

LESSON



A Child Like Me

SERVICE Jesus sets an example of service for us.

References

Luke 2:39, 40, 51, 52; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68-71.

Memory Verse

"Then he went down to Nazareth . . . and was obedient" (Luke 2:51, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that being helpful and obedient means that they are growing as Jesus grew when He was a boy.

Feel a desire to be helpful and obedient.

Respond by doing helpful things around the house and obeying their parents.

The Message



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus is a child just like children are today. His parents care for Him. He eats well, plays often, obeys cheerfully, helps His mother around the home, and His father in the carpenter shop. He is growing tall and strong. He learns to serve His family and others. The people in Nazareth see the way He acts and know that He is a child of God.

This is a lesson about service.

We want children to be like Jesus

was. Children can learn from Jesus how to obey and help others.

Teacher Enrichment

"As a child, Jesus manifested a peculiar loveliness of disposition. His willing hands were ever ready to serve others. He manifested a patience that nothing could disturb, and a truthfulness that would never sacrifice integrity. In principle firm as a rock, His life revealed the grace of unselfish courtesy" (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68, 69).

ONE

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>My Growing-up Chart</i> B. <i>When a Mother Calls</i>	growth chart pattern (see p. 130), paper, scissors, crayons, tape (optional), measuring tape, pen or pencil "When a Mother Calls" (<i>Little Voices Praise Him</i> , no. 274)
* Prayer and Praise *	up to 10	See page 13. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	Bible-times costumes, female adult and children
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>We Obey and Help</i> B. <i>So Do !!</i>	bag with various objects (see activity) none
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Good Helper Wheel</i>	Good Helper Wheel patterns (see p. 131), heavy paper, scissors, crayons, paper fasteners, magnetic tape

"The life of Jesus was a life in harmony with God. While He was a child, He thought and spoke as a child; but no trace of sin marred the image of God within Him" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 71).

"Thus as He grew in wisdom and stature, Jesus increased in favor with God and man. He drew the sympathy of all hearts by showing Himself capable of sympathizing with all. The atmosphere of hope and courage that surrounded Him made Him a blessing in every home" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 74).

What will the children see in you that will help them become more like Jesus?

Room Decorations

Create an Israelite home by setting up cardboard boxes with windows and doors cut out. Add trees, sand, rocks, etc., as props. Add a small table, clay pot, multicolored cloth on a sleeping mat, carpenter tools or pictures of tools. A bulletin board might say "I Serve at Home" and show pictures of children helping at home. These can be used for Lessons 1-4. The My Growing-Up Charts (readiness activity) made by the children may also be used as part of the room decorations.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. My Growing-Up Chart

Make a growth chart for each child, using the pattern supplied (see p. 130). The children may color them. Measure each child, and mark on their chart. These charts may be taped on the classroom walls for room decorations and kept up all year.

Debriefing

Say: **You are growing each year just as Jesus did. We marked on your growth chart how tall you are now. We’ll measure you again from time to time to see how much you’ve grown** (optional). **Today we’ll learn how Jesus obeyed His parents and helped while He was growing up. Do you obey cheerfully like Jesus did? Do you like to help others? What can you do to help others? Today’s message is:**



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- growth chart pattern (see p. 130)
- paper
- scissors
- crayons
- tape
- measuring tape
- pen or pencil

B. When a Mother Calls

Ask: **What is your favorite animal? Do you think baby animals obey their parents when they call them? They certainly do! They learn very early how important it is to obey. Their life may depend on it! Let’s sing a song and pretend that you are a baby animal and I’m your mother. You can come running to me when I call you.** Sing several different verses of “When a Mother Calls” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 274).

Debriefing

Say: **Isn’t it special the way God helps the little animals to obey? How are you like those little puppies and kittens? You have parents**

You Need:

- “When a Mother Calls” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 274)

who love you and care about you. It is helpful to them when you obey. This week, think of the way animals obey, and especially try to obey your parents quickly. Today's message is:



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Jesus Was a Little Child" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 136)

"Jesus Was a Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 295)

"Things Jesus Liked When He Was a Child" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 139)

"A Child Like Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 177)

"Obedient" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 270)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **Everything we do is a gift to Jesus. When you obey your parents and help them, it is a special offering to God. Your offerings are special to Jesus.**

Prayer

Pray that the children will obey their parents and be helpful to others as Jesus was.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson**Experiencing the Story****You Need:**

- Bible-times costume for adult female
- Bible-times costumes for children (optional)

Have someone dressed as Mary, Jesus' mother, tell the story. When Mary tells what the child Jesus did to help, have the children act it out.

Read or tell the story.

Good morning! My name is Mary. I am Jesus' mother. Did you know that Jesus was once little just like you? Every day I taught Him about God. I told Him Bible stories about Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark, Moses and the Ten Commandments. I taught Him to pray. What do you think Jesus did and said when He prayed? He would kneel down like this [*encourage children to kneel*], and He said something like "Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for loving Me. Amen." We sang songs about God together. Jesus loved to sing. What is your favorite song?

Jesus and I liked to go for nature walks [*encourage children to follow you as you walk around the room*]. We listened to the birds sing, watched beetles climb over logs, and saw spiders spin their webs. We studied the dew on the grass and watched the animals play. We looked at the changing colors of the sky as the sun set. All the time I told Jesus about how God made the world and everything in it. Jesus was happy that God had made such a beautiful and wonderful world.

At home Jesus helped around the house. What kind of things do you think He did? He made His bed [*act it out*]. He helped me make bread [*act out kneading bread*]. Whatever I asked Him to do, He did it happily.

Jesus also helped His father, Joseph. How do you think Jesus helped His father?

Jesus helped him take care of our animals. He fed them and gave them water [*encourage children to act it out*]. Joseph was a carpenter, so Jesus often helped him fix or make things [*act out using a hammer or saw*]. We knew Jesus loved us, because He showed it by helping us and obeying us.

Jesus also helped other people. He was kind to our neighbors. He was helpful when He saw that someone had a need, such as helping the grandmother down the road carry her firewood [*pretend carrying heavy load*] or making a sad child laugh [*smile and laugh*].

Jesus had time to play too. He played with the other children in our neighborhood. They liked to play with Him because He was kind to them. When it was time to come in and I'd call Him, Jesus would always quickly obey and come running.

Every Friday evening we ate a special meal to welcome the Sabbath. Jesus helped light the Sabbath candles for our special meal [*pretend lighting a match and lighting candles*]. Then He listened carefully as His father prayed and talked about God.

On Sabbaths we would take Jesus to the Temple. There He heard the priests read from the books of the Bible. In those days the Bible was written on scrolls. A scroll is a rolled-up piece of paper with words written on it [*pretend to unroll a scroll*]. Jesus listened carefully to God's words from the scroll. He learned the words and could recite them from memory. And He often sang songs with the other people.

But most of all He made us happy because He obeyed and helped.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **What did Jesus do to help at home? To help outside His home? Do you think He was happy to help? Do you think He ever complained about having to obey? How do you act when you are asked to do something? Jesus always obeyed quickly and was always ready to help. Do you want to be like Him? Remember,**



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

Bible Study

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to Luke 2:39, 40, 51, 52. Point to the text and say: **Here is where**

we find today's story in God's Word, the Bible. Read the verses aloud.

Debriefing

Say: **Jesus grew just as you are growing. He was kind, obedient, loving, and helpful to others because God filled His life. What are some ways you can be like Jesus?** (Allow time for responses.) **Remember our message for today says:**



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

You Need:

Bible

Open your Bible to Luke 2, and point to verse 51. Say: **This is where our memory**

verse is found in the Bible, God's Word. Read the text aloud. **"Then he went down to Nazareth . . . and was obedient" (Luke 2:51, NIV).**

Use the following to teach the verse:

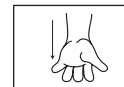
"Then he

Point upward.



went down to Nazareth

Drop hand downward with palm up.



. . . and was obedient."

Hands on forehead; open palms, bring hands forward to waist level.



Luke 2:51

Palms together, then open.



If time permits, use the following finger play.

"When Jesus Was a Boy"

When Jesus was a little boy,

Hold hand out horizontally to show child's height.

He looked a lot like me.

Point to self.

He had two eyes, He had two ears,

Point to eyes, then ears.

And bruises on His knee.

Point to knees.

Sometimes He liked to run and play.

Run in place.

Sometimes He helped make bread.

Pretend to mix bread.

Sometimes He hammered nails with Dad,

"Hammer" one fist with the other.

Or animals He fed.	Pretend to put pet food on the floor.	Then turning to His family, He thanked them for their love.	Cross arms across chest.
When evening came He knelt to pray,	Kneel together.		—Unknown
And sang to God above,	Stand, point upward.		

3 Applying the Lesson

A. We Obey and Help

You Need:

- bag with various objects (see activity)

Prepare in advance a bag containing the following objects: a toy, pillow, paper cup, stuffed animal, shirt, towel, artificial flower, and soap. Ask for volunteers to take one item from your bag. Ask: **How does this thing remind you of**

some way you can obey and help others? (Toy—pick up toys; pillow—make bed; paper cup—give someone a drink; stuffed animal—feed pets; shirt—put away clothes; towel—fold laundry; artificial flower—cheer someone up; soap—wash hands.)

Debriefing

Ask: **Do you obey your parents quickly and with a smile? Show me your obedience face. Does it look like this** (make a cheerful face) **or like this** (make a grumpy face) **Which way do you think Jesus obeyed? Which way do you think your parents would like you to obey? Do you ever help without being asked to—you just see something that needs to be done and you do it? That’s really nice to surprise your parents by helping without being asked to. If you already help at home without being asked,**

keep doing it! If not, try being the best helper you can be this week. Remember . . .



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

B. So Do I!

Read the following poem, and do the motions with the children. You read the first line; they respond with the second line, saying “And so do !! And so do !!”

**Little Jesus helped
His mommy set
the table.** Pretend to set
plate, cup, fork,
at table.

And so do !! And so do !!

**Little Jesus slept
in a little bed.** Pretend to
smooth blanket
out on bed.

And so do !! And so do !!

**Little Jesus asked
God to bless
His food.** Fold hands in
prayer.

And so do !! And so do !!

Little Jesus liked to walk with His daddy.

Walk in place.

And so do ! And so do !

Little Jesus went to church on Sabbath.

Point to your church.

And so do ! And so do !

Little Jesus brought an offering to church.

Pretend to place coins in offering box.

And so do ! And so do !

I want to be like Jesus.

Point to self, then upward.

And so do ! And so do !

—Norma June Bell

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you think Jesus liked to obey His parents? Do you think He obeyed with a smile or a frown on His face? Do you think Jesus helped at home? How can you be like Jesus in your home? Today's message is:**



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Good Helper Wheel

In advance, make a copy of the Good Helper Wheel patterns, top and bottom on a heavy piece of paper for each child. (see p. 131) Cut along dotted lines to make a triangle-shaped window on the top pattern. On the bottom pattern, have the children color the pictures of ways that children can obey or help others. Fasten the top wheel to the bottom wheel in the center with a paper fastener. Attach a strip of magnetic stick-on tape to the back of the wheel.

Debriefing

Say: **These are pictures of things that you can do to obey your par-**

ents or help others as Jesus did. You can take them home and either have your parents pick one each day or surprise your parents and choose one way to help each day. Which things do you already do? Which of these things have you never done before? Do you think the people you help will be happy? Remember . . .



We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

Say that with me again.

You Need:

- Good Helper Wheel patterns (see p. 131)
- heavy paper
- scissors
- crayons
- paper fasteners
- magnetic stick-on tape

Closing

Say: **This week remember that you are growing up just as Jesus did. You can be obedient and helpful to others just as Jesus was. Let's pray now and ask Him to help you to be like Him.**

STUDENT LESSON

A Child Like Me

References

Luke 2:39, 40, 51, 52; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68-71

Memory Verse

"Then he went down to Nazareth . . . and was obedient" (Luke 2:51, NIV).

The Message

We are like Jesus when we obey and help.

How do you show your family that you love them? Are you kind to them? Do you give them gifts? Do you help them?

Jesus was little just like you. He stayed home with His mother, Mary. Every day she taught Him about God. She told Him stories about Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark, Moses and the Ten Commandments. She taught Him to pray. He may have said, "Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for loving Me. Amen." His mother taught Him songs about God like the ones you learn in Sabbath School.

Jesus and His mother, Mary, may have gone for nature walks. They probably listened to the birds sing, or watched beetles climb over logs and spiders spin their webs, or studied the dew on the grass. They watched the animals play. They may have looked at the changing colors of the sky as the sun set. As they watched all of this Mary told Jesus that God had made the world and everything in it.

Jesus may have helped His mother around the house. He probably helped make bread. Whatever His mother asked Him to do, He did it cheerfully.

Jesus may have helped His father, Joseph, take care of their animals. He probably fed them and gave them water. He may have helped fix things.

When Jesus was older, He probably helped in his father's carpenter shop.

Jesus was kind to His neighbors. He was helpful when He saw that someone had a need, such as helping the grandmother down the road carry her firewood or making a sad child laugh.

Jesus had time to play too. He may have played with the neighborhood kids. When it was time to come in and His mother called Him, He came quickly.

Every Friday evening Jesus' family ate a special meal to welcome the Sabbath. Jesus may have helped light the Sabbath candles for their meal. Then He listened carefully as His father prayed and talked

about God.

On Sabbath Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple. There He heard the priests read from the books of the Bible. In those days the Bible was written on scrolls. A scroll is a rolled-up piece of paper with words written on it. Jesus listened carefully to God's words from the scroll. He learned the words and could recite them from memory.

But most of all He made His family happy by obeying and being helpful.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, review the lesson story, and practice the memory verse together.

- "Then he"** Point upward.
- went down to** Drop hand downward with palm up.
- Nazareth** Hands on forehead; opening palms, bring hands forward to waist level.
- . . . and was** Palms together, then open.
- obedient."**

Luke 2:51. Palms together, then open. Ask Jesus to help you be like He was as a child.

Sunday

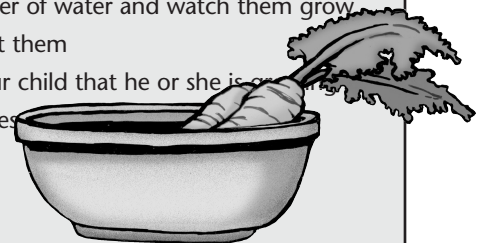
Read the Bible story together. Ask: "How did Jesus' mother and father teach Him? How did Jesus help at home? Do you think Jesus always obeyed? Was Jesus happy?" Help your child read or follow along as you read the memory verse from the Bible.

Monday

Show your child Luke 2:39, 40, 51, and 52 in the Bible and read it. Ask: "What was Jesus like as a child?" Each time your child obeys or helps you this week, give them a coin to put in a cup. At the end of the week, take it to Sabbath School as a special offering. Or have your child use the Good Helper Wheel at Sabbath School and select a way to help today.

Tuesday

Help your child put carrot tops, yams, or potatoes in a container of water and watch them grow. Each time you look at them together, remind your child that he or she is growing more and more like Jesus.



Wednesday

Suggest a guest whom your child could invite for a meal. Let your child help plan the meal.

Sing "When a Mother Calls," and have your child pretend to be the baby animals that come when called.

Thursday

Have your child help clean up toys before going to bed. Encourage them to say, "I'm helping just like Jesus!" Sing a helping song before prayer.

Friday

Have evening worship by candlelight, as Jesus' family may have done. Light candles at sundown. Talk about what your family did to get ready for Sabbath today.

Have your child teach the memory verse to the family. If your child has been putting coins in a cup, remember to take their offering to Sabbath School tomorrow.

