

## KIDS MINISTRY GUIDE | MARCH 29 | BIRTH - GRADE 5

### Unit 19: Session 5 | Jesus as a Child<sup>1</sup>

Bible Passage: Matthew 2; Luke 2

Story Point: Even as a child, Jesus wanted to do His Father's plan.

Key Passage: John 1:1-2

Big Picture Question: Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

Worship: We encourage you to spend time worshiping together as a family.

[Here is a playlist of songs we sing regularly on Sunday mornings in Kids Ministry!](#)

### Introduce the Story (10 minutes)

#### ACTIVITY

Find the star: *Hide a star-shaped cutout somewhere in the room. Invite the kids to find the star and bring it to you. For a competitive twist, hide multiple stars and see who can find the most in a given time limit.*

#### TEACH

(READ ALOUD) The wise men who visited Jesus followed a bright star. When they found Jesus in Bethlehem, they presented Him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh - three valuable treasures. Just as the wisemen followed the star, Jesus followed His Father's plan, even as a young child! We'll learn more about it today!

### Teach the Story (10 minutes)

*Read the Bible story out loud; feel free to read only the bolded words for babies/toddlers.*

**After Jesus was born, wise men followed a star to Bethlehem to find the new king of the Jews.**

**The wise men worshiped Jesus as King.** When they left, an angel told Joseph in a dream to leave Bethlehem because King Herod wanted to kill Jesus. So **Mary, Joseph, and Jesus** went to Egypt until Herod died. Then they **went back to** Israel and lived in **Nazareth. Jesus grew up in Nazareth.**

**Every year, Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover feast.** Passover was the biggest holiday for the Jewish people. Many people traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate and remember when God saved His people from slavery in Egypt.

**When Jesus was 12 years old, Jesus and His family went to Jerusalem together. When it was time to go home, Mary and Joseph began traveling to Nazareth with a large group of people. They didn't notice that Jesus was not with them; they thought He was among the group of travelers. But Jesus** was not with the group. He **had stayed behind in Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph had been walking for a whole day when they started to look for Jesus. They** looked among their relatives

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<sup>1</sup> From The Gospel Project for Kids, Younger Kids Leader Guide, Vol. 7, pgs. 66-81

and friends, but they could not find Him. So Mary and Joseph **went back to Jerusalem. They searched everywhere for Jesus.** The city was so big, and Jesus was just a boy.

**Finally, they found Him at the temple. Jesu was listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Jesus could hardly believe how much Jesus understood. When Jesus' parents saw Him, they were surprised. Mary said, "Son, why have You done this? Your father and I were worried. We've been looking everywhere for You."**

**"Why were you looking for Me?" Jesus asked. "Didn't you know that I had to be in My Father's house?"** But Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus was talking about. **Then Jesus went back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. Jesus was always obedient to them,** and Mary remembered all of these things.

**As Jesus grew up, He became even wiser. God was pleased with Him, and so was everyone who knew Him.**

### **Apply the Story (10 minutes)**

#### **ASK**

*Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Luke 2. Ask the following questions and lead kids to discuss. Questions go from easier to more difficult. Help kids find answers in the Bible for the questions that include Bible verses.*

1. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Jerusalem each year? (*for the Passover, Luke 2:41*).
2. How long did it take Mary and Joseph to find Jesus? (*three days, Luke 2:46*).
3. What about Jesus astounded people? (*His understanding and His answers, Luke 2:46-47*).
4. Why do you think Jesus said it was necessary for Him to be in His Father's house?

*Guide kids to understand that Jesus' Father is God. Remind them that Jesus is God the Son, and He knew God's plans for His life: to make the way for sinners to have eternal life. Jesus understood that He would need to rely on God's power to obey Him, and Jesus wanted to obey God always.*

*Christ Connection: The Christ Connection is a summary statement of how this particular story relates to the gospel and God's big plan for salvation! Use this as a good 'landing spot' for concluding conversation.*

#### **TEACH**

God sent Jesus to earth with a purpose. Even as a child, Jesus wanted to honor God and follow His Father's plan: to die on the cross and rescue people from sin.

### **Reflection and Prayer (5 minutes)**

*Pray together to close, taking prayer requests if desired. If time remains, distribute paper to each child and ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following:*

1. What does this story teach me about God?

2. What does this story teach me about myself?