



LESSON 1

REFERENCES: LUKE 2:39, 40, 51, 52; *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, PP. 68-71.

A Child Like Me

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.

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.

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 Nazareth palm up.

. . . and was Hands on forehead; opening obedient.” palms, bring hands forward to waist level.

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

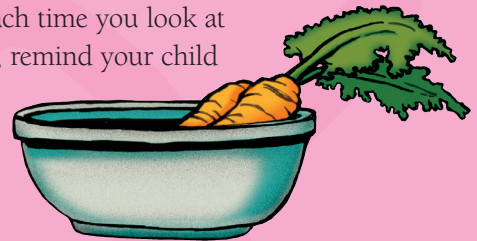
Show your child Luke 2:39, 40, 51, and 52 in the Bible and read it.

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 made in 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. Help 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.