

Bible background

Luke 2:41-52.

Aim of lesson

To show that Jesus grew up as a child like the members of your class, and that he learnt to obey his parents.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children how old they are. Talk about how Jesus was once 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. He had grown from a baby as they have. He learnt to walk and to talk. He went to school in the synagogue which was the church, and he would learn to read from the Old Testament. He helped at home.
2. Show your activity sheet. Talk about each picture. Tell the children about Joseph the carpenter, and ask how Jesus is helping. How else do they think he could help his stepfather. How can they help their fathers? Similarly ask how Jesus is helping his mother, and how they can help. Can they help with younger children as Jesus must have done? Tell them about the family outing to Jerusalem. Going to Jerusalem and the Temple would be a very exciting outing for Jesus when he was allowed to go for the first time at the age of 12. The Temple would have been a wonderful building, very large and beautifully carved. They would have probably spent a week there, singing songs to God and thanking them for all he had done for them. Ask how Jesus is helping. Do they go out with their family? Where do they go? How can they be helpful and obedient? Have they ever got lost as Jesus did on this outing? Tell the children about what happened as Joseph and Mary searched for Jesus and found him in the temple. Jesus had wanted to stay and find out more about his real father, God.
3. Ask the children to colour their activity sheets, and draw themselves helping and going on an outing with their family in the spaces opposite.
4. Teach the song 'A Little Child Like You'. You may need to explain the word 'obey'. Use the opportunity to ask if they are learning to obey.

Alternative activities

1. Role play: Provide household objects so that the children can act out some of jobs Jesus would have done as he grew up e.g. helping Mary at home with cleaning, fetching water, washing, cooking. You might like to let the children help you to make salt dough and then shape it into loaves. The children can also pretend to be helping Joseph in the carpenter's shop with sweeping, tidying and learning to use the tools. Remind them that Jesus would also spend time playing with his friends and play some ring games. 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 would like to do when they grow up.
4. You could make a model of the temple from Lego, blocks or boxes and then act out that part of the story with play figures or figures made from modelling clay.

Relevance to the children's lives

Talk about obeying parents. Ask the children how they can obey in different circumstances. What should they do when they have disobeyed?

Prayer

Ask the children what they think Jesus prayed when he was a young boy. Lead them to thank God for their fathers and mothers.

Verse

'Keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching.' Proverbs 6:20.

Song

A Little Child Like You



- v.1 Jesus was a little child like you (twice)
When Jesus was a lad, he always helped his dad.
Jesus was a little child like you.
- v.2 Jesus was a little child like you (twice)
As he grew up each day, he learnt how to obey.
Jesus was a little child like you.
- v.3 Jesus was a little child like you (twice)
When it was time for bed, he did what his mum said.
Jesus was a little child like you.

(You may prefer to get the children to sing 'a little child like me')

Music: Traditional.