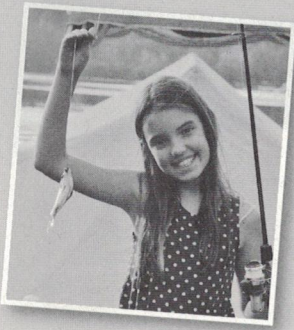


Jesus' Childhood

Lesson 2












Scripture: Luke 2:1-7, 40-52
Bible Memory: Colossians 1:10
Focus: ♥ Please God.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

As a teacher you know that you can often learn from your students. But you've never had a student like Jesus—and neither had the teachers in the temple! Don't you wonder what they thought about the young man with so much knowledge? And don't you really wonder what Mary and Joseph thought about Jesus after this event? As you help your students realize that Jesus grew in all the ways that they need to grow, continue to grow yourself. May you and your students grow to ♥ please God more every day.

Lesson 2 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>identify actions and choices that please God.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Glad Libs</p> <p> Option Bag of Props</p>	<p>Immerse Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glad Libs reproducible page 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencil • large bag filled with props (see activity)
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>examine the events of Jesus' childhood.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration Luke 2:1-7, 40-52</p> <p> Bible Memory Colossians 1:10</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible time lines from fall and winter quarters, <i>Resources</i> sheet 2, <i>Resources</i> CD Jesus' Childhood Story printable file, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 2 • <i>Resources</i> sheet 4 • <i>Resources</i> CD Optional Bible Skills 2 and Optional Bible Library printable files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils • Bibles, soft ball • whiteboard, dry-erase markers
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>understand why it's important to please God.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Pleasing God, Part 1</p> <p> Option Pleasing the King</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles • Bibles
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>plan to please God.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Pleasing God, Part 2</p> <p> Option Making a Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils, colored pencils • index cards, pencils

Focus In (10–15 minutes)

Focus

♥ Please God.

- 1** Use one or more of these activities to help students **identify actions and choices that please God.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing the additional activities on the unit page or *Resources* CD Extra-Time Activities.

Quick Step Glad Libs

Tell kids that you've got a couple of Glad Libs (like Mad Libs™) you need their help with. Kids love to help create these funny stories! Ask kids to suggest words needed for situation #1. You can let each kid have a turn to suggest a word, or let volunteers suggest words. Then read situation #1 or have a volunteer read it, inserting the suggested words. Do the same for situation #2.

ASK: What were some of the choices Ethan and Isabella made? How do you choose what to do each day? What are some actions you do and choices you make that please God?

SAY: Sometimes it seems pretty easy to please God. Other times it seems kind of hard. Let's keep thinking about how we can ♥ please God.

Option Bag of Props

Have kids gather in a circle. **SAY: In this bag are all kinds of props. You will reach in and take one. Think about how you could use the prop to do or say something that would ♥ please God.** Give kids an example. Hold up your phone. **I could use my phone to ♥ please God by calling my elderly neighbor, asking if I could visit her or do something for her.** Pass the bag to a student. Be sure that all students who want to participate have the opportunity. Encourage kids to name things they can actually do.

ASK: How do you know that the ideas you came up with would ♥ please God? (The Bible tells us that God wants us to be kind. I know God wants me to obey my parents and help them.)

What number between 1 and 10, with 10 being the highest, describes how often your actions and choices ♥ please God? What can help you make choices that ♥ please God?

SAY: Sometimes it seems pretty easy to please God. Other times it seems kind of hard. Let's keep thinking about how we can ♥ please God.

Materials

Glad Libs reproducible page, pencil



Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. Reproducible pages are also provided on the *Resources* CD.

Teaching Tip

Continue to display the poster for the quarter (*Resources* sheet 1).

Materials

large bag filled with props (at least 1 per student—such as a food item, stuffed animal, Bible, pencil, dustcloth, video game, soccer ball, book, money, mobile phone)



Teaching Tip

If you have time, put the items back in the bag. Pass it again, letting kids suggest other ways of using the props to please God.



Give kids a choice between watching and playing; some kids may be anxious about “performing,” and others might have sensory sensitivities and prefer not to touch the props.

them hold the name signs or attach them onto their shirts. When they're finished, thank them for their participation.

Distribute the leaflets and pencils and have kids look at the Who Said It? activity. Have volunteers read each sentence and tell who said it. (1=Caesar Augustus; 2=Joseph; 3=Mary; 4=Jesus; 5=Teachers; 6=Mary; 7=Jesus; 8=Joseph; 9=Jesus)

ASK: What do you think was the tone in Mary's and Joseph's voices when they finally found Jesus? (upset, worried)

What do you find surprising about Jesus from this event in His life?

(that He asked the teachers questions, that He needed to grow in wisdom, that He needed to grow in pleasing God and people)

What do you think helped Jesus to grow in wisdom and to grow in pleasing God and people? (studying the Scriptures, praying to His heavenly Father, listening and learning from His parents and teachers)

SAY: Jesus pleased God when He obeyed Mary and Joseph. He pleased God when He did things that helped Him grow in wisdom. It must have been important to Jesus to ♥ please God. Let's discover why it was so important for Jesus and why it's important for us to ♥ please God too.

Bible Memory Colossians 1:10

"Live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."

Continue to display the Colossians 1:10 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Have kids turn in their Bibles to Colossians 1:10, and have a volunteer read it aloud. **SAY: The writer of the book of Colossians, the apostle Paul, encourages us to ♥ please God by living a life that honors Him, which includes doing good things.**

Ask kids to stand in a circle. Hold the ball. **SAY: As we pass the ball around the circle, let's say the memory verse together. When I say "freeze," everyone should freeze. The person holding the ball names a good thing she can do. When I say "unfreeze," start passing the ball again. Everyone will start saying the memory verse again, from the beginning.** Continue as time permits.

SAY: Pleasing God—that's what it's all about for Christians! When we do good things, we're sure to ♥ please God.

Materials

Bibles, *Resources* sheet 4, soft ball (or beanbag)



Game

Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the *Resources* CD Optional Bible Skills 2 printable file.



Focus

♥ Please God.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **examine the events of Jesus' childhood.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Caesar Augustus, the great-nephew of Julius Caesar, was born in 63 BC and ruled from 30 BC through AD 14. The expansive Roman Empire issued a royal order: all were to be registered (a census assessment for taxation). Because of this decree, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, and in doing so, a 700-year-old prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

When Jesus was 12 years old He traveled with His family on the yearly worship sojourn to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. All Jewish males were required to attend three feasts during the year—Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles (Exodus 23:14-17). The Feast of Passover was a remembrance of the Lord's passing over the firstborn in the homes of the Israelites when all the firstborn of the Egyptians were slain (Exodus 11, 12).

Jesus stayed in Jerusalem while His family left for home, unknowingly without Him. Since families and friends traveled in large caravans, some have suggested that the women and smaller children went ahead, followed by the men and older boys. Joseph and Mary may have each thought that Jesus was with the other. While Mary and Joseph were searching for Jesus, Jesus was searching and probing the minds of Jewish teachers. Jesus, even at this early age, was living to ♥ please God and growing and accepting His purpose. Jesus would later say that His food was "to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work" (John 4:34).

Materials

Bible time lines from the fall and winter quarters displayed on a wall or bulletin board (see Bible Exploration in lesson 1), *Resources* sheet 2 Bible time lines, Bibles, copies of *Resources* CD Jesus' Childhood Story printable file, *Activities* for lesson 2, pencils



Note

The Scripture text is provided on the *Resources* CD in both the *New International Version* and the *King James Version*, if you want kids to read from the same Bible version.

Bible Exploration Luke 2:1-7, 40-52

ASK: What have we been learning about history? (It's *His* story. It's God's story.)

Refer to the four Bible time lines from the fall and winter quarters. **SAY: All these events are part of history—His story, God's story. Through all these events, God had a plan, and that plan was preparing for salvation. This is where we pick up God's story.** Draw kids' attention to the new Bible time line. Ask a volunteer to tell about last week's Bible story, the birth of John. Ask kids to look at the table of contents in their Bibles (print or digital) and find the book of Luke.

ASK: When the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are referred to as a group of books, what are they called? (the Gospels)
What's special about this group of books? (They all tell about Jesus.)

Have kids turn to Luke 2. Have volunteers read verses 1-7 aloud. **SAY: Before Jesus was born, God was preparing for salvation. When Jesus was born, God sent salvation!** Refer to the words along the bottom of the Bible time line. **Let's find out more!**

Choose four or more confident readers. If you have a small class, let volunteers read more than one of the stories. Give each reader a copy of Jesus' Childhood Story. Two will read Mary and Joseph's story, one will read Jesus' story, and one or more will read the teachers' story. Let

Make It Real (10-15 minutes)

Focus

♥ Please God.

3 Use one of these activities to help students **understand why it's important to please God.**

Materials

Activities for lesson 2,
Bibles



Note

The rest of Pleasing God will be done in the Live It Out *Quick Step* activity.



Both Make It Real activities could work very

well with a variety of learners. If your class has students who are more concrete thinkers, the *Quick Step* activity would be preferred.

Quick Step Pleasing God, Part 1

Ask kids to turn in their leaflets to the Pleasing God activity. Ask volunteers to read each situation aloud. Then ask half the kids to turn in their Bibles to Matthew 5:14-16, and the other half to turn to 1 John 4:19-21. Have volunteers read those verses aloud.

ASK: Why do you think these kids cared about pleasing God? Or why does any follower of God try to please Him? (so others will glorify God, to show how much we love God, to thank God for everything He's done for us)

Ask for volunteers who would like to act out some other situations that show someone pleasing God. Be prepared to give the volunteers ideas as needed. (Examples: letting a sister have the last piece of pie, helping dad with lawn work instead of watching TV, letting a friend choose which video game to play)

ASK: Why would you choose to ♥ please God?

SAY: When you realize how much God has done for you, you'll want to show Him how much you love Him. You'll want to ♥ please God.

Option Pleasing the King

SAY: Let's pretend that we live in a kingdom ruled by a wonderful king and queen. They do everything they can to care for all the citizens of the kingdom. They love everyone, and everyone loves them. Have students get into pairs. **One person in each pair will be the "pleaser."** **Who would like to be the pleasers?** If kids are reluctant to volunteer, you can choose who will be the pleasers. **The other person in each pair will be the pretend king or queen we've been talking about. For the next two minutes, the pleasers are to do their best to please the king or queen.** Tell kids that you'll be watching to see who does the best job. After two minutes, tell the class what you observed. If you have time, reverse roles.

ASK: Why did you citizens want to please the king and queen? (to thank them for all they've done, to show we love them like they love us)

Ask half the kids to turn in their Bibles to Matthew 5:14-16, and the other half to turn to 1 John 4:19-21. Have volunteers read those verses aloud.

ASK: Why would we, as citizens of God's kingdom, want to please Him? (to thank God for all He does for us, to show how much we love Him)

Why would you choose to ♥ please God?

SAY: God, the heavenly King of kings, deserves more than any earthly king or queen. When you realize how much God has done for you, you'll want to show Him how much you love Him. You'll want to ♥ please God.

Materials

Bibles



Teaching Tip

If one student doesn't have a partner, you can participate!

Live It Out (10 minutes)

Focus

♥ Please God.

4 Use one of these activities to help students **plan to please God**.

Quick Step Pleasing God, Part 2



ASK: **How about you? Do you want to ♥ please God?**

Have students look at the empty box in the Pleasing God activity in their leaflets. Encourage kids to draw or write in half the box something they could do today that will ♥ please God. In the other half they can draw or write something they can do this week that will ♥ please God. As they work, remind them that they don't have to do huge good deeds to ♥ please God. There are lots of good things they can do every day that are pleasing to God. When kids are done, let them share what they drew or wrote.

Have kids gather for a time of prayer. Encourage them to follow through with the good things they plan on doing that will ♥ please God. Lead the kids in personally praying parts of Matthew 5:14-16 and 1 John 4:19-21. Tell kids that you'll pray aloud and then pause as they pray the same thing silently. **PRAY: Dear God, thank You for making me a light in this world. Pause. Help me to do good things (pause) so people will give You the glory. Pause. Because You first loved me, I'll love others. Pause. Help me to always please You. Pause. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Option Making a Plan

Distribute index cards and pencils. SAY: **Think about five things you have at home that you could use in some way to ♥ please God. List those five things down the left side of the index card. Next to each thing, write at least one idea of how you can use that to ♥ please God.** As kids work, remind them that they don't have to do huge good deeds to ♥ please God. There are lots of good things they can do every day that are pleasing to God. When kids are done, let volunteers share their plans.

Have kids gather for prayer. Encourage them to follow through on doing lots of good things this week to ♥ please God. SAY: **One thing that pleases God is when we pray to Him. He loves it when we talk to Him!** Have several volunteers pray aloud. Encourage all kids to pray silently with those who are praying aloud.

Materials

Activities for lesson 2,
pencils, colored pencils



Materials

index cards, pencils



Something More!

Have volunteers read aloud Did You Know? from their activity leaflets. Encourage students to try at least three of these, if not all of them!

Kidz Chat

Give each student a *Kidz Chat* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.

