



# Jesus and His Father's House

Lesson Aim: To inspire children to want to be in God's house.

## THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Is with Us

## THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 2:41-52

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

## THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Jesus grew."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Ephesians 6:1

Unit 1: The King Who is With Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
1	Jesus and His Father's House, Luke 2:41-52	God came to earth and grew up as a boy of faith.	To inspire children to want to be in God's house.
2	Jesus Is Baptized, Mark 1:1-11	God told Jesus He loved Him and was pleased with Him.	To see God the Father loves Jesus and God loves each of us.
3	Jesus Is Tempted, Matthew 4:1-11	Jesus resisted temptation and answered Satan with scripture.	To show God is pleased when we do what is right.
4	Jesus Calls His Disciples, Luke 5:1-11	Jesus called regular people to follow Him.	To know Jesus calls each of us to follow Him.
5	Jesus Clears the Temple, Mark 11:15-17	Jesus cleared the temple.	To know God's house is holy.
6	Jesus Is Transfigured, Matthew 17:1-8	Jesus face shone like the sun and God said to listen to Him.	To know God wants us to listen to Him.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Ephesians 4:11-16. Please join us in praying, "Thank You for the children You will bring to us this year. Build our relationships with them as we study Your relationships on earth. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a church building (or house)
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Jesus grew."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Children, Obey Your Parents" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Blessed Are Those" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "I Can Do Everything" "It's Praise Time!" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Sing Praises" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "I Love You, Lord" "Jesus Loves Me" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Cedarmont Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 1, Lesson 1
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Luke 2:41-52	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 2:46 Visual: Measuring tape
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> I'm at Church	Standard-size sturdy white and yellow paper, glue, crayons or markers, optional: cloth and yarn
		<b>Game:</b> Here is the Church	None
		<b>Game:</b> At Church I Like To...	Soft ball for rolling
		<b>Snack:</b> Eat and Grow	A healthy snack such as celery, carrots or fruit slices
	Final 5	<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
<b>Final Five</b>		Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 1, Lesson 1 Color This Story: "Young Jesus at the Temple"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Luke 2:41-52	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Jump to Obey	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Mother, May I?	None
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about growing up

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus grew

## THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a church building or house. **Let this stamp (or sticker) remind you that Jesus went to God's house as He was growing up. Today's Whisper Verse is "Jesus grew."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.\***

### **SIGN LANGUAGE: "Jesus grew."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:**

**"Jesus"** The middle finger of one hand touches the middle of the palm of the other hand, then the same is repeated using the middle finger of the other hand. This action indicates the wounds in Jesus' hands after He was nailed to the cross.

**"grew."** Both hands move upward to show that someone is getting taller.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

**\*Today's Whisper Verse:** "Jesus grew," Luke 2:52a. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as the King who is with us

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.

**It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the King who is with us. He came to be with us when He was born in a manger. Then Jesus grew to be a big, strong boy. That's our Whisper Verse for today.** Review Whisper Verse together: "Jesus grew." Include sign language.



**We praise King Jesus together in God's house. Any building where we gather to praise God, give our offering, sing and pray to Him is God's house. We also call it our Father's house because God is our heavenly Father. Each church building is called God's house. Let's start by giving our church offering now.** Sing: "Give Thanks to the Lord" while collecting the offering.

**Growing up, Jesus loved to be in God's house. He called it His Father's house because Jesus' Father is God in heaven. Do you like to come here to God's house like Jesus did?** (Children respond.) **I do, too! I love to sing praises with you! Let's sing!** Sing: "Sing Praises" and "Let Everything That Has Breath."



**In God's house, we see our friends who love King Jesus. Let's see how our friends Delbert and Lello are doing today.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 1, Lesson 1.



**Jesus obeyed His parents. That reminds me of our new Bible Memory Verse Song. Let's try it now.** Sing: "Children, Obey Your Parents."



Jesus goes to God's house

## THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others and then self.

Last time, we learned how God sent a star to the wise men. The wise men followed the star to find baby Jesus. Today, we will hear about when Jesus was a growing boy and He went to God's house. We call God's house, the church. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 2:46.

### WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 2:41-52

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold a measuring tape, to symbolize how we grow bigger. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- Jesus was born and He began to grow
- 'Til one day when He was twelve years old,
- He traveled with His parents to Jerusalem.
- But on the trip home they could not find Him.
  
- His mother and father looked high and low.
- They asked, "Where did Jesus go?"
- They found Him after a three-day search
- Talking with the teachers about God's Word.
  
- "Where've you been?" His mother frowned.
- Jesus said, "Right here in My Father's house."
- And Jesus grew both wise and tall.
- He was loved by God and liked by all.

What did Jesus do after He was born in a manger? (He grew.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Jesus grew." Include sign language or hand motions.



The temple was called God's house because people came there to praise God, give their offering and pray to Him. They also came there to learn about God. What did Jesus do when He was at the temple? Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Luke 2:46 from the teacher's Bible. Jesus was listening at God's house, just as you are listening in God's house right now!



We can go to God's house

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

### **CRAFT: I'M AT CHURCH**

**Purpose:** To create a picture of themselves in their Father's house, just as Jesus was.

**Supplies:** Standard-size sturdy white and yellow paper, glue, crayons or markers, optional: cloth and yarn

**Prepare:** Draw or copy a simple outline of a child and an adult in a church or classroom setting on white paper. Cut a 2-inch x 4-inch cross from sturdy yellow paper.

**Teacher Tip:** If a child needs assistance, try the hand over hand technique by placing your hand over the child's hand to guide his or her movements. Always encourage artistic self-expression whenever possible.

#### **Directions:**

1. Each child receives a paper with the outline of a child and an adult in a classroom setting.
2. Color the adult as your teacher.
3. Color the child as yourself.
4. Place the cross wherever you choose, to show it is God's house.
5. Optional: Add pieces of cloth for clothing and yarn for hair.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **When Jesus grew older, He wanted to be in God's house. His parents found Him sitting with His teachers at God's house. What did Jesus do at there?** (He listened and asked questions, and gave answers.)
- **Where do we gather to sing and pray and learn about God?** (Church.) **What is another name for a church building?** (God's house or our heavenly Father's house.)
- **Who do you learn about when you listen to your teacher in church?** (God.)

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: HERE IS THE CHURCH**

**Purpose:** This simple, traditional child's hand game helps children begin to understand they are a part of a church community.

**Supplies:** None

**We call God's house the church. Who goes to church? If you go to church, raise your hand. Let's pretend to make a church building and then see who we find inside.**

### **Directions:**

Guide the children in the following hand motions.

1. Fold hands together, as in prayer, with fingers crossing each other. Turn fingers so they are hidden between the hands, still interlocked. Hold thumbs so thumb tips are touching. Say together: **"Here is the church."**
2. Point index fingers straight up and touch at the fingertips. Say together: **"Here is the steeple."**
3. Leaving the fingers interlocked, flip hands over and wiggle the interlocked fingers. Say together: **"Open the doors and see all the people."**
4. **Who is inside the church? (All the people.) We are the people inside the church!**

## **GAME: AT CHURCH I LIKE TO...**

**Purpose:** Children will share reasons they like to attend church.

**Supplies:** Soft ball for rolling

**Jesus sat and listened to the teachers. He called the temple His Father's house. Jesus' Father in heaven is God. Our Father in heaven is God, too! We call our church building our heavenly Father's house. When the ball rolls to you, tell us your favorite thing to do at church, your heavenly Father's house.**

### **Directions:**

1. Seat children on the floor in a circle.
2. Teacher rolls the ball to a child.
3. All children chant: **"Child's name, what do you like to do at church?"**
4. Child answers and rolls the ball to another child.
5. Continue playing until everyone has a turn.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: EAT AND GROW**

**Purpose:** Children will enjoy a healthy snack while they discuss growing taller and wiser.

**Snack Suggestion:** A healthy snack such as celery, carrots or fruit slices

### **Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.  
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.**  
**Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **Who remembers today's Whisper Verse?** "Jesus grew." Include hand motions.
  - **Today, we are eating a healthy snack to help us grow. The Bible says Jesus grew taller. Do you think you have grown taller?** (Children respond.) **What is your favorite food that helps you grow taller?**
  - **The Bible says Jesus grew wiser. That means He made good choices. One wise choice Jesus made was to obey His parents. We can make the wise choice to obey our parents and caregivers, too.**
  - **Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right, Ephesians 6:1."** Invite each child to say the verse with you.



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "I'm at Church" picture. Tell someone how Jesus went to listen to the teachers in God's house when He was growing up.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about your favorite thing about coming to church.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "Young Jesus at the Temple." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "Children, Obey Your Parents" as children color.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SAY & DO: LUKE 2:41-52**

**Purpose:** This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:** With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Jesus was born and He began to grow,** (Stretch arms wide.)
- **'Til one day when He was twelve years old** (Stand tall like a 12 year-old.)
- **He traveled with His parents to Jerusalem.** (Walk in place.)
- **But on the trip home they could not find Him.** (Searching pose.)
  
- **His mother and father looked high and low.** (Look up and down.)
- **They asked, "Where did Jesus go?"** (Palms up, shrugging shoulders.)
- **They found Him after a three-day search,** (Show 3 fingers.)
- **Talking with the teachers about God's Word.** (Open and read imaginary book.)
  
- **"Where've you been?" His mother frowned.** (Fold arms; make a frown.)
- **Jesus said, "Right here in My Father's house."** (Point to floor.)
- **And Jesus grew both wise and tall.** (Reach high.)
- **He was loved by God and liked by all.** (Hug self.)



### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Ephesians 6:1

### **GAME: JUMP TO OBEY**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** None

**Jesus obeyed His parents. He wants us to obey our parents and caregivers, too. That reminds me of our Bible Memory Verse. Let's learn it together.**

**Directions:**

1. Children stand in a line, shoulder-to-shoulder.
2. Teacher says the Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each word for children to repeat.
3. Each time they say a word, they jump forward one time.
4. Repeat until the Bible Memory Verse is completed. If you run out of space, turn around and jump back the other way.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: MOTHER, MAY I?**

**Purpose:** Children practice obeying their parents as instructed in the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** None

Jesus wants us to obey our parents. Let's play a game where we can practice obeying! In this game, you must remember to ask: "Mother, (or Father) may I?" or you cannot follow the instructions. Listen carefully because sometimes you will hear: "No, you may not." Then you must not move.

### **Directions:**

1. Children line up ten feet from the teacher who acts as "Mother" or "Father."
2. Mother or Father gives a simple instruction to a specific child. For example: "Michael, take one big step forward." (Instruction examples: Jump up and down, laugh out loud, flap your arms, run in place, sit on the floor, spin in a circle, etc.)
3. Child must first ask: "Mother (or Father), may I?" If Mother or Father says, "Yes, you may," the child follows the instruction. If Mother or Father says, "No, you may not," the child remains still.
4. Be sure each child has a turn following instructions.



## **STORY TIME**

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about gathering at God's house.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 1, Lesson 1: Jesus and His Father's House

**PONDER!** Read Luke 2:41-52 with your family. When Jesus was growing up, He went to the temple. He called it His Father's house. We, too, can call our church building "our Father's house," because the church belongs to our heavenly Father. Discuss your favorite thing about going to church.

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for showing us how to grow and learn at church. Help us to listen, ask questions, and learn more about You when we are at church. Amen."

**PLAY!** Create a church building shape by interlocking your ten fingers with fingertips next to the palms of your hands. Raise and connect tips of index fingers to form a steeple. Say, "Here is the church. Here is the steeple. Open the doors and see all the people!" Now wiggle all of your "finger people" inside your church building!

**Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse:** Ephesians 6:1

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."