



“This is the Story...”

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## **Week 34: Jesus Growing Up**

Luke 2:41-52

**Intro Video:** <https://youtu.be/M2tu0Z9ahfU>

**Review the big story:** God created the cosmos and humans and called it all good. We were created to live in harmony, but sometimes we miss the mark. All of humanity missed the mark, and they had to live with the consequences, but God stuck with them and continued to love them. Then God called a family to be a blessing to the whole earth. Like the humans before them, the generations of this family often missed the mark, but God was faithful.

When the people became slaves in Egypt, God raised up Moses to be their leader. God delivered them from slavery. In the wilderness, they learned to be a people of God, trusting in God’s provision, living out God’s commandments, and wrestling with the law in shalom community. As they prepared to go into the promised land, they were given the *shema*, words of love to keep with their whole beings. God brought the people into the promised land. There they continued to miss the mark, and God sent judges to guide them.

God raised up prophets, but the people demanded a king. Kings continued to miss the mark, and the kingdom divided into the north and south. God stuck with the people through leaders and prophets, and continued to call the people back to God, even as first the northern, and then the southern kingdom fell to invading powers. Some of the people were sent into exile, and some were left in the ruins of the kingdom. Through prophets and everyday people, God continued to stick with the scattered people and to reveal that God is so much bigger than they imagined. The people were finally able to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the temple.

As we begin the story of the New Testament, Rome is the power in charge and the people of God are waiting for a Messiah. This Messiah is announced, first with a surprising genealogy, then through an angel to Mary. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, and there, Jesus was born, proclaimed by angels, visited by shepherds, blessed by Simeon and Anna, and sought by magi. When Jesus’s life was in danger, his parents fled with him to Egypt, where they remained as refugees until it was safe for them to return and settle in Nazareth.

- **Key verse:** Luke 2:47

**Tell the story:** Beyond the birth narrative, this is the only story we have of Jesus as a child. When Jesus was 12, he and his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. His parents headed home and traveled for a day before realizing Jesus was not in the group of travelers. They searched all over for him, and after three days found him in the temple, talking about scripture with the teachers.

- Read Luke 2:41-52
- Read page 174 in the *Shine On* story Bible.

## Prime the pump:

- **Things to notice:**
  - Mark out the days of this story. This spans a longer time than we realize when we quickly read it.
  - Read verses 48-49. Notice the way “father” is used. What are Mary and Jesus saying? What’s going on here?
  - Notice verse 51 - where have we heard that before?
  
- **Background information:**
  - Mary and Joseph probably traveled with a large group of pilgrims for this “pilgrimage festival.” That’s why they wouldn’t have known he was missing at first.
  - We don’t know much about Jesus’s conversation with the teachers, other than that it was certainly a two-way conversation. Jewish culture highly valued children, and it wasn’t unusual for a child to talk with the teachers. What’s unusual here seems to be the depth of his insights and questions.
  - Verse 52 echoes Proverbs 3:4, recognizable by the original hearers.
  
- **Conversation starters:**
  - Read the story through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. Imagine how you would have felt at each point in the story. Maybe it wasn’t so easy to parent Jesus.
  - Read this story through the eyes of Jesus. He knew he was perfectly safe and at home. Wonder: Did he stumble upon this group of teachers or did he seek them out?
  - Read this story through the eyes of the teachers. Are you excited by this young prodigy? Intimidated? In awe?

**Microsong:** “Jesus Growing Up” (Listen: <https://youtu.be/Ue8U8f4GXzM>)

Jesus in the temple, Jesus, age 12. Talking with the teachers, astonishing the crowd. Jesus’ parents searching everywhere for him. Jesus asking why they didn’t know where he’d have been. Jesus going back to Nazareth, an obedient son. Jesus growing up.

**Sing the big song:** (Listen: <https://youtu.be/ue20TOF0yS4>)

This is the story of how it all began. God made matter, and chaos shattered.  
Eve and Adam, they tried to hide. The world got violent and God replied with a mark and a flood  
and a rainbow sign, God's love written on skin and sky,  
*And then God called a family to be a blessing to the earth, oh ohhhh*  
A mother and her favorite son wrestle for the blessing, another son becomes a slave, the land is  
saved from famine.  
God's family grows. Egypt oppresses. They groan to God and God sends Moses.  
*Ten strange signs say "Please release them!" By the sea God saves them. Oh ohhh.*  
The people complain and God rains bread. Daily food and ten new rules.  
Five sisters come and ask for land. God says "Yes, amend the law!"  
*Moses says, "In your new life across the Jordan, love God with your whole heart and with all your  
being, and your strength, now listen: God is One, only God! God is One, only God!"*  
Cross over Jordan, stories and stones. Circuits and shouts and the walls come down.  
God sends judges like Deborah and the land has rest.  
Ruth's worth more than seven sons; Redeem the lost with steadfast love.  
Corruption in the temple then God sends Samuel.  
God gives them a prophet, they ask for a king. Does God need a temple? A wise king forgets.  
And when a bully rules the land, the nation tears apart and loses David's heart...  
A widow's gift and a prophet's cry. God brings life in desperate times.  
Josiah reads this misplaced scroll. He turns to God wholeheartedly like David did. In his time.  
God gives Jeremiah a picture of God's ruined family...  
Is there any hope left, is there any hope left, is there any hope left for you, Jerusalem?  
Any hope? Any hope left? Is there any hope left for you?  
By the streams of Babylon, how can we sing when you are gone, Jerusalem...  
I'm in a valley of human bones. These bones are Israel, God's breath is hope.  
Haman plans death for Esther's exiles. She risks her life so they might survive.  
Finally God's family rebuilds the temple in Jerusalem. God plunges them into a sea of joy and  
celebration of Only God. God is One, Only God.  
Comfort to Jerusalem, your warfare finally ceases.  
Matthew lists these generations, Abraham to Jesus  
The angel says, "You'll have a son and God will give him David's throne." Mary says, "God looked  
at me, now I'm the luckiest person around.  
Mary, now pregnant fiancé, makes a grueling journey.  
She has her baby, shepherds see angels declaring God's glory and peace among people.  
The Spirit sends shepherds and elders and prophets to tell those who wait their Messiah has  
come.  
Herod gets nervous, the Magi find Jesus. They hide their discovery and hurry back home...  
Once again an angel comes to Joseph -- so they make good their escape, oooh.  
Jesus in the temple, astonishing the crowd. Jesus with his parents. Jesus growing up.  
*God loves every one of us, it's true. And God loves the universe.*

**Go do your household project!**