

City LG—July 31st-August 2nd, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Grow as We Go (Jesus Grows in Wisdom) • Luke 2:41-52

Today's Bottom Line: Wisdom is worth searching for.

Monthly Memory Verse: *If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault.* James 1:5 (NIRV)

WORSHIP: Chasing Me and Shine a Light

"Hey, everybody! All month long, we're on a search for wisdom. We're here to **find out what we should do, and do it!**

CG: Wisdom SLIDE

Supplies Needed: 10 Ball Pit Balls (per Campus), Nazareth Sign, and Jerusalem Sign

"If we want to find out how we can live every day with God's wisdom, it makes sense that we start with the wisest person who ever lived: Jesus. Jesus is God's Son, but even HE grew in wisdom!

"I'm guessing a lot of you have already heard the story about when Jesus was born. That's what we celebrate in December at a holiday called . . . *(pause for response)*. Right! Christmas. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in a place where animals stayed. The angels told the shepherds the good news that the Savior had been born. If I asked, maybe some of you could even tell me the story because you know it so well.

"But it's kind of interesting, because we don't know as much about the early years of Jesus' life and how He grew up. I'm talking about the things that happened in the time between when He was a baby and a grown-up—when He was a kid, just a little older than you! We do know one story, though, from when Jesus was a boy. *(Hold up Bible.)* This story shows us just how important wisdom really is."

Move to wherever your character balls are hidden, so you can bring them out as you tell the story.

"Here's Jesus. *(Bring out the ball you've chosen as the Jesus ball.)* And here are His parents, Mary and Joseph. *(Hold up the Mary and Joseph balls you've chosen.)* They're living here in the town of Nazareth.

Bring the three balls over to the side of the stage (or side of the room) with the Nazareth sign.

"Every year, Jesus *(hold up the Jesus ball)* and His parents *(hold up the Mary and Joseph balls)* would travel to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast.

Point across the stage/area to the Jerusalem sign.

"When Jesus was 12 years old, they traveled to attend the feast as usual. But the three of them would not have traveled alone. They would have been joined by family and friends who made the trip, too.

Bring out the remaining balls, representing the family and friends who would have traveled with them.

"Let's go, everyone. To Jerusalem!"

Gather all the balls in one bunch and make them "travel" across to the Jerusalem side.

“All week, the family celebrated the Passover Feast with their relatives in Jerusalem. They would have celebrated with music and dancing! (*Make the balls ‘dance around’ a little.*) They praised God as they remembered how He had rescued His people from Egypt, long ago.

“When the feast was over, Mary and Joseph began the trip home.

Make the Mary and Joseph balls travel about halfway back to the Nazareth side. Make the rest of the friends and family follow them, but leave the Jesus ball in Jerusalem. Keep Mary and Joseph separate from the other balls so that it’s easy for the kids to follow the action.

“Nobody noticed that Jesus had stayed behind in Jerusalem. After a long day of traveling, Mary and Joseph began to look for Jesus among their relatives and friends, but they couldn’t find him anywhere!”

Make the Mary and Joseph balloons circle around the other balls. Ad-lib “Have you seen Him?” etc.

“This was a problem! Let’s take a look at this week’s video to find out what happened next!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 5:00)

“Jesus returned to Nazareth with His parents.

Move the Jesus, Mary, and Joseph balls all the way back to Nazareth. Then gather up the friends and family balls and take them to Nazareth as well.

“Jesus obeyed everything His parents asked of him. And that’s not all.

Bring the Jesus ball out in front. Open the Bible to Luke 2:52 (NIV) and read.

“Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.

“Jesus was spending time in the temple because He knew it was important to search for wisdom—to ask questions and listen to the teachers. He knew it was important to grow in wisdom as He got older.

“We can grow in wisdom just like Jesus did. You know why?”

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Wisdom is worth searching for.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us learn and grow in wisdom.”

PRAY: “God, thank You so much for this story about Jesus. It’s so cool to know that Jesus searched for wisdom! We know that Your wisdom is always worth searching for. Help us search for wisdom like Jesus did, and to keep growing in wisdom every day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“Wow. It’s amazing to think that Jesus, the Son of God, took time to grow in wisdom. He was in the temple, asking questions and listening to the teachers. The teachers were impressed with how much Jesus knew as well!

“It’s important for us to grow in wisdom, just like Jesus did. We need to find God’s wisdom and put it into practice. We need to find out what we should do, and do it!

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Wisdom is worth searching for.

“God’s wisdom is a treasure. It can help us make all kinds of important choices in life. **[Basic Truth] We can trust God no matter what**—and we can put His wisdom into practice as we make choices every day.

“So how can we grow in wisdom? We can search for wisdom as we read God’s Word, the Bible. We can talk with other people who follow God—like our church leaders and people in our family. We can ask good questions! And we can always talk to God and ask Him for the wisdom we need.

“That’s what our memory verse is about for this month. It’s James 1:5. Check it out.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn’t find fault, James 1:5. (NirV)

“Isn’t that amazing? We can ask God for wisdom, and He’ll give it to us! Before we head to Small Group and talk some more about how we can search for wisdom, it’s offering time!”

OFFERING:

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here’s a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering, you can bring it up now while we dismiss to Small Groups.

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri
New Lenox: Daniel
Homer Glen: Victor

Dismiss kids to their small groups.