Bible Point

Jesus did what was right when he was a boy.

Bible Verse

“He did what was right and good in the Lord’s sight” (Deuteronomy 6:18a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will
- learn how Jesus obeyed his parents,
- understand how important it is to obey God,
- encourage Pockets to do what is right, and
- discuss ways to obey their parents.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Joseph and Mary find Jesus in the Temple.

Joseph and Mary must have been frantic when they realized they’d left 12-year-old Jesus in a busy city, far from home. Since they were traveling with several other families, it would have been easy to assume Jesus was with their group. Returning to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary anxiously searched for three days before finding Jesus in the Temple. In spite of his parents’ astonishment, Jesus calmly reminded them that this was his Father’s house. Where else would he be? He hadn’t been disobedient or wrong in spending time there—Jesus was following his Father.

Like Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, most parents and children experience times when they seem to be on totally different wavelengths. This lesson will help children learn that Jesus obeyed his heavenly Father as well as his earthly parents. Children will learn that they can do the right thing by obeying their parents.

Prayer

- Read Isaiah 41:20.
- Think about Mary and Joseph’s fear at discovering that Jesus was missing. How can you show your students that following rules, especially God’s rules, is important?
- Pray: Dear Lord, thank you for strengthening me and for providing me with a guidebook—the Bible—to help direct my path. Please help me to show my students why it is important to follow your Word in all situations including...

Before the Lesson

■ Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
■ Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
■ Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
# This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Welcome Time

Welcome!

**SUPPLIES:** “Child Name Tags” handout (p. 98), markers, pins or tape
- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned…” discussion. Ask questions such as “How did your family help you do what was right?” and “How did you obey God last week?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that Jesus did what was right when he was a boy.**
- Hand out the child name tags children made in Lesson 6, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable patterns.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Why is it important to do what’s right?” and “What are some ways you can obey your parents every day?”

**Option 1: Ancient Writings**

**SUPPLIES:** cream cheese, powdered sugar, wax paper, rounded toothpicks, tray

Before this activity, combine cream cheese and powdered sugar until the mixture is dough-like. Give each child ¼ cup of edible modeling dough and a 12x4-inch sheet of wax paper.

Have children fold their wax paper in half and then place the dough between the halves. Show them how to flatten the dough into a smooth “sheet” and then lift the top layer of wax paper. Distribute rounded toothpicks, and allow children to make letters and designs on their “clay tablets.” Explain that when Jesus was a boy, school children didn’t have paper so they wrote on clay tablets or in the sand. Tell them that today they’ll hear about Jesus going to the Temple to talk to the teachers. Say that they’ll learn that **Jesus did what was right when he was a boy.**

Put the tablets on a tray for children to enjoy later.
**Option 2: Play School**

**SUPPLIES:** blackboard, chalk, paper, pencils, books

Set up a pretend school center with a blackboard or an easel with newsprint. Set out chalk, paper, pencils, and books, and let the children take turns being the teacher. Tell them that in today’s story, Jesus amazed the teachers at the Temple with how much he knew about God. Say that they’ll learn that **Jesus did what was right when he was a boy.**

**BIBLE POINT**

**Option 3: Bean Bogglers**

**SUPPLIES:** dry beans, paper cups

At a table, set out three overturned cups and a dry bean. Show children how to place the bean under one of the cups, shuffle the cups, and then have another child guess where the bean is hidden. You may want to set up several “Bean Bogglers” stations where children can work in pairs. As they search for a hidden bean, explain that today’s story is about a time when Jesus’ parents searched for Jesus in Jerusalem. Say that they’ll learn that **Jesus did what was right when he was a boy.**

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

**BIBLE POINT**

**Pick Up Our Toys**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou.” Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.

**SING**

We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
And put them all away.

There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys.
There’s [name] picking up toys.
Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)
Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, tape

Before class, tape the ends of the *Learning Mat: Story Circle 2* together. Hide a Bible and *Story Circles 1* and 2 in separate places in your classroom.

Tell the children you’ll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children are to stop what they’re doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Form three groups. Say: *I’ve hidden three special things in this room today—two Story Circles and the Bible. Those are important things since we can’t have Bible Story Time without them! Group 1 needs to find the Bible, Group 2 can find our Story Circle from last week, and Group 3 will look for the Story Circle for this week. You’ll only have until the egg timer runs out, so hurry! If you see another group’s item, don’t tell them! Ready? Go!*

Turn over the egg timer, and encourage children to be careful not to run over each other as they look for their items. As groups find their items, have them sit in a circle. When everyone is seated, ask:

- What was it like to race the timer as you looked for your item? (Hard; fun; exciting; speedy.)

Say: *You all did a super job of finding our storytelling tools! Give the person next to you a gentle, friendly pat on the back.* Pause while children follow your directions.

Today we’ll hear how Jesus’ parents hurried to look for something very important, too. They wouldn’t rest until they’d found it! In this story, we’ll learn that ◗**Jesus did what was right when he was a boy.**

Bible Song and Prayer Time

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, basket of surprise cards from Lesson 6, CD player

Set the basket of surprise cards that you made in Lesson 6 next to you. If you don’t have surprise cards, follow the directions in the “Bible Song and Prayer Time” section of Lesson 6 for this activity.


Have the children sit in a circle. Say: *Each week when we come to our circle for our Bible story, I’ll choose someone to be the Bible helper. The Bible helper will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story for that week. Before I choose today’s Bible helper, let’s sing our Bible song. As we sing, I’ll pass out the surprise cards. Don’t look inside your card until the song is over.*

Lead children in singing “Read God’s Book” (track 3) with the CD to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.

**SING**

Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.

Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.

(Repeat.)
After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the thumbs up stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible helper for today.**

Identify the Bible helper, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible helper to bring you the Bible. Assist the Bible helper in opening the Bible to the marked place, and show the children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible helper sit down.

Say: [Name] was our special Bible helper today. Each week we’ll have only one special Bible helper, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we’re all learning that **Jesus did what was right when he was a boy.**

Let’s say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn about Jesus as a boy. I’ll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, “God, thank you for letting Jesus be our example.”

Pass around the basket or box. When you’ve collected everyone’s surprise card, set the basket aside for use next week, and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that Jesus did what was right when he was a boy.**

### Hear and Tell the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, yarn, Life Savers candies, masking tape, paper or facial tissue

Before this activity, cut 8-foot lengths of yarn. You’ll need one length of yarn for each child. Gather the yarn, and tape the bunched ends to the floor in your story area. Fan out the other ends and thread a Life Savers candy onto each one. Push the candies about six inches from the free ends, and lay them on slips of paper or facial tissues. Leave the yarn and candies fanned out on the floor.

Gather children in a circle in a different area of the room, and place **Story Circle 1** in the middle. Say: **Let’s see what you remember about last week’s story. I’ll pass around the plastic ring and give each of you a chance to toss it into this Story Circle.**

Then tell us one thing you remember about last week’s story. Give each child a chance to toss the ring and share. Then put **Story Circle 1** and the plastic ring away.

In today’s story, Jesus has grown up a lot! He’s already 12 years old and can do many things for himself. Think about something that you’ll be able to do when you’re older: Maybe it’s staying up later, joining a club, or going to school. When I point to you, tell us one thing you look forward to doing when you get older. Then go sit at the end of a piece of yarn. Motion to the yarn lengths spread out on the floor. When each child has shared and is seated at the end of a length of yarn, move to the story area.

There are lots of things you’ll get to do in just a few years! Jesus had to wait for those things, too. In our story today, God’s people were scattered out, just like you are. Each year in the spring, they’d come together in the big city of Jerusalem for a special holiday called Passover. And when Jesus was 12, he was old enough to go on this special trip. As you listen to the story on the CD, slowly move your Life Savers candy toward the story area.
Pretend it’s a person making the long trip to Jerusalem. When you reach the story area, enjoy your Life Savers candy just like the people in Jerusalem would enjoy a feast.

Play “Jerusalem Journey” (track 15) on the CD. Encourage children to move slowly toward the story area, and then sit quietly, eat their candies, and hear about Mary’s adventure. Hold Story Circle 2 so the first scene is showing. Turn the Story Circle to show the next scene each time you hear the chime on the CD.

When the track ends, turn off the CD player and ask:

- **Why did Jesus’ family go to Jerusalem?** (For a holiday; for Passover; for a feast.)
- **Why didn’t Mary and Joseph notice that Jesus was missing?** (They thought he was with his friends; there were so many people; they thought he was with the other parent.)
- **Why did Jesus go to the Temple?** (To talk to the teachers; to learn things; to be in God’s house.)

Say: Remember that Jesus was God’s Son. When he went to the Temple, he was going to his Father’s house. That was a good thing to do! Jesus did what was right when he was a boy. He obeyed his Father God, as well as his parents, Mary and Joseph. We can sing a song about doing what’s right. Let’s listen to it first, and then we’ll join in. Lead the children in singing “Right and Good” (Deuteronomy 6:18a) (track 13) to the tune of “Rise and Shine” with the CD.

**SING**

Do what is right  
And good in the Lord’s sight.  
Do what is right  
And good in the Lord’s sight.  
Do—what’s—right—and  
(Clap) Good in the Lord’s sight.  
We want to be like Jesus!  
(Repeat.)

Say: We can make pictures of Jesus that show how he grew into a boy. As we work on our pictures, let’s think about ways that we can be like Jesus, too.

**Do the Bible Story**

**SUPPLIES:** crayons, paper, scissors, CD player

Before class, cut the Jesus in the Temple rubbing plate from the Learning Lab into fourths. You’ll need crayons and a folded piece of paper for each child. Fold each paper in half the short way, and then in half again. Then fold it the other direction once. When you open it up, you’ll have eight sections. Fold the bottom half up and then fold just half of the top back down, creating a flap.

Give each child a piece of the folded paper and a crayon. Have kids work with a partner if needed, to help them hold down the paper while they do a rubbing. Place the rubbing plate under the left side of the paper so that Jesus’ waist is at the fold of the top flap, and then rub the crayon over the plate till the picture of Jesus emerges.
While four people are using the plates, the other children should draw a picture of themselves on the right-hand side of the page. Tell them to draw their head and arms above the fold of the flap and their legs and feet below the fold.

As children are working, say: Our Bible story told us that Jesus spent three days talking with the religious teachers in the Temple by himself—and he was just a boy. He was busy doing something he liked and he was having fun. But he had to stop when his parents wanted him to come home.

Ask: • Have you ever had to stop doing something because your parents told you to do something else? Tell us how you felt. (I was mad because I wanted to keep going; it was frustrating; it was OK because I was tired anyway.)

• How do you think Jesus felt when his parents wanted him to go with them? (He might have been glad to go home; he might have been sad that he had to stop.)

• Who did Jesus obey? (He obeyed his parents; God; both God and his parents.)

• Why do you think Jesus obeyed? (Because he was God’s Son; he was good.)

• How does it make you feel to know that Jesus had to obey his parents, too? (Glad because he knows how I feel; good because he is God’s Son.)

When everyone has had a chance to draw both figures, have kids unfold the papers. The top half of the figures will be at the top of the page, while the bottom halves will be at the bottom of the page.

Say: The Bible tells us that when Jesus went home he obeyed his mom and dad. Jesus did what was right when he was a boy. It says he grew in wisdom and stature. That means he grew in understanding of God and his body also grew up. God wants you to grow that way, too, just like Jesus did. Let’s show that on our papers.

Show kids how to connect the top part of the Jesus and self-portrait figures with the bottoms by drawing lines to connect them. Have them fold and open the papers, as if Jesus and they were growing.

Say: Now that we’ve made our pictures of Jesus, let’s listen to a song and use our pictures to show he grew. When you hear the part that says, “Though I’m small, I’m growing tall,” open your pictures, and watch as Jesus “grows up!” Practice this once without music, and then play “Bigger Every Day” on the CD (track 14) as the children let their pictures of Jesus “grow.” When the song ends, collect their pictures to return when class is over.

Ask: • Why is it sometimes hard to obey your parents? (Because I don’t feel like doing what they tell me to; because sometimes other things are more fun.)

• Why is it important to obey your parents? (Because I love them; because they love me; it makes God happy; it’s the right thing to do.)

Say: As you’re growing up, you can try to do right, just like Jesus did! In fact, our Bible verse from Deuteronomy 6:18a tells us that very thing: “Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight.”

To help children remember this week’s Bible verse, play the song “Right and Good” (Deuteronomy 6:18a) (track 13) from the CD. Encourage children to sing along to the tune of “Rise and Shine.”
SING
Do what is right
And good in the Lord’s sight.
Do what is right
And good in the Lord’s sight.
Do—what’s—right—and
(Clap) Good in the Lord’s sight.
We want to be like Jesus!
(Repeat.)

Say: Jesus is the perfect example to follow when we try to obey God or our parents. If we always try to be like Jesus, we’ll be doing what is right and good! Let’s take turns naming things we can do to obey our parents. Children’s responses may include things such as listening to their parents, helping around the house, or doing their chores when they’re told to.

Pray: Dear Lord, we want to obey you and we want to obey our parents. Help us to follow your example and to grow to be just like you. We love you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Cue the CD to the song “Bigger Every Day” (track 14).

Say: This time we’ll sing “Bigger Every Day” along with the CD and act it out without our pictures. Play the song again, leading children in the motions that go along with each line.

SING
Grow, grow, growing up (start in a squatting position, and then stand taller on each “grow”),

Just like Jesus grew. (Point to heaven.)
Though I’m small (hold hand low, as if measuring),
I’m growing tall (move hand higher);
There’s so much I can do! (Hold hands over head, and turn around in a circle.)

Grow, grow, growing up (start in a squatting position, and then stand taller on each “grow”),

Bigger every day! (Reach up.)
I’ll do what’s right (nod head yes)
With all my might (flex muscles)
At church, at home, at play! (Hop three times.)

Let’s see if our friend Pockets is obeying her parents like she wanted to last week. On the count of three, let’s call her. Ready? One...two...three! Pockets!
Lesson 7

Closing

**Too Much Fun**

**SUPPLIES:** none

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.

Pockets: *(Looking around suspiciously)* Shhh! Everyone be really quiet!

Teacher: *(Whispering)* Why do we need to be quiet?

Pockets: *(Whispering)* Because I’m hiding from my mommy. I’m having such a good time in Sunday school that I don’t want to go home.

Teacher: *(Normal tone)* Well, I’m glad to see you’re having such a good time, Pockets. But I think your parents would be worried if they couldn’t find you.

Pockets: But I don’t want to go home. I want to stay here where we can sing and hear stories and play!

Teacher: This reminds me of our story today. Children, can you share with Pockets about the adventure that Mary and Joseph had?

*(Let a few children briefly tell the story of Jesus remaining in Jerusalem at the Temple. Be sure children include the fact that Mary and Joseph were worried.)*

Pockets: Wow, so Jesus was having such a good time that he didn’t want to go home?

Teacher: Well, not exactly. Jesus stayed in Jerusalem to talk with the teachers in the Temple about God’s Word. And do you know what Jesus did when his parents came to get him?

Pockets: *(Pause, thinking)* He went home with them.

Teacher: You’re right. He obeyed his parents and went home.

Pockets: *(Jesus did what was right when he was a boy)* I want to do right, too. So I’d better let my parents know I’m ready to go home. *(Cheerfully)* At least I know I can come back next week and have fun all over again!

Teacher: That’s a great attitude, Pockets. We’ll look forward to seeing you then!

Pockets: ’Bye, everyone! Be sure to visit me next week!

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Our Father’s House

SUPPLIES: “clay tablets” from Option 1

Distribute the modeling dough clay tablets from Option 1.

Say: **God is Jesus’ Father. Jesus went to the Temple to spend time in his Father’s house. When you come to church, you’re spending time in God’s house, too!** On your tablet, use your finger to draw a picture of something that you enjoy about coming to church. Or you may choose to use your edible dough to make a sculpture of something you enjoy at church.

Allow children to work for a moment, and then have them tell a partner about what they drew or sculpted. Pray: **Dear God, thank you that we can come to your house each week and learn about you. And thank you for teaching us that Jesus did what was right when he was a boy.** Help us to be like Jesus and do what’s right as we grow up. Thank you for loving us and being our Heavenly Father. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Let children eat their snacks.

Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.

web-tip

Want even more activity ideas for this lesson? Check out HandsOnBible.com/tips.
Lively Learning: Jerusalem Jaunt

Before this activity, hide paper hearts at one end of the room. You’ll need one heart for each child.

Have children form a line at the opposite end of the room. Tell them that just as Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus, they must hurry to look for paper hearts. Tap the first person in line and say “go.” Direct him or her to take giant steps to the other side of the room, find a paper heart, bring it back, and tag the next person in line. Continue until each person has found a heart. Then hide the hearts and play again. Remind children that Mary and Joseph were anxious to find Jesus in the crowded city of Jerusalem.

Make to Take: Roll a Scroll

Set out crayons or markers and 2-foot sections of shelf paper. Encourage children to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories or characters on the paper. When they’ve finished drawing, help children roll their shelf paper from both edges to form a scroll. Show children how to tie their scrolls with lengths of ribbon or yarn. Remind children that when Jesus was a boy, the Bible wasn’t a book, but a scroll. Explain that the teachers Jesus talked with knew the Bible very well.

Treat to Eat: Tasty Temple Steps

Before class, cut an angel food cake into 1-inch cubes. Give each child some cake cubes on a paper plate, and let children build Temple walls with the cake. Explain that Jesus was sitting in the Temple with the teachers of the law when his parents found him. Children may want to have several strawberries “sit” on the walls before eating the tasty treat!

Story Picture: Jesus in the Temple

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned…” handout. Place glue, crayons, and bowls of salt on the table. Direct children to color their handouts. Then have the children spread glue on the steps of the Temple and sprinkle salt over them so they shine like sparkly stones. Explain that when Jesus’ parents found him, he obeyed them and went home.
Today your child learned that Jesus did what was right when he was a boy. Children discovered that Jesus talked with teachers and amazed them with how much he knew about God. They talked about ways that they can obey and do what's right.

**Verse to Learn**
"Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight" (Deuteronomy 6:18a).

**Ask Me...**
- Why did Jesus go to the Temple?
- Why is it important to obey your parents?
- How can we help each other do what's right?

**Family Fun**
- Have family members make paper chains for each other to illustrate times they do what's right. Each time a family member catches someone else doing something good, have him or her add a link to that person's paper chain. Family members may add links for things such as brushing teeth, playing cooperatively, saying kind words, sharing toys, giving hugs, cleaning up, eating meals without complaining, and helping others. Hang the paper chains in a prominent place, and encourage everyone to make their chains grow!
