



Jesus in the Temple Courts

Lesson Aim: To seek opportunities to ask your questions about God.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Is With Us

THE WORD

What He has done: God came to earth and grew up as a boy of faith.

Scripture Focus: Luke 2:41-52 **Key Verse:** Luke 2:46

Christ Connection: Psalm 27:4

THE WAY

The Big Question: What question would you like to ask someone about God?

UNIT 1 FOCUS VERSE

"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to Your word.

I seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands.

I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:9-11

Unit 1: The King Who Is With Us			
	Bible Story	What He has done	Lesson Aim*
1	Jesus in the Temple Courts Luke 2:41-52	God came to earth and grew up as a boy of faith.	To seek opportunities to ask your questions about God.
2	Jesus Is Baptized Mark 1:1-11	God the Father claimed Jesus as His beloved Son.	To study the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3	Jesus Is Tempted Matthew 4:1-11; 1 John 2:16	Jesus resisted temptation and battled Satan using God's Word.	To study the three kinds of temptations we most often face.
4	Jesus Calls His Disciples Luke 5:1-11	Jesus called regular people to follow Him.	To know Jesus does extraordinary things through ordinary people.
5	Jesus Clears the Temple Mark 11:15-17	Jesus cleared the temple of the merchants' price gouging there.	To treat God's house and our lives as special and holy to God.
6	Jesus Is Transfigured Matthew 17:1-9	Jesus' appearance changed and He spoke to Moses and Elijah.	To know Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

LEADER'S ENCOURAGEMENT This week, read Ephesians 4:11-16. Please join us in praying, "Thank You for the children You will bring us. Build our relationships with them as we study Your relationships. Amen."

Lesson Aims are based on reflecting God's character as we participate in His actions to, for, and in the world.

Take Home Elements: The Journal Entry and the Action Card each review the lesson. The Journal Entry offers an in-depth personal study. The Action Card is a visual reminder of the Bible story, God's action, and how we can join into that action.

Leader's Tip: For larger gatherings, teach THE WELCOME, THE WORSHIP, and THE WORD in a large group setting and divide into small groups for discussion with THE WAY.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

Suggestion: Choose a game that focuses on the Bible, teachers, school books, notebooks, etc.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: BOOK BALANCE RELAY

Purpose: To introduce the subject of books and education

Supplies: 2 hardcover books of the same size and weight, floor tape or chalk

Prepare: Use chalk or floor tape to mark a start/finish line at one end of the play area and another line at the opposite end of the play area (at least 5 yards from the start/finish line) as the halfway line.

Directions:

1. Divide students into two teams. Each team lines up behind the start/finish line.
2. Give 1 book to the first runner on each team who stands behind the start/finish line balancing a book on his or her head.
3. Upon your signal, the first runners race to the halfway line and back to the start/finish line.
4. Once across the start/finish line, the runner hands the book to the next team member in line. That team member repeats steps 2-3.
5. The relay continues until every team member has run the race.
6. The first team to finish wins.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: CRAZY QUESTIONS

Purpose: To introduce the idea of asking questions.

Supplies: 2 blank notecards and a pen or pencil for each person

Directions:

1. Give each student 2 notecards and a pen or pencil.
2. For the first card, instruct students to use their imagination to write a "crazy" question starting with the words "What if." For example: "What if the moon was made out of of cheese?" or "What if your snowman could talk?"
3. For the second card, instruct students to write a creative answer to that question. For example, "The sun might melt it," or "He might ask to come inside."
4. Collect the completed cards, keeping the Crazy Question cards separate from the Crazy Answer cards. Shuffle the two sets of cards separately.
5. The leader reads the first Crazy Question card aloud, and then a student reads the first random Crazy Answer card aloud as the answer to the leader's question.
6. Repeat step 5 until all the questions and answers have been read. Let the laughter begin!



The King who is with us

THE WORSHIP

Note to Leader: The instructions below are suggestions only. Adapt this time of worship to suit your environment, resources, and cultural expression. Guide students to focus on the King who is with us. Encourage students to broaden their view of corporate worship by including a variety of expressions such as group prayer, group praise, silent meditation, singing, listening to music, reading scripture, collecting an offering, drama, dance, visual arts, and/or a physical exploration of nature or neighborhoods.

Ideas for Optional Visuals: _____

Today, we worship God for who He is and what He has done as the King who is with us. King Jesus left His throne to be with us. He is fully God and while He was on earth, He was fully God and fully man. He has now returned to His heavenly throne but is still with us through His Holy Spirit.

Read Unit 1 Focus Verse (Psalm 119:9-11) and Psalm 122:1.



Sing worship songs that focus on the messages God has given us that we find in specific scriptures, overarching Biblical themes, and in His creation. In addition, focus on our response as we receive those messages.



Read one or more of the following passages: _____



Invite students to offer sentences of praise to God by completing the following sentence:
“Lord, we worship You for _____.”



Jesus in the temple courts

THE WORD Presentation

Note to Leader: Adapt this segment to your setting (Sunday School class, youth group, multi-age gathering, youth camp, retreat, etc.). In some settings, you may choose to have a student read the scripture aloud, and then have the leader, in his or her own words, briefly communicate the Teaching Points, the Christ Connection, and the Big Question. In other settings, a teacher, pastor, or other experienced speaker may present a lecture or extended message that includes those same elements.

Ideas for Optional Visuals:

You may choose to include an object lesson, video clip, drama, dance, song, or work of art to illustrate the teaching points.

Option 1: _____

Option 2: _____



TEACHING POINTS

Consider current culture and influences impacting your students, and adjust the teaching accordingly.

After the Magi visited baby Jesus, King Herod gave orders to kill all boys ages 2 and under in an effort to kill the newborn King Jesus. After an angel warned them, Mary and Joseph took young Jesus to Egypt until it was safe to return. Eventually, they returned and lived in the town of Nazareth. Jesus grew up there. This story takes place during his family's annual trip to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

The leader or a student reads Luke 2:41-52 aloud.

Communicate each of the following points:

- Jesus was 12 years old when He made the choice to stay longer in Jerusalem and sit among the teachers in the temple courts. Later, He chose to return home with His parents. Just like Jesus, teenagers today face many important and sometimes difficult choices.
- At age 12, boys in the Jewish faith begin a year-long preparation for their bar mitzvah. Afterward, they are no longer viewed as children and they assume responsibilities within the Jewish community. This story shows Jesus making that same shift from learning under His parents to learning from the community and assuming responsibilities in ministry.
- Mary said, "Your father and I have been searching for you." Jesus replied, "Didn't know you know I had to be in my Father's house?" His response shows He knew God was His real Father, and that He would be prioritizing His ministry and service to His true Father above His ties with Mary and Joseph.
- Jesus grew in wisdom. He wanted to sit with the wise teachers of the temple. He listened to them and asked questions. God arranges our circumstances so we can make the choice to sit with and listen to those who can teach us about God and ask them questions.

THE WORD Presentation *continued...*

- Jesus grew in stature. He most likely experienced the typical growth spurts along with changes in appearance and vocal range that most twelve-year-old boys experience.
- Jesus grew in favor with God and men. Growing in favor with God can refer to anything from an authentic prayer life, to studying God's Word, to serving others and loving them well.
- It's not always easy to be in favor with God AND with people. Jesus was able to please others without doing wrong in God's eyes. We are not perfect as Jesus was, but we can choose to not commit wrong doings in order to please others or to be favored by them.
- To be in favor with men doesn't necessarily mean to be popular, but it does mean to be respected. In every culture, there are things a twelve-year-old or any young teenager can do to gain the respect of the people in his or her family, friends, and community. (Ask students for examples.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

In the whole story of God, what's the connection between this New Testament story and the Old Testament?

- Nearly 1,000 years before Jesus went to the temple courts, another king expressed the same desire to be in the Lord's temple.

The leader or a student reads Psalm 27:4 aloud.

- The beauty of the Lord refers to His perfect character. Everything in His character is good and righteous. "To gaze on the beauty of the Lord" is to worship Him—and to see He is perfect.
- "To seek Him in His temple" is to know God more fully, gaining the wisdom that can only come from being in His presence.
- King David asked for just one thing from God, to always be in God's presence. If you could only ask for one thing from God, what would it be?



THE BIG QUESTION

Introduce and elaborate on this question. Students will answer it in their discussion group.

What question would you like to ask someone about God?



THE WAY Discussion



GETTING STARTED Display and review the Discussion Group Covenant below:

**We will include everyone here, treating one another with respect and kindness.
We will encourage everyone here to express their thoughts and opposing views.**

Every student shares his or her best experience or greatest challenge of the past week.



READ IT AGAIN

Read Luke 2:41-52 silently or aloud.

What was the response of all who heard Jesus' wise questions and answers?

What did Jesus say to His parents when they finally found Him in the temple?

What does this story tell you about Jesus at this age?



THE BIG QUESTION Invite students to share their answers.

What question would you like to ask someone about God?



TAKE ACTION Lead students in a discussion using the questions below.

Jesus showed that His top priority was now His relationship with God the Father. Have you ever done something to show your family members that your relationship with God is the most important relationship in your life?

What does it mean to you to "grow in favor with God and men"?

What are some thoughts, words, and actions that can help someone your age grow in wisdom? In favor with God? In favor with friends, family, and his or her community?

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to grow in wisdom and favor with God and others, SO THAT others might _____.**



PRAY Share prayer requests and answered prayers.

Have students pray with partners, or have the whole group pray together.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

Give each student Action Card #1 and Journal Entry #1. **Take home today's Action Card as a reminder of how we can join in what God is doing. Use the Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Complete your Journal Entries at home and keep them together in a notebook or in your Bible.** Optional: Provide parent or guardian with Family Discussion Card#1.