



Live Out Loud

Jesus in the Temple

BIG IDEA: Jesus grew in wisdom and favor by spending time in His Father's house.

BIBLE BASIS: Luke 2:41–52

KEY VERSE: “Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” Luke 2:52 (NIV)

SMALL GROUP CONNECT

SOUND EFFECTS FACTORY

Directions: Explain to the kids in your group that during the “Live Out Loud” series, they’re going to be providing sound effects for the Big Bible Story. For today’s story, kids will provide the following sounds:

- Baby crying
- Snoring
- Rooster
- Murmur (say the word “murmur” repeatedly in a low voice to one another)
- Sigh of relief

Practice the sounds ahead of time with your group. If you would like to make a competition out of it, have the kids go one at a time and then announce who you thought performed the best sound. Tell them to be prepared to do their sounds later during the Big Bible Story. When finished, ask the following questions:

Question: Are there any other really cool sound effects or silly sounds you can make? Show us!

Question: Have your parents ever freaked out because they thought they had lost you? Where were you? What happened?

ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

If you have additional time before Large Group begins, play “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down.” Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.





★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

THE BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

For Younger Kids:

1. What did you find interesting about this story?
2. Why do you think Jesus wanted to stay behind at the temple instead of going home with Mary and Joseph?

For Older Kids:

1. What do you think this story teaches us about God?
2. Jesus said to his parents, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" What do you think he meant by that?

ROLLING WITH LUKE (Application Activity)

Question: In today's story, Jesus grew in wisdom and favor with God and others. What do you think it means to grow in wisdom and favor?

Question: What was Jesus doing that helped him grow in wisdom and favor?

Say: One of the things Jesus did to grow in wisdom and favor was to ask questions about God's word and to share with others what He was learning about God. Although we can't go to the temple court that Jesus went to, we can do those things right here at church with our small group. When we share with each other our thoughts, questions, and prayers, it helps us to grow just like Jesus did. Our Bible verse today also says Jesus grew in stature. That means he got bigger and stronger. We're going to do an activity right now that will help us to grow in wisdom, stature, and favor.

Directions: Choose somebody in your group to roll the "Luke 2:52 die." If they roll "Wisdom" or "Favor," have them answer the question that goes along with it. If they roll "Stature," allow them to create a physical challenge for the entire group to do. Examples might include 10 pushups, 20 jumping jacks, or run in place for 15 seconds. When their turn has ended, have them choose someone else in the group to hand the die to. Continue until everyone has had a turn rolling the die.

WHO NOSE THE BIBLE? (Bible Memorization Activity)

Directions: Place the 8 Bible verse cards in the middle of your group. Give the kids in your group a moment to line the cards up in the right order. Once they're in order, carefully read the verse aloud with your group several times so they can begin to memorize it. Today's Bible verse says:

"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." Luke 2:52





When ready, flip the cards over so that they're facing down and mix them up. Spread them out. Give each child a piece of sticky tac to put on their nose. When you say "go," have the kids race to press their nose onto the back of one card and pick it up so that only the other kids can see it. When every kid has picked up a card, they'll have to quickly help each other stand in the right order so that the verse reads from beginning to end. Time the kids to see how long it takes them. When finished have the kids recite the verse aloud. Place the cards face down and mix them up on the floor again and repeat the activity.

Note: If you have more than 8 kids in your group, have kids take turns. If you have fewer than 8 kids, place the beginning of the verse in order while the kids pick up a card from the end of the verse. For younger kids, allow them to pick up the card with their nose, but the leader can be the one to quickly line them up in order.

Question: What is something you can do over this next week to help you grow in wisdom like Jesus did?

PRAYER BANDS (Group Prayer Activity)

Say: Sometimes it can be hard to think of different things to talk to God about. We can sometimes get stuck praying about the same things over and over. We're going to do an activity right now that will help us think about some different things we can pray about.

Directions: Place various colors of Tyvek® wristbands in the middle of the group. Allow each kid to choose one color. With a pen or marker, have them write one of the following verses on their wristband:

Option 1: "Oh give thanks to the Lord." Psalm 107:1

Option 2: "Praise God for his mighty deeds." Psalm 150:2

Option 3: "Cast all your worries on him." 1 Peter 5:7

Option 4: "I will admit my sins to the Lord." Psalm 32:5

When finished, randomly choose a colored wristband from the remaining pile. Ask the kids who have that color to answer the corresponding question:

Option 1 Question: What is something that you are thankful to God for?

Option 2 Question: What is something that you can praise God for?

Option 3 Question: What is something you are worried about?

Option 4 Question: What is something you need forgiveness for?

Directions: Continue drawing colors until everyone has had a chance to share. Next, open the kids in prayer. Allow everyone to tell God thanks for the things they shared. When finished, help the kids put their wristbands on. Tell them to keep it on throughout the week and every time they notice it, they can say a silent prayer of thanks to God.

