

Bible background

Luke 2:52; 4:14-15

Aim of lesson

To show that Jesus grew from a child into a man and chose to do his Father's will of teaching the people and healing the sick.

Preparation required

Cut your own activity sheet into two halves lengthwise. Colour and fold the picture of Jesus as indicated so that the lower fold line reaches the asterisk. The picture should thereby change from one of a boy to one of a young man as you pull the ends. Cut all the worksheets lengthwise. Learn the rhyme or get to know it well, place a copy so that you can see the rhyme and the children at the same time.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children what they want to do when they grow up.
2. Say the rhyme to them. Allow them to interrupt or put up their hands to answer the questions in the first part. You may like to discuss or explain the second half too.
3. Show them the picture of Jesus folded so that he appears as a boy. Talk to them about Jesus growing up to be a man and extend the picture.
4. Give out the picture of Jesus from each worksheet to all the class. Have them colour and fold their pictures.
5. Repeat the rhyme while the children hold their pictures and extend them when you get to the line 'As he grew up to be a man'.
6. Give out the second half of the worksheet and ask what job each man is doing and whether that was the job God wanted his Son, Jesus, to do. They are farmer, teacher, fisherman, carpenter, healer, potter, soldier and builder.

Tell the children that God had planned what he wanted his Son Jesus to do. He wanted him to tell the people about his Father, God, and to show them just how much his Father loved them and wanted them to live good and happy lives for ever in his kingdom. So God gave Jesus his power to heal and do miracles. Jesus could have used this power to be rich and powerful but he did not, he chose God's way.

Alternative activities

1. Role play jobs Jesus would have done as he grew up e.g. helping Mary at home with cleaning, fetching water, cooking, helping Joseph in the carpenter's shop with sweeping and tidying then learning to use the tools himself. He would also have played with and helped other children. Finally they can mime the jobs God wanted Jesus to do: praying, teaching and healing.
2. If you are short of space ask the children to draw a sequence of pictures of Jesus helping Mary, Joseph and doing God's work. You could make the pictures into a book and ask the children to design a cover and think of a suitable title.
3. The children can draw pictures of jobs they'd like to do when they grow up.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children what God would like them to do as they grow up. Bring out that he wants them to help tell people about Jesus and God, and that he wants them to show love and kindness too, whatever job they may do.

Prayer

Ask who would like to pray about doing what pleases God as we grow up.

Verse

'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.' Matthew 3:17.

Rhyme

What would you like to do when you grow up?
Be an Olympic champion? Or win the F.A. Cup?
Would you like to fly an aeroplane?
Or be the driver of a train?
Would you like to be a TV. star?
Or drive the latest racing car?
What did Jesus want to do?
For he was once as small as you.
As he grew up to be a man
What delightful future did he plan?
He had power to be anything
A world famous leader or a wealthy king.
So what did Jesus decide to do?
Why - just what his Father wanted him to.
He showed us God's enormous love
And God looked down on him from above
And he was pleased.