

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



GROWING AS A CHILD OF GOD

Luke 2:41-52 Jesus in the Temple

Please refer to the Introduction document for more details

Please see the Introduction document and the COGS programme for leader's notes and further information/ideas.

Each child will need:

- Pens and paper
- A photo of themselves when they were a baby (or you could ask their parents to email one to you before the session begins)

Start It

Play a name game. Working around the group ask the first child to say their name and do an action. The next child repeats the first child's name and action, and then says their own name and does another action.

Each person after that says the names and does the actions of the other children in order before adding their own. For younger groups, you could leave out the actions.

Ask: What is the best thing about being a child?

Allow time for response and discussion.

Ask: What age are you most looking forward to being and why?

Allow time for response and discussion.

● **Say:** This month we are going to look at different Bible stories about children. We are going to learn that children are very special to God and that we all have a part to play in his big story. God thinks that children can make a big difference and he calls us all to serve him in our own unique way.

● **Say:** Today we are going to read the only story in the Bible about Jesus as a child.

Sometimes we forget that Jesus was human as well as God and that he grew from a baby to a child, like us. He worried his parents just as sometimes we've worried our parents or carers. He asked lots of questions and wanted to learn more, like us.

Sing It

Take a moment to marvel that God made us to be like him.

'Made in Your Image'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AC-KtJriw4>

Tell It

Before starting today's session, you will need to download the story and the notes in the format you prefer.

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-011-jesus-found>

There are three options to choose from:

1. View slideshow
2. Download the image set (PDF, PowerPoint, Keynote or JPEGs)
3. Story planner

🗨 **Say:** As I tell you today's Bible story, you can look at the pictures on the screen to help you imagine what was happening.

Share the screen and tell the story.

When you have read the last slide, say:

The teachers in the Temple were very impressed because of the things Jesus knew and understood about God. When he spoke, they listened, because he knew so much. When they spoke, he listened, because he wanted to learn more. Jesus grew physically, like you all do, but he also grew spiritually, which means knowing more about God. He was getting ready to fulfil the plan that God had for him.

Flick back to slide eight and leave the picture visible as you ask the following 'I wonder' questions:

- ➔ I wonder which part of the story you liked best.
- ➔ I wonder which picture interested you the most.
- ➔ I wonder which part of the story is the most important.
- ➔ I wonder how Jesus felt in God's house.
- ➔ I wonder how you would respond to Jesus' teaching.
- ➔ I wonder if Jesus, Mary and Joseph or the Temple teachers learnt more about God that day.

Action It

Ask the children to show their photos of themselves when they were a baby. Ask each child, one at a time, to tell you one thing that they know now, or that they can do now, that they didn't know or couldn't do when they were a baby.

Ask: Who helped Jesus to grow, and who helps us to grow?

Ask the children to write down on a piece of paper the names of all the people who help them grow, especially those who help them know more about Jesus. Keep the piece of paper ready for the prayer activity.

🗨 **Say:** Jesus asked the rabbis lots of questions to help him learn more about God. We too can grow in wisdom and knowledge by asking questions. What are the big questions you would like to ask God?

Share your whiteboard and show the children how to use the annotate function. Ask them to type their questions directly on to the whiteboard. Or you could use the chat function. Then allow time for discussion as needed. You don't have to answer the children's questions, but help them to consider who they could go to who may be able to answer the questions for them.

Pray It

Share screen with the following prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus into the world and that he grew up as a child just as I am growing.

Thank you for all the people who love me and who help me to know more about you.

Thank you especially for

Please help me to grow into the person that you want me to be.

Amen.

Read the prayer aloud first, and then ask everyone to read it again, out loud, with you. When you get to the blank space, ask everyone to say aloud the names that they wrote on their piece of paper earlier. Finish your prayer with a loud 'Amen'.

Explore It

Remember to share the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.