

The Boy Who Did His Best

Luke 2:40, 52; Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3; John 7:15;
The Desire of Ages, pp. 68-74, 84-92

Dad, Dad, look!" Malik held up his newly finished model plane. "Oh, you did a great job, son," his dad replied. "Looks like you really did your best. I am so proud of you."

The boy Jesus was learning every day to do His best. We don't know what it was like back then, but it may have been something like this.

Joseph put his tools on the workbench in the carpenter shop. He stretched his arms. The smell of wood shavings perfumed the air. Tiny dust particles danced in the sunlight that streamed through the windows. Joseph glanced over to where Jesus was working with His tools. Even though He was still a boy, Jesus was becoming a good carpenter.

Jesus looked up from his work and caught Joseph watching Him. "I think it's done," Jesus said with a smile. He rubbed His fingers over the wood of the stool Joseph had given Him to smooth and sand.

Joseph joined Jesus at the workbench. He looked at the smooth, clean lines. He ran his fingers over the wood, feeling for any rough or uneven spots. It was perfect. "You've done well," Joseph replied. "Anyone would be proud to own this."

"I did My best," Jesus humbly replied. Joseph nodded proudly. Jesus always did His best.

"God can use us, Son, when we do our best for Him," Joseph whispered.

Jesus did not answer. His thoughts may have been miles away at the Temple



The Message

*As I do my best in learning,
I can serve others.*

Memory Verse

**"Whatever your hand
finds to do, do it with
all your might"**

(Ecclesiastes 9:10).

in Jerusalem. At age 12 Jesus had visited there. Since then, He kept thinking about the Passover lamb He saw. He knew that He Himself would someday be the real Passover Lamb. But for now Jesus was serving God by doing His best in the carpenter shop and by learning.

"Learn everything you can," Joseph often told Jesus. "That way You will be ready to serve the world when God shows You His plan."

Joseph smiled at Jesus. "I think we should quit for today," he announced with a smile. Carefully he lifted the stool down from the bench and leaned it against the wall.

"Thank you, Father," Jesus answered, and began putting His tools away. Quickly He gathered the wood chips and put them in a basket. He would take them home to be used in the cooking fire.

Joseph and Jesus walked home together. Jesus enjoyed spending time with His father. He liked learning to be a good carpenter. Jesus' mother was also His teacher. She taught Him to read and study the Scriptures. Jesus and His mother often prayed to His Father in heaven. What a good student He was! When He grew up, people were amazed at His knowledge (see John 7:15).

Like Jesus, we serve when we are learning to do our best.





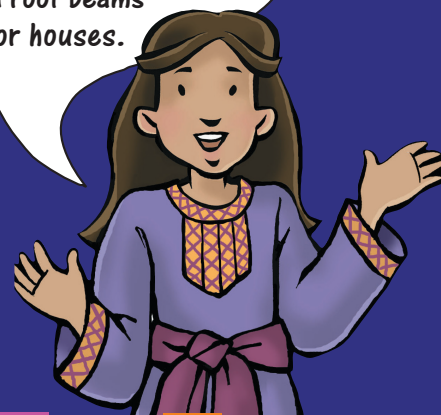
S A B B A T H

DO With your family, go for a nature walk. Imagine that the boy Jesus is with you. What can you learn together about God's creation? Stop to rest and read your lesson story with your family.

READ Read Ecclesiastes 9:10 together.

SING Sing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 51). Then pray a thank-You prayer to God for making "all things well."

In his carpenter shop
Joseph probably made farm
tools, plows, furniture, doors,
and roof beams
for houses.



S U N D A Y

READ For family worship, read Ephesians 6:7 together. Tell what it means in your own words.

SING Sing "I Want to Be" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 124).

READ Read or say your memory verse together.

DO Make Strong-Hand Cookies* to help you remember your memory verse. Roll out cookie dough. Trace around your hand several times with a toothpick. Bake the handprints and enjoy! Pray that God will help you use your hands for Him.

*Adapted from Kathie Reimer, *1001 Ways to Help Your Child Walk With God* (Wheaton Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1994), pp. 53, 54.

M O N D A Y

DO For family worship, tape some paper to a door. On it, have everyone list some things they can do. Then look at the list, pick one thing, and show, tell, or sing about it. To the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush," sing a song such as:

This is the way I brush my teeth, brush my teeth,
brush my teeth,

This is the way I brush my teeth. I learn things
as I grow. (Crouch, then stretch tall and reach
toward ceiling.)[†]

[†]Adapted from *Fun to Learn Bible Lessons* (Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1995), vol. 2, p. 17.

T U E S D A Y

READ During family worship, ask your parents to tell you about something they were good at when they were children. Read Luke 2:40, 52 together. Where did Jesus go to school? What did He learn?

DO Name five things that you think Jesus did well. Tell about a new thing you want to learn.

DO Say your memory verse together. Then ask God to help you learn new things every day.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO During worship today, ask an adult to tell about something that God helped them learn.

DO Write your memory verse on a big piece of paper. Ask your family to draw pictures of some things that they want to learn to do better.

READ Read Philippians 4:13. Make up a tune for that verse and sing it. Then ask God to help you do hard things.



THURSDAY

READ

With your family, read Matthew 11:29. Check two things God wants you to learn from Jesus:

___ To do math ___ To be gentle
___ To be humble

DO

Make a bookmark to keep in your Bible. Draw some flowers on it and add a favorite Bible verse. Try to learn a new Bible verse every day.

PRAY

Ask God to help you learn more about Him.

FRIDAY

DO

Before worship today, make a memory verse scroll from paper and plastic straws or small sticks.

DO

During worship, act out this week's Bible story with your family. When you get to the part about Jesus learning from His mother, have "Jesus" read the scroll. Say the memory verse together.

READ

Read Deuteronomy 10:12 together. How will you serve in Sabbath School tomorrow? Remember to do your best.

SING

Sing "More About Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 38). Then thank God for the Sabbath.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Jesus learned to make things out of wood. Color the items He might have made.

