

Lesson 3
The Childhood of Jesus

1. HE _____ AND WAS _____ THE WORD OF GOD.

When a Jewish boy was three years old, he was given the tassel, the garment directed by the law. See Numbers 15:38-41 and Deuteronomy 22:12.

At the age of five, he began to learn portions of the law under his mother's direction.

These were passages written on scrolls such as the Shema, or creed, of Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalms 114; 118; and 126.

At the age of ten, the boy was to commence the study of the Mishnah, which was a compilation of traditional interpretations of the law.

When he became thirteen years of age, he wore for the first time the phylacteries which the Jew always put on at the recital of the daily prayer.

At eighteen, he was to be instructed in the Gemara, a vast collection of interpretations. Hence, we know that as a lad, Jesus learned the Word of God.

Luke 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

2. HE WAS _____ TO GOD'S HOUSE.

How important this is! Teach the children to be faithful, to place the attendance of God's House above every other loyalty.

Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

3. HE WAS A _____ AS HE GREW UP.

"Increased" in Luke 2:52 means "kept advancing."

In other words, these two verses simply tell us that He was normal in His physical, mental, and spiritual progress.

4. HE WAS A _____ - _____ BOY.

This we know because He worked in His father's carpentry shop.

5. HE WAS _____ STRONG.

Luke 2:40 seems to teach that He was physically strong. Here again we have the importance of each person's taking care of his body in childhood.

6. HE WAS _____ .

In Luke 2:40, notice the words, "grace of God." This could be worded, "God's type of grace."

In other words, He was a gracious boy.

This means that He used proper manners. He was ethical and courteous. He was taught to be gracious and kind.

These are character traits that ought to be stressed again and again and again. How vital it is that our boys and girls be taught good manners, good etiquette, etc.

Luke 2:51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

7. HE WAS _____.

In Luke 2:51, notice the words, "was subject unto them."

Here was the Son of God, Who knew that He was the Son of God; yet He was subject to His earthly parents.

Obedience to parents is one of the most important things a child can ever learn.

This obedience is actually obedience to God, because the father and mother act in God's stead as they rear their children.

When the child becomes older, he will transfer this obedience to God. If Jesus, the Son of God, was subject to His earthly parents, how much more should we as sinners be subject to ours.

Luke 2:48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.
49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

8. HE WAS _____ OF WHO HIS FATHER WAS.

Mary had used the wrong words when she made the statement to Him, "...behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." He was very quick to say in so many words that Joseph was not His father, but that God was His Father. Here we have Jesus Himself attesting to the virgin birth. We also have the fact that He was rebuking Mary for implying that Joseph was His father.

9. AS A LAD HE DID _____ .

Notice again Luke 2:48, 49. He was about His Father's business. Even at the age of twelve, He was already serving His Father. We have the idea in far too many of our churches that service for God comes when one gets older.

This is not true. Even a twelve-year-old should be about God's business. This should be stressed over and over again to our children.