

Adventures with GOD!

JOSEPH, AN OBEDIENT MAN (B.3.SPRING.5)

Biblical Reference	Luke 2:1-7, 21-24, 39-52
Key Verse	Luke 2:52
Key Concept	Joseph showed obedience to God, and like Joseph, Jesus also learned to obey his earthly parents and his heavenly father.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Act out the different situations where Joseph obeyed God 2. Explain how we see Jesus' obedience to his parents 3. Memorize the Key Verse

Life Application

Jesus grew from a baby to a boy. Joseph, his earthly father, was a man who obeyed God and set an example for Jesus to follow. Jesus learned to obey his earthly parents just like any regular kid, and also learned how to obey God, his heavenly father.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	Scale or tape measure	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, time machine	10 minutes
Key Verse		5 minutes
Craft	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the 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.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, loving us, forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

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

Bible Reading: Explain that we read the Bible first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Luke 2:1-7 two times and ask children to respond.

Question Examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

Introduction: Before class, find a scale or a measuring tape. On the board or a big sheet of paper, write down an average size and weight of a baby when born. Next, ask for a volunteer who wants to be weighed and measured as a comparison to show how much a child grows from when he/she was a baby. Ask another volunteer to take notes. The idea is to get children talking about what it means to grow from a baby to a child. The Bible Exploration today will follow the story of Joseph, an obedient father, and Jesus, the boy who grew from a baby to a child and learned to be obedient both to his earthly parents and to God. To prepare, read Luke 2:41-52 together.

Bible Exploration: You can either use the time machine this week, or paraphrase the story of Joseph taking Jesus to the temple twice in Luke 2. A sample dialogue is found on page 5 if you



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choose to have someone act out the part of Joseph. Reflect on the different ways that Joseph obeyed God. How did he set an example for Jesus? What does the Bible tell us about how Jesus responded as a child? After the Bible Exploration, add an illustration to the mural the children have been working on over the past few weeks.

Key Verse: Tape together several pieces of colored paper. Write out the Key Verse on the side that is not taped together. Then, fold the pieces of colored paper up like an accordion. Slowly unfold the paper accordion and have children recite the Key Verse together. Next, invite a volunteer to fold over one of the flaps of paper to hide some of the text. Repeat the Key Verse together. Invite another volunteer to fold the paper again, hiding more text. Repeat until the whole Key Verse is folded up and the children are reciting it by memory. Ask children what they understand the verse to mean.

Craft: Provide large sheets of paper, pens and markers. Divide the group into pairs, and have one of the children in the pair lie on the paper. The other partner will trace the silhouette of the person lying down (take turns for the other child in the pair). Once all of the silhouettes are traced, provide materials for children to decorate their silhouettes. Ask children to share what they like about being their age and what they've learned from the example of Joseph and Jesus about obeying God and their parents.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?



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Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, the candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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BIBLE EXPLORATION

Questions for Joseph

Joseph – Mary! Mary! I’ve got great news the awful ruler Herod is dead. Oh wait, you aren’t Mary. So sorry. I was so excited about the news that I must have run into the wrong house. Egypt is still a bit of a new place for me.

Question #1 – No, it’s ok. You aren’t in Egypt. You are in _____. But, tell us, why are you so excited that King Herod died? That doesn’t seem like something to be celebrating.

Joseph – I’m sorry if I came across cruel. It’s actually King Herod that was cruel. You know that he was going to kill our child. If God hadn’t warned me through a dream what was going to happen, so that we would escape to Egypt, our child would have been killed like the others in Bethlehem.

Question #2 – Why would someone do that? What did he have against babies?

Joseph – It wasn’t just any baby King Herod didn’t like. It was our baby. Well, I’m actually just his earthly father. I’ll tell you a secret, I’m on a special mission from God. And the baby that I’m helping to raise is actually the son of God. Have you heard about Jesus?

Question #3 – Yes, we’ve heard of Jesus. Why would God choose you to be his earthly father?

Joseph – I’ve asked myself the same question. I mean I’m not the most attractive person, or the smartest person. I’m not a government official or a rich person. I’m a carpenter. I work with wood and nails. I don’t make a lot of money.

Question #4 – Then how did you get to Egypt?



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Joseph – It was by God’s grace that the baby had a place to be born. I obeyed God and the government authorities by marrying Mary taking her with me to Bethlehem for the census. We didn’t even have a place to stay when Jesus was born, but God provided. And when we had to flee to Egypt, God provided a way for that to happen.

Question #5 – That still doesn’t answer the question as to why God chose you.

Joseph – You are right. I mean I’m not a dynamic leader, but I am a good follower. I am good at following directions. I guess you could call me obedient. I learned everything I know about carpentry from my father. I also learned to obey God from my father. I wanted to be that same example for Jesus. Maybe that’s why God chose me. God knew that I loved God and wanted to obey God. God knew that I would love and care for Jesus as my own son and would try to give him a good example to follow.

Question #6 – And did Jesus follow your example?

Joseph – I believe so, yes. Jesus was always one to love God and others. Even from the time he was a little boy and we took him to the temple, Jesus wanted to obey God and learn more about God.

Well, it has been good talking to you all, but I need to go. I still have a mission to accomplish. I need to get my family back home. It’s time for us to leave Egypt.