





Christmas
Lesson D

Jesus' Boyhood

Luke 2:40–52

Introduction

What do you think Jesus was like when He was a young boy growing up in Nazareth? He probably looked much like all the other boys in His town of Nazareth. He was eager to learn things and ready to help others, and He kept growing taller and stronger just like the other boys and girls. But Jesus was more than just a boy. He was also God—God the Son. He never did anything wrong, because Jesus is God.

Jesus, a Young Boy

All boys do wrong things, and girls, too—but not Jesus! He was perfect. He never did one thing that was wrong. He never sinned. He never took anything that wasn't His. He never lied. He was never ugly or mean. During His entire life He never thought, said, or did one thing that was naughty or bad. He always did that which was good and pleasing to His Father in heaven. The Bible says that Jesus grew and became a strong, healthy boy with unusual wisdom and knowledge, and God the Father poured out His blessings on Him. Jesus was like all other boys, except that He had never done anything wrong.

Jesus had several younger brothers and sisters. They were half brothers and sisters, because Jesus had no earthly father. His Father was God the Father. Mary's husband, Joseph, helped take care of Jesus until He was grown. Joseph was like a foster father or stepfather, and Jesus had great respect for him. He obeyed him at all times, because He knew that obedience pleases God. When you obey your mother and father, you please God.





Christmas
Lesson D

Jesus' Boyhood (cont.)

Jesus in the Carpenter's Shop

Joseph, Jesus' foster father, was a carpenter, a man who makes things with wood, such as tables and chairs and boats and houses. Joseph was not a rich man. He had to work hard to buy enough food and clothing to keep his family healthy. When Jesus was big enough, He began to help Joseph in the carpenter shop. He would sweep the floor and carry out the wood shavings. He learned to fix things that were broken. Soon He was making things Himself—perhaps toys for the younger children—and maybe tables and chairs and cabinets for Mary.

You are big enough to help your mother and father. Maybe your mother will let you set the table, make your bed, fold the towels, or take the trash out. Whatever job Jesus had, He always did His best. I am sure He never complained or pouted when He had

a job to do. He wanted to please Joseph and His Father in Heaven. When Mother and Father give you a job to do, you should work hard to do your best. That pleases God.

Mary and Joseph taught their family about the things of God. The children maybe heard stories about how God would send a Messiah, the Savior, who would save their people from their sin. But Jesus' brothers and sisters probably had no idea that Jesus—their brother—was the Messiah. Jesus and His family would go to the house of God to worship every week. There they learned the promises of God. God wants you to go to church, the house of God, each week so you can learn about the Savior. God wants you to learn about Jesus.

At home and at play with the other children, Jesus was always kind and unselfish—

thinking of others, not Himself. We can't imagine Jesus complaining or grumbling or pouting when He was asked to do something. He was a good example to His younger brothers and sisters. He showed them how to be kind, loving, humble, truthful, and obedient. Jesus was a wonderful help and comfort to Mary and Joseph.

You can be like Jesus in many ways if you will obey your mother and father and do what is right. ■

Ask these questions:

1. Did Jesus do wrong things like other boys and girls? *No, Jesus never did anything wrong.*
2. What job did Joseph have? *Joseph was a carpenter.*