

Grow, Grow, Grow

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. He is loving and perfect.

● Memory Verse
"Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

Word of the Week
"Grow" - To grow is to get bigger and stronger. When you are a child, your body grows a little taller each day. People can also grow to be more loving and kind. When Jesus lives in your heart, you can grow to be more like Him.

This week's lesson
 is based on [Luke 2:41-52](#) and [The Desire of Ages, pp. 68-83](#).

Sunday

Home Sweet Home

Little Boy Jesus woke up, stretched, and yawned. He smiled at the sound of rain pitter-pattering outside. It didn't matter if the sun shone bright or dark storm clouds rumbled. Jesus always had God's joy deep in His heart.

He began to hum a song of praise as He climbed out of bed. Happily He straightened His blanket. Then kneeling and bowing His head, Jesus talked to God, His Father and Helper.

Jesus loved being a helper too. He ran to help His mother with breakfast and the chores. Then He happily followed His father, to help him with his work. Jesus had a lot to learn being a _____ son. Read **Matthew 13:55** to fill in the gap.

Bang, bang, bang. Jesus busily nailed a wooden leg onto a chair. He always measured carefully and tried His very best. When it was time to pack up, Jesus carefully put away His tools.

As Jesus walked down the road outside, perhaps He noticed the little lambs jumping playfully in the field. Perhaps He watched the tiny ants hurrying across the dirt path. Nature taught Him so much about God's love and power.

At home Mary would draw Jesus close. She told Jesus stories and other beautiful things from the Scriptures. Jesus just loved to learn about God.

Every day in Nazareth, as Jesus worked, ate, and played, He grew. Yes, young Jesus grew taller and taller. But He was also growing in another way. "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

I Wonder

» If you were a child living back in Nazareth, would you have wanted to have Jesus as your friend? Why?

● Prayer Idea
 Thank Jesus for His example to us.

● Do
 What can you do today to be a helper, just as Jesus was? Ask your parent or caregiver for ideas.





Monday

Loving No Matter What

Life wasn't always easy for Jesus. Mary and Joseph didn't have much money. They lived in a simple, small home. Every day they had to work hard to pay for their food and clothes.

Perhaps Jesus carried heavy water jars on His little shoulders, swept the floor, and wiped down the table. No job was too boring or hard for Jesus.

Jesus cheerfully helped others. For "the Son of Man did not come to be served. He came to serve" (Mark 10:45, ICB).

Even though Jesus always showed kindness, not everyone was kind to Him. Sometimes the children in Nazareth would do naughty or disobedient things. When they saw Jesus being obedient and honest, they would laugh and call Him names. It annoyed them that Jesus always did what was right.

Other times adults in Nazareth whispered lies about Jesus. They would point at Him and shake their heads. But Jesus loved these people too.

Why had Jesus come to live here on earth? Read **Luke 19:10**.

Jesus never stopped showing everyone God's big love and perfect ways. When others were unkind, Jesus showed kindness. When people lied, Jesus told the truth. When people did the wrong thing, Jesus did what was right.

And so "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

I Wonder

» Can you think of a time someone was unkind to you? What do you think Jesus would have done if the same thing had happened to Him?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that He understands our problems and pain, because He experienced it too.

Do

Jesus loved to serve others. Be a server for your family today. Tie a cloth or a kitchen towel around your waist as an apron. You might make up a name for your "café" at home and even decorate it. Have fun asking your family for their "orders" and carry their food carefully to them.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

A Family Trip

Jesus was growing into a young man—He was now 12 years old! And now that He was 12, He could do something special with His family. “His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover” (Luke 2:41). And this year Jesus could go too. Yay!

Off they went, down the road toward Jerusalem. Jesus and His family weren’t the only ones—it seemed as though all of Nazareth was going too. Everyone was on their way to a special feast in the big city of Jerusalem.

The trip would take a few days, but no one seemed to mind. They walked, talked, laughed, and sang together. The fields were full of bright, colorful flowers and sweetly singing birds. Jesus loved being in nature.

As they walked, Joseph may have told Jesus the story of God’s people, and His plan for us. Perhaps they shared with Jesus the great miracles that God had done—right there in their country, long ago.

What does God tell us in the Bible that we should remember? Read **1 Chronicles 16:12**.

Mary and Joseph wanted Jesus to learn and remember God’s goodness. If we remember God’s miracles and blessings, we will grow in faith and wisdom, just as Jesus did.

I Wonder

» What do Bible stories and nature teach you about God?

Prayer Idea

Go around the circle and do a “popcorn” prayer. Take turns saying one thing to God you are thankful for. Move around the circle again and again, thanking God for who He is and what He does for you.

Do

Go for a walk together in nature. Find as many “special” things as you can along the way that God has made. Look carefully at the designs in flowers, plants, and trees.

Memory Verse

Fast fact

Our skin, hair, and nails are always growing—even when we are very old!



Wednesday

In the Temple

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus could finally see Jerusalem.

It was beautiful! They were so happy to come and worship God.

Long ago King David had written a song for travelers to sing when they came to worship God. Like a grand choir, the traveling crowd with Jesus sang joyfully:

“Let’s go to the Temple of the Lord.

“Jerusalem, we are standing at your gates.

“Jerusalem is built as a city where friends can come together” (Psalm 122:1-3, ICB).

The Passover celebrations had begun!

What a special time Jesus had. For the first time He saw the temple and for the first time He saw the priests give the sin offering to God. Jesus watched very closely. As He looked at everything that happened in the temple, He realized it was all about Him. He would be the offering, the one who “takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

Jesus found the teachers and Pharisees in the synagogue and sat quietly at their feet. He listened to their words and then began asking questions. He asked deep and difficult questions about the coming Savior.

The teachers and Pharisees looked at Him and were puzzled. Who was this boy? He wasn’t one of their students. Where had He learned so much about the Scriptures? He seemed so wise.

If only these teachers and Pharisees had realized that sitting at their feet was God’s own Son, the promised Savior! If only they had had open hearts to learn from Jesus.

Parent Faith Talk

Share about a time your child taught you something about what God is like.

I Wonder

» How can we learn from Jesus and grow in His wise ways?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for being so wise.

Mission Challenge

Help your family with a cleanup project for someone else. You may help pick up trash, clean something at church, or help people who live nearby. Remember to show or tell others that God cares for them.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Lost!

After many days of celebrations, people packed their bags. They climbed onto their donkeys and waved goodbye to the beautiful city of Jerusalem. It was time to go home.

What did Jesus do? Read **Luke 2:43**.

Mary and Joseph had been traveling home for a full day when they realized someone special was missing. They looked left. They looked right. *Where was Jesus?*

Surely He couldn't be far away, they thought. He was probably just collecting water for their donkey or playing with the other children. There were many friends and relatives with them on the road back home. *Yes*, they thought, *Jesus must be with them*.

But after some time Mary and Joseph realized that Jesus was not with them. Quickly they asked their friends and family if they had seen Jesus. But the people just shook their heads.

After searching and looking for Jesus, they realized that Jesus was not there! Their hearts pounded hard in their chests. They had been so busy walking and talking with their friends on the road home to Nazareth that they hadn't realized that Jesus wasn't with them.

They must find Him—quickly! Turning back toward Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph raced down the road as fast as they could. They prayed desperately for God to keep their Boy safe.

Was Jesus safe? Yes! God was with Him. Jesus had been busy in the Temple, "sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions" (Luke 2:46).

I Wonder

- » Have you ever been lost? What did you do?
- » Have you ever lost something precious? Whom can you ask to help you find it?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for always helping us when we get lost or when we lose something precious.

Do

Hide a favorite toy or book. Make up two clues to help your friend or family member find it. Thank God that He always knows where things and people are and can keep us well and safe.

Memory Verse





Friday

Found!

For three long days Mary and Joseph searched. What a long time! Finally, walking into the temple, they paused as they heard a familiar voice. Look! It was Jesus!

Mary wiped away her tears and ran over to Jesus. “Son,” she cried, “why did you do this to us? Your father and I were very worried about you. We have been looking for you” (Luke 2:48, ICB).

What did Jesus reply? Read **Luke 2:49**.

Jesus had been with His heavenly Father the whole time. He had been growing “in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52).

Together Jesus, Mary, and Joseph returned home to Nazareth. Mary thought a lot about everything that happened as they walked. She was so glad that God was teaching her how to look after this very special Boy.

I Wonder

» Why did Jesus stay in the temple for so long?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to give you a searching heart so that you can grow to be like Him.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about the word “grow.” Find something for the memory box that reminds you to ask God’s Spirit to help you grow in wisdom, just as Jesus did.

For You, Parents

“If we are Christ’s, our sweetest thoughts will be of Him. We shall love to talk of Him; and as we speak to one another of His love, our hearts will be softened by divine influences. Beholding the beauty of His character, we shall be ‘changed into the same image from glory to glory’ (2 Corinthians 3:18)” (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 83).

The Boy Who Grew a Church

Joe was a 10-year-old boy who lived in the Solomon Islands. Joe didn't know about Jesus, but he had one Seventh-day Adventist friend. One day this friend invited him to Pathfinders and church. Joe went, and he absolutely loved it! He kept going back again and again. Then Joe decided he wanted Jesus to live in His heart forever.

Joe started growing—he started becoming more like Jesus. He began to tell his friends at school about Pathfinders and the Bible. His friends wanted to hear more, so Joe invited them to his home so he could share more Bible stories with them.

Joe's friends loved the stories so much that they began inviting their friends to come and listen and learn too. Soon 30 to 40 children were coming to Joe's house every evening. They all wanted to learn more about Jesus.

Little by little Joe's friends also started coming to church each Sabbath. Then something happened that made Joe really, really happy. His mom, cousin, and three friends all decided to be baptized! Wow!

Time passed, and Joe turned 13. Every Sabbath his living room was packed with about 70 people. With the help of the Holy Spirit, Joe grew his own church for Jesus!

Just as Joe did, you can also grow in God's wisdom every day. You can share God's goodness and truth with others so that they can grow too.

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