



# Matthew/Luke

## Jesus as a Child

**Lesson Objective:** Jesus lived His life dedicated to the purposes of His Father.

**Activity:** Amazing Feats

Explain that several world records are held by kids who have accomplished amazing feats. Form two teams. Describe a world record and ask a question. Team members should agree on a guess and write it on the board. Award one point to the team closest to the correct answer.

A 9-year-old boy set the world record for most claps in 1 minute. How many times did he clap? (1,080)

A team of 12 jumpers and 2 rope holders set the world record for most jumps over a rope in 1 minute.

How many times did they jump? (230)

A fifth grade girl set the record for longest distance to stretch homemade slime in 30 seconds.

How many inches did it stretch? (88)

A 17-year-old boy set the record for the world's largest drawing. How many square feet did it cover? (3,486)

A group of children set the record for largest gathering of people dressed as rabbits.

How many children participated? (1,119)

**Connect To activity to the lesson:**

Those were some amazing feats! Did you know that when Jesus was 12 years old (the same age as some of you in this room), teachers in the temple were amazed by Him? We'll hear this story and more about Jesus' life as a child in our lesson today.

**WORSHIP (15 min.)** Choose 2-3 songs to worship together as a family.

**Prayers:** How can I pray for you?

**Introduction:**

The Gospels records just three narratives about Jesus' childhood: His dedication, His visit to the temple when He was 12 years old, and a visit from some wise men when He was probably around 1-2 years old. In Bible times, a Jewish boy became a man at 13. His father would train him to take on all the responsibilities of adulthood—social and spiritual. Joseph was a carpenter, and he likely trained Jesus in his trade. When Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, Joseph might have taken Jesus, who was about 12, around the city to teach Him the significance of the temple and to explain the purpose of the Passover feast. Let's take a closer look at these significant events in Jesus' childhood.

**Video: (4 min.) - "Jesus as a Child"**

*(Video Transcript)*

**After Jesus was born, wise men followed a star to Bethlehem to find the new king of the Jews. The wise men worshiped Jesus as King.** When they left, an angel told Joseph in a dream to leave Bethlehem because King Herod wanted to kill Jesus. So **Mary, Joseph, and Jesus** went to Egypt until Herod died. Then they went back to Israel and lived in Nazareth. **Jesus grew up in Nazareth.** Every year, Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Passover was the biggest holiday for the Jewish people. Many people traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate and remember when God saved His people from slavery in Egypt. **When Jesus was 12 years old, Jesus and His family went to Jerusalem together.** When it was time to go home, Mary and Joseph began traveling to Nazareth with a large group of people. They didn't notice that Jesus was not with them; they thought He was among the group of

travelers. But Jesus was not with the group. **He had stayed behind in Jerusalem.** Mary and Joseph had been walking for a whole day when they started to look for Jesus. They looked among their relatives and friends, but they could not find Him. So Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem. They searched everywhere for Jesus. The city was so big, and Jesus was just a boy. **Finally, they found Him at the temple. Jesus was listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Jesus could hardly believe how much Jesus understood. When Jesus' parents saw Him, they were surprised.** Mary said, "Son, why have You done this? Your father and I were worried. We've been looking everywhere for You." "Why were you looking for Me?" Jesus asked. "Didn't you know that I had to be in My Father's house?" But Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus was talking about. Then Jesus went back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. **Jesus was always obedient to them, and Mary remembered all of these things. As Jesus grew up, He became even wiser. God was pleased with Him, and so was everyone who knew Him.**

*Christ Connection: God sent Jesus to earth with a purpose. Even as a child, Jesus wanted to honor God. God blessed Jesus as He got ready to follow His Father's plan: to die on the cross and rescue people from sin.*

**Read - Matthew 2, Luke 2**

**Debrief: Questions to ask**

**Whom does God want us to honor and why?** *(Like Jesus, we should seek to honor God. God commands us to honor our parents. We should also honor other believers. The Bible says we should outdo one another in showing honor.)*

**How can we grow in wisdom and obedience to God?** *(We grow through the power of the Holy Spirit. Encourage kids to read the Bible consistently, pray, and spend time in fellowship with other believers.)*

**How can God use you in His kingdom even while you are young?** *(Invite kids to share ideas of ways they can serve God when they are young. Emphasize that God can use anyone who is willing to obey Him. God's plan for us is better than any plan we can imagine for ourselves. We can rely on the Holy Spirit to lead us as we follow Jesus.)*

**GUIDE: Apply the Story**

The Bible does not give many details about Jesus' childhood, but we know that as Jesus got older, He grew "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people" (Luke 2:52). Jesus carried out God's plan to reconcile the world to Himself. (2 Cor. 5:19) He knew His Father's voice and listened to His instructions. We need to learn to listen to Him as well. The more we learn to listen and obey our parents, whom we can see, the easier it is to obey our Father in Heaven, whom we can't see. We also need to read God's Word so we know what He has already said to us. Let's see how well you were listening to this lesson with a game.

**GUIDE: Momentum Moment** – Journal and Prayer (supplies: journal and pencils)

Guide kids to think about and answer the following questions:

- *What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?*
- *What does the story teach me about myself?*
- *Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?*
- *Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?*
- *How does this story help me to live on mission better?*

**Share Ideas**

**Close in with a prayer:** Let each person take a moment to say a one sentence prayer.