

Adventures with GOD!

LIFE IN NAZARETH (A.1.WINTER.9)

Biblical Reference	Luke 2:40
Key Verse	Luke 2:40
Key Concept	Even though Jesus was a child like me, his life was very different than mine.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe Jesus' family 2. Talk about the difference between life during the time Jesus lived and life today 3. Explain how Jesus grew

Life Application

In order to come to trust in Jesus, the children need to understand that he was a real person that lived in a country far away. His life was, in some ways, similar to the life of the children in your class. It was also very different in other ways. The focus of this lesson is on Jesus' life through childhood. It's important for children to understand that Jesus wasn't always a baby. They need to remember that he grew just as they are growing.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Decoration		5 minutes
Activity	A big cardboard box, things typical in a house in Nazareth	10 minutes
Bible Story	Illustrations, Bible	10 minutes
Craft	Modeling clay	15 minutes
Prayer, Song	Music, instruments	5 minutes
Bible Verse	Illustration	5 minutes
Craft	Poster board, figures crayons, markers	15 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

Adventures with GOD!

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: During the next three weeks the lessons will focus on the life of Jesus in the town of Nazareth. The Bible doesn't tell us a lot about Jesus' life as a child. What we know are general things, like the way a typical house looked, the typical food and clothes. Even though Jesus was born into poverty and had to flee to Egypt where he lived as a foreigner, it's possible that in Nazareth Joseph was a man of certain importance. He was a professional - a carpenter. It's possible that they lived well. Possibly some of Jesus' cousins lived with him. We know that extended families shared many things in common. Jesus was not an only child. He had to share what he had with his siblings and cousins.

In order to understand the differences between the life of Jesus and our lives today, it could be a good idea to find a big cardboard box and convert it into a "typical" house of Jesus' time. You can take off one whole side and make it an open house so the kids can see inside and play inside. Get a straw rug to put inside on the floor. You can get baskets and clay bowls or pots to have as decorations. It would be good to hang a basket on the wall. Use your imagination as you try to decorate and give the ideas a slight idea of the type of house Jesus might have lived in. Another idea if you can't get a big cardboard box is to make a corner of the room a "house". Mark the walls of the house on the floor using masking tape.

If it's not possible to make a big version of the house consider making a small version out of a shoe box. Take off the lid so that the children can pass it around and see inside. Paint it brown and leave it empty. The children can put small things in the house to decorate it (out of clay/play doh)

In addition to this, hang up three large pieces of paper on one of the walls (see the illustration in this lesson). With these illustrations they will see how Jesus grew from a baby to a boy. You could also hang up more paper and use a measuring tape to measure the children in your class, and even some adult helpers if you have them.

Adventures with GOD!

Activity: If you have a “big” house, give the kids time to go and play in it. If you have a small house the children can make pots, baskets, chairs, tables out of play-doh. You can find illustrations as well that will help you talk about the different objects that would have been found in a house of this time period.

Bible Story: (Luke 2:40) During the story, emphasize the fact that Jesus grew up. You can ask a mother with a small child to help you. You could measure the small child on the paper strips you have hanging on the wall. Then, measure each of the children in your class, writing down their age and name. Talk to them about how Jesus grew from a baby, to a toddler, to a boy, to a young person and finally an adult. It would be good to have someone measure you so the children can see the difference between a child’s height and an adult’s.

Craft: Each child can make something to put in the house that is in your classroom. Using clay or drawing illustrations, make jars, baskets, etc. Also, make the craft that is found in this lesson to see how Jesus grew. Keep repeating the Bible verse during the next couple of weeks.

Prayer and Song: Find a song that maybe would talk about Jesus growing, or a song that a child living in Jesus’ time would have sung (a Psalm for example). Help them to thank God that Jesus grew and they are growing.

Bible Verse: Use the same verse for the next couple of weeks. Make your own illustration to help the children learn the verse.

Craft: The children can make a craft that’s included in this lesson that helps them remember how Jesus grew into a boy. The illustrations are found in the lesson. You can also find other craft ideas that you can use if you want to and if there is 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

Jesus as a boy

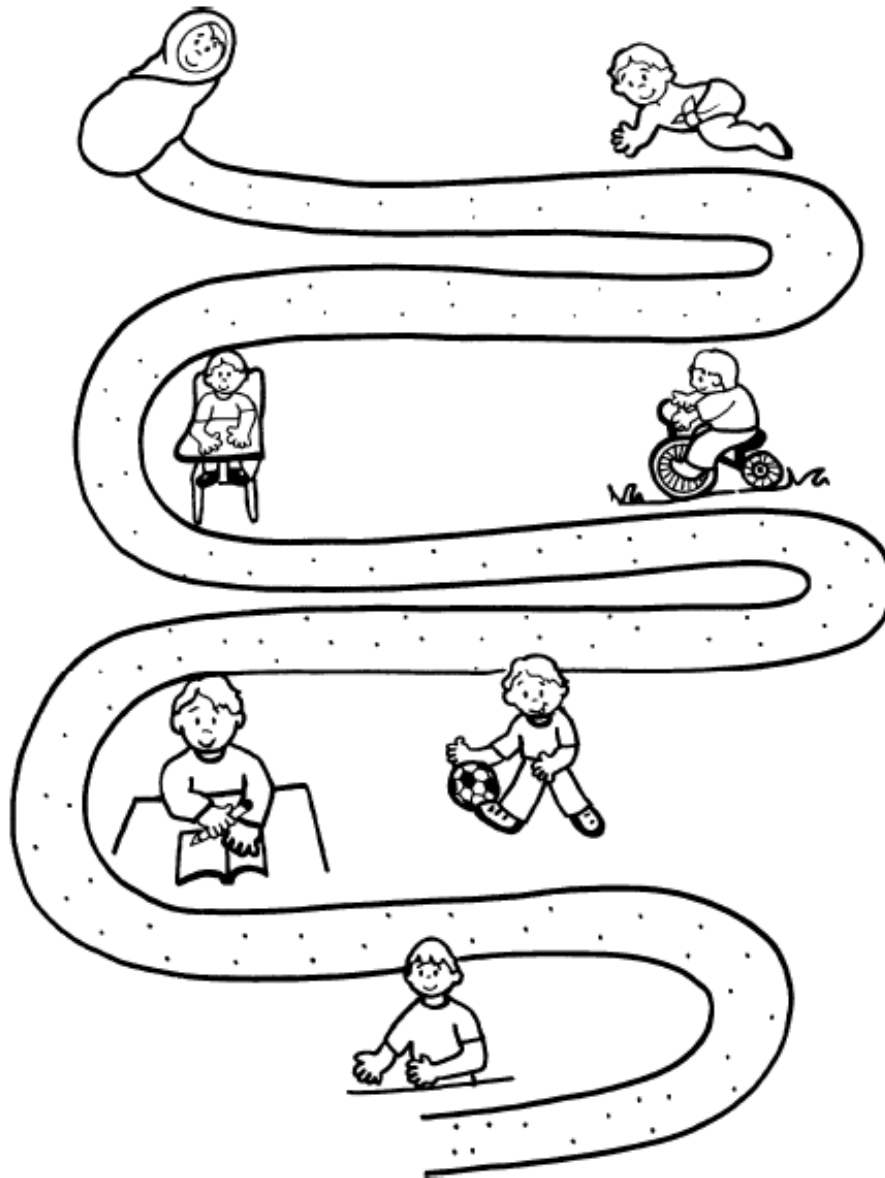


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CRAFT

Jesus was a baby, but he grew. You were a baby too, but you are growing so fast. Now you are much bigger than you were when you were born. Soon you will be even bigger still; ready to do lots of new things.

Follow the path and observe how a person grows. Then you can color the pictures.



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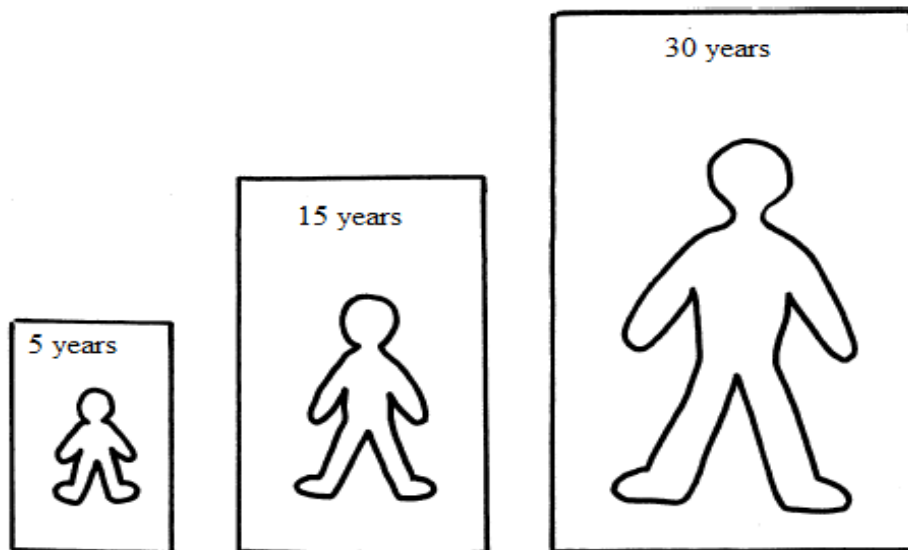
ILLUSTRATION

Jesus grows up

Materials - Three large sheets of white paper (make sure all three are different lengths), markers, crayons, tape.

Instructions -

1. Cut the paper in three different lengths and hang them on the wall.
2. Write on the top of each sheet a different age (for example, 3 years, 5 years, 15 years)
3. Trace the form of one of the children (that's 3 years old) on the smallest size paper.
4. Trace the form of one of the children (that's five years old) in the middle size paper.
5. Trace the figure of a youth (or adult) on the biggest piece of paper.
6. Divide the children into 3 groups and each group can color and decorate one of the illustrations.



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CRAFT

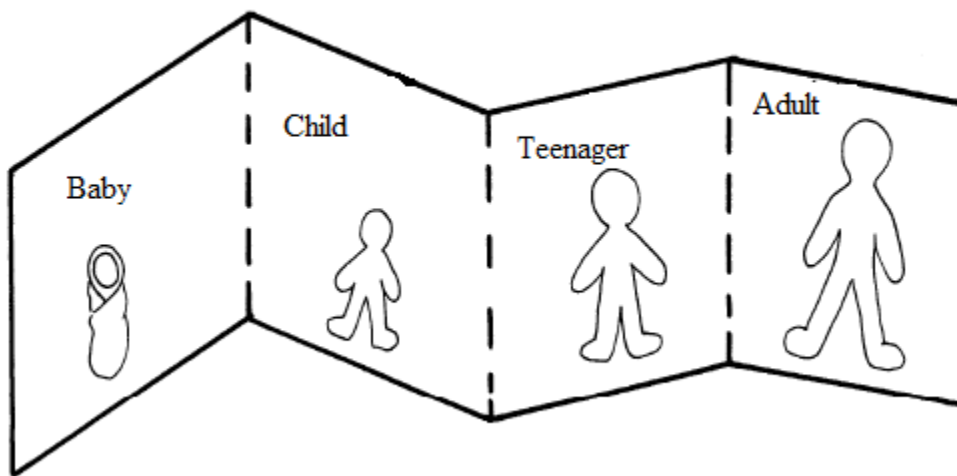
How Jesus Grew

It's important to help the small children understand that Jesus didn't stay a baby. Jesus grew into a boy and then into an adult. This craft will help them with this concept. It's a good idea to have one already made up as an example to show them.

Materials - Long strips of paper (30 x 12 cm), figures cut out of poster board or cardboard, crayons, colored paper, markers, pencils

Instructions -

1. Cut a long strip of paper for each child and then fold it twice (make four pages).
2. On the front of the booklet write "Jesus".
3. On the first "page" trace the figure of a baby and write "Baby" above.
4. On the second "page" trace the figure of a child and write "Child" above.
5. On the third page trace the figure of a young person (teenager) and write "Teenager" above.
6. On the last page trace the figure of an adult and write "Adult" above.



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ILLUSTRATION

Measurement

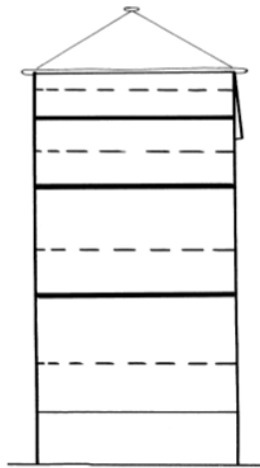
Hang on the wall, a sheet of paper that measures 2 meters long by 50 cm wide, make sure the lower edge is touching the ground.

Measure a baby (or a baby doll) from the floor to the head. Draw a line indicating the height and write “40 days” (to remind children of how old Jesus was when he was presented to God in the temple). Then measure a 5 year old child. Draw the line indicating their height and write “5 years old”. This helps get them thinking about the growth we experience, but also the growth Jesus experienced.

Next week you can measure a 9 year old and draw a line and write “9 years old.” Think about the things that a child this age would have done during the time that Jesus lived. When you tell the story about Jesus’ trip to the temple in Jerusalem, measure a 12 year old, draw the line and write “12 years old.” They can relate that line with how old Jesus was when he went to the temple.

At the end of the trimester, add another line that is almost 2 meters long, draw another line and write “30 years old.” You can always save this sheet of paper and use it again for another trimester when you talk about Jesus’ ministry as an adult.

This is just one easy way to help children visualize how Jesus changed from a baby to a boy to an adult.



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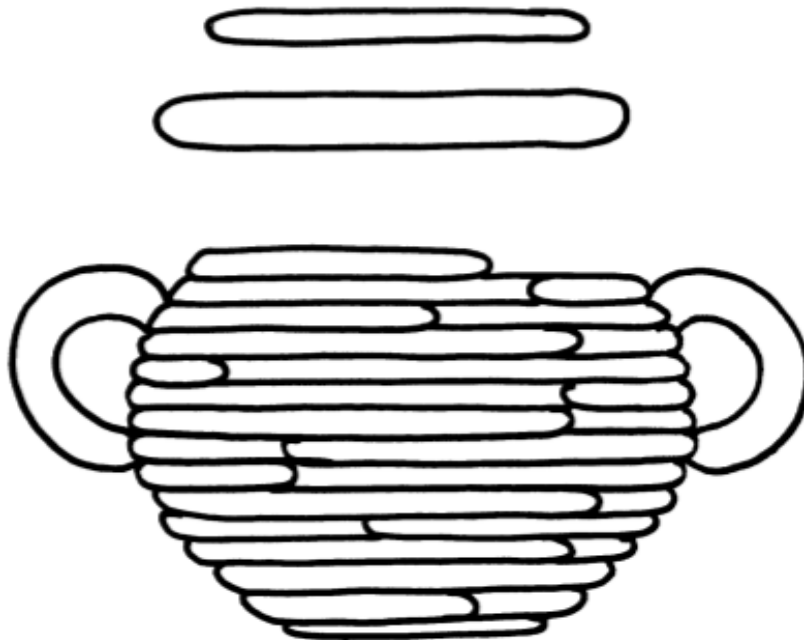
CRAFT

Jars and pots made out of clay

Materials - modeling clay, play-doh, wax paper, water in a bowl, paper towels

Instructions -

1. Put the modeling clay or play-doh on the wax paper. Make a “snake” by rolling out the clay with your hands.
2. Start winding the long “snake” in the form of a circle to make the base of the pot.
3. Keep winding it up to make the sides of the jar or pot.
4. You probably have to keep wetting the modeling clay as you work with it. Make sure to put some pressure on the clay as you continue to mold it and wind it. When it’s dry you can paint it or leave it like it is.



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CRAFT

Christmas cards

Materials - popsicle/craft sticks, stars cut out of yellow paper, tempera paint, card stock, glue, tooth picks, paint brushes.

Instructions -

1. Put four popsicle/craft sticks together (figure 1).
2. Break a stick in half and glue both halves to the back side of the four sticks (figure 1).
3. On the other side, glue a star (that's already been cut out) (figure 2).
4. Use tooth picks to make a manger - gluing them to the popsicle sticks (figure 2).
5. Take a piece of card stock and fold it in two. Take the popsicle stick pattern and with a small brush, paint the star and the manger. Use it like a stamp to imprint the image on the front of the card.

