5. What was their offering? (Luke 2:24)
6. What happened while they were at the temple? (Luke 2:22-35)
7. How did Mary and Joseph respond to Jesus? (Luke 2:33)
8. How did Jesus continue to grow as time passed? (Luke 2: 40, 52)
9. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Jerusalem each year? (Luke 2:41)
10. How long did it take Mary and Joseph to find Jesus? (Luke 2:46)
11. What about Jesus astounded people? (Luke 2:46-47)
12. Why do you think Jesus’ understanding and wisdom were so surprising?
13. Why do you think Jesus said it was necessary for Him to be in His Father’s house? J
14. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
15. What does the story teach me about myself?
16. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
17. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
18. How does this story help me live on mission?



PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank you for sending Your perfect Son, Jesus, as atonement for our sins. We know that You had a perfect plan for our salvation from the beginning of time. Help us to honor and follow you as Jesus did. We ask You to fill us with Your favor, Your wisdom, and Your love as we seek to live for You! Amen

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Help the students in your group practice memorizing the books of the Bible

- Torah: Genesis-Deuteronomy
- History: Joshua-Esther
- Poetry: Job-Song of Solomon
- Major Prophets: Isaiah-Daniel
- Minor Prophets: Hosea-Malachi
- Gospels: Matthew-John
- Paul's Letters: Romans-Philemon
- General Letters: Hebrews-Revelation

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

We will take the month of January off from mission projects. Please make plans to attend a special missions emphasis training for all leadership on the afternoon of January 12th.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Continue to use the Memory Verse Handout for fun ideas for practicing the memory verse for this unit.

the life of
Jesus



Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD

- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD

- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND

- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

the life of
Jesus



Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?