

# Adventures with GOD!

## LIFE IN NAZARETH (A.1.WINTER.11)

Biblical Reference	Luke 2:40, Matthew 2:19-23
Key Verse	Luke 2:40
Key Concept	As Jesus learned from his parents, I can learn from mine.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Name the tools that carpenters used during Jesus' time 2. Say the names of some of the jobs during Jesus' time 3. Comment on some of the differences between Jesus' life and their lives

### Life Application

Jesus was a child who obeyed his earthly parents. He probably learned how to be a carpenter from Joseph. He had to learn new things just like the children in your class. From Jesus' life as a child, they too can learn what it means to be obedient and have a good attitude as they learn new things.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Decoration	Hammer, strips of wood, nails, brush, tape measure	15 minutes
Bible Story	Illustrations, Bible	10 minutes
Craft – two options	Tooth picks, paper clips, rubber bands, card stock, scissors, paper, crayons	25 minutes
Song	Music, instruments	5 minutes
Bible Verse	Illustration	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

### Opening Prayer

Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle

**Prayer:** God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

**Decoration/preparation:** In preparation, transform part of the classroom into a carpenter's workshop. You can have a table with all of the tools mentioned on the previous page. When the children come in they can look at them and with your help touch them (you can also find toy tools and make those available). Invite a person from your congregation who is a carpenter or knows about carpentry to come to the class. This person could act the part of Joseph. He or she could pretend to teach the children in your class how to make something out of wood. Have the person name the different tools (the children can repeat the names) and show them what each of the tools does. The children will understand a little better what Jesus' life was like as a child.

**Bible Story:** Matthew 2:19-23 (Materials you will need: a box of wooden brushes, a jar of oil, some coins, a roll of sand paper, bread). It's very important to help the children understand that Jesus was a child like them. Today you will share with them the different aspects of his life and show them some of the things that Jesus probably saw in Nazareth. Here you will find a way to tell the story for today. Please study it well so you can tell it in your own words, without looking at the script. The focus is on Jesus, who like other children had to learn to obey, ask for forgiveness, etc.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, remember? But after he was born, his family had to go to another place called Egypt for a couple of years. He went there after he was presented in the temple in Jerusalem. His parents had learned from the wise men that King Herod wanted to kill Jesus. Then, Joseph had a dream. An angel told him to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt.

Joseph, Mary and Jesus were in Egypt for around 2 years. (The children can count to two, using their fingers). Jesus learned to talk and he grew bigger. When they returned to their own country, they went to a town called Nazareth. They didn't return to Bethlehem where Jesus had been born, but to Mary and Joseph's town. Even though Jesus had never lived there, he met many cousins and other family members that lived in Nazareth.

Joseph, Mary and Jesus lived in Nazareth. What do you see in this box? They are wood brushes. This is what you would find in a carpentry shop. Carpenters used this tool called a brush.

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They use it to make the wood smooth. Joseph worked in a carpenter's shop. He made tables and other furniture. Maybe he used a similar tool to make the wood smooth. You can touch them. Maybe there were brushes like this on the floor of his shop.

Jesus probably helped his father to sweep the shop. He would have had a lot of sweeping to do. Maybe when he was older, Joseph showed him how to use these tools too.

Jesus helped his mother Mary. Look at this jar of oil. Would you like to touch it? When Jesus was small he probably helped his mother with some of the household chores and in the kitchen. Maybe she said to him, "Jesus, please bring me the jar that's on the table." How would Jesus have answered? (Let them respond). Maybe he would have said, "Yes, mom." And how would Mary have responded? "Thank you!" Jesus probably was very careful when he took the jar off of the table to bring to his mother. However, it's possible that he might have spilled some from time to time, just like we sometimes spill things by accident.

I think Mary and Jesus probably went to the town well every day to get water. Maybe they had a clay jug of water to put the water in and take it back to their house. It wasn't an easy job.

The money on the table reminds us that Jesus went to worship in a synagogue. His parents taught him that he needed to give an offering to God. In the synagogue they listened and learned many things about God. They prayed and praised God telling God how much they loved God. They took coins to put in the offering. These coins were called "mites". We can also bring our offerings to church as we worship God, can't we?!

Jesus lived with his mother Mary and his father Joseph in Nazareth. He also played with friends. Jesus grew and each day got bigger and stronger.

**Craft:** In the following pages you will find two craft options

**Song:** Keep singing and learning the Bible verse in creative ways. Maybe, today as you practice the verse, take them over to the "synagogue" that you have built in the room. Have someone dress up in typical clothes (a robe and something like a towel wrapped around the head) and practice the verse. This person can represent the priests that helped people learn God's word in Jesus' time.

## **Closing Prayer**

Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

**Prayer:** Thank you God for loving us, Thank you God for sending your son Jesus into the world.

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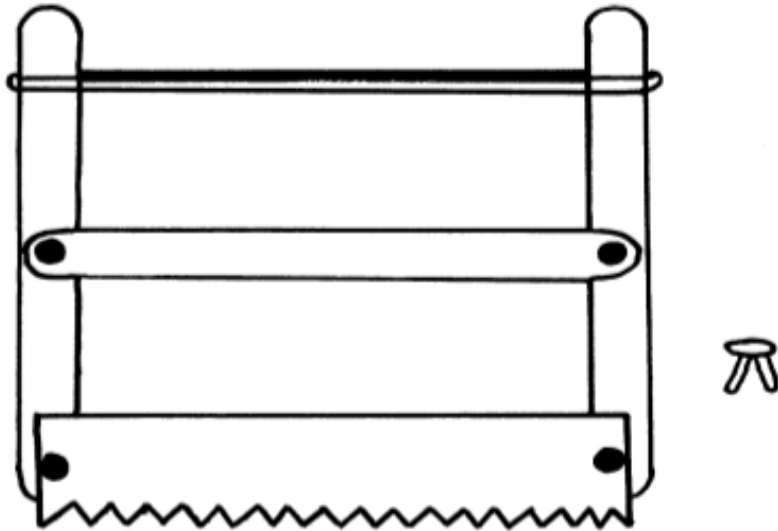
ILLUSTRATION



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## CRAFT

### A carpenter's saw



We know that Joseph was a carpenter. We also know that Jesus lived at his parents' house until he was an adult (30 years old). He probably helped Joseph in the workshop. Use this pattern to make a saw for the children.

Materials - 2 craft sticks/popsicle sticks (previous to the class, make holes in them with a drill or something similar), rubber bands, hole puncher, card stock, zig zag scissors, paper fastener

Instructions -

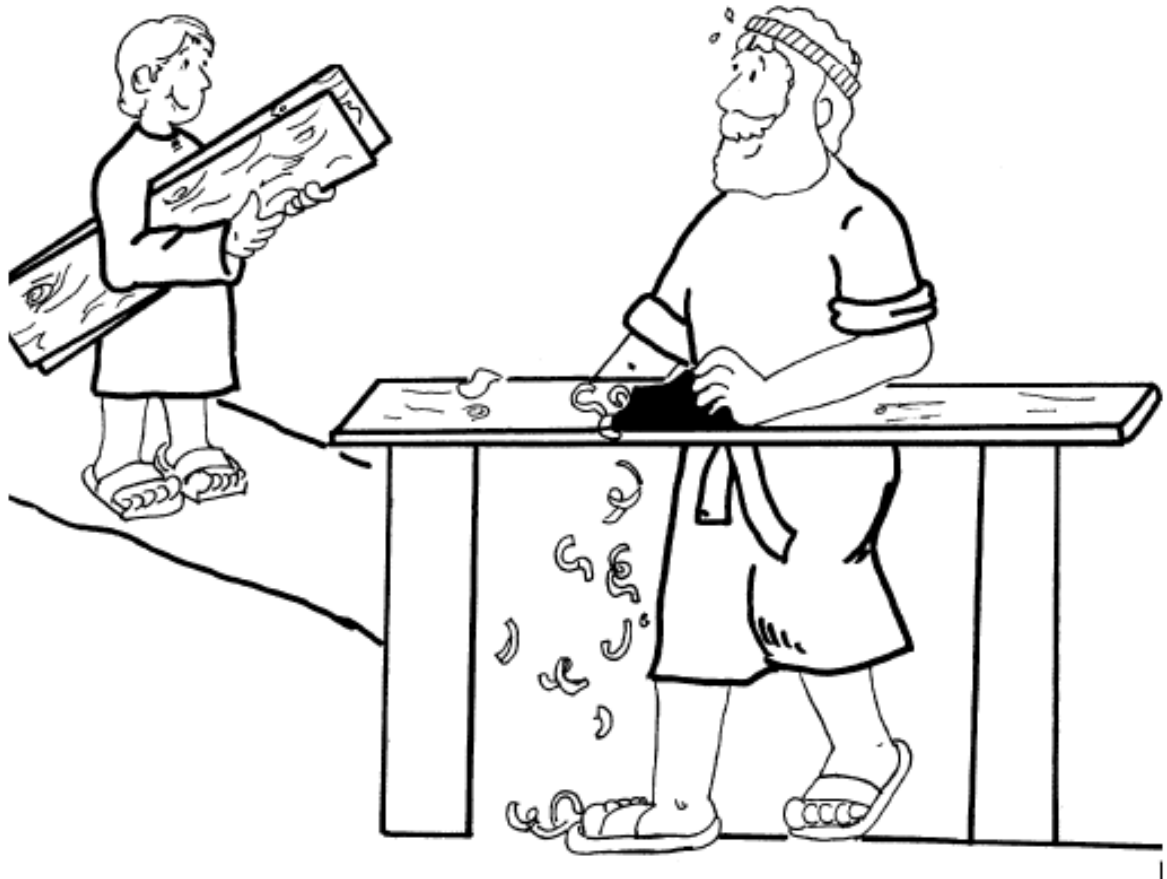
1. Make holes in one of the ends and the middle of two of the popsicle sticks. Make holes in the two ends of the other stick.
2. Using a fastener, connect the stick with two holes to the middle hole of each of the other sticks (see illustration).
3. Cut a strip of card stock, using a zig zag scissors, to make the teeth of the saw on one of the edges of the strip. Make holes in the two ends of the strip, and fasten it to the bottom of the two sticks.
4. Wrap a rubber band around the top of the sticks. This will help keep the sticks in place.

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## CRAFT

### Jesus helps Joseph

Jesus was a child like you. The Bible says that he obeyed God and his parents. Jesus wants to help you to obey God and your parents too. Jesus probably helped his mother in the house and Joseph in the workshop. How can you help your parents? Color the drawing. Glue scraps of wood on the floor of the workshop.



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ILLUSTRATION

