



Circle the correct answers below.

To be like Jesus, I will be:

OBEDIENT

HELPFUL TO MY PARENTS

LAZY

HARDWORKING

WATCHING T.V. ALL THE TIME

STUDYING THE BIBLE

KIND TO OTHERS

FAITHFUL IN MY SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS

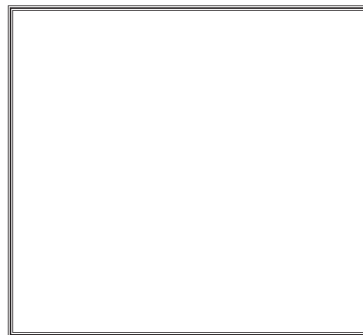


*Jesus showed us that it IS possible to grow up pleasing God.*

*I want to be like Jesus. I will pray and ask Him to help*



If you want to be like Jesus too, ask Him to help you, and then draw your picture in this box.



# GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

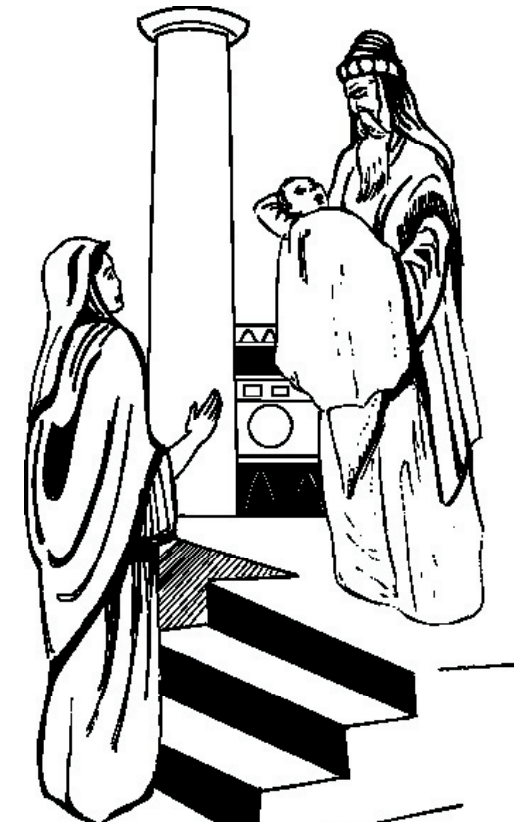
## LESSON 3

### Jesus Was A Child Like Me

When Baby Jesus was eight days old, His parents took Him to the temple to be blessed. They could not afford the usual thank-you offering for a baby (a pair of doves). But God had a plan for poor people, too. They could bring a pair of pigeons instead (pigeons were much cheaper).

God had told an old man named Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Messiah. Simeon held Baby Jesus in his arms. He was so excited!

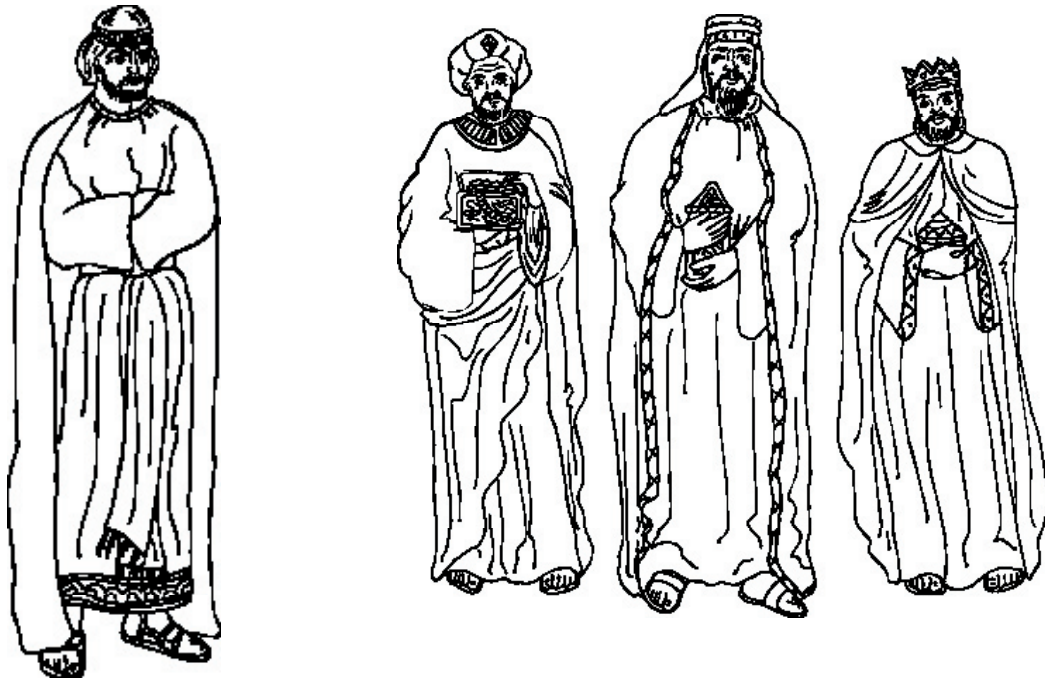
Anna was a prophetess who was 84 years old. She lived in the temple and also had been waiting for the Messiah to come. She came up to Jesus' family and started thanking God and telling people that this was the Promised One who would set Jerusalem free.



Far away, wise men noticed a new star in the sky. They believed it meant a new king had been born. Following the star, they traveled to Jerusalem to honor the new baby.

They went to the palace where King Herod lived, and were surprised not to find a baby. King Herod was very unhappy at the idea of anyone else being king instead of him.

Read what King Herod told the wise men in Matthew 2:7, 8.



Do you think that was what Herod really planned to do?



Circle the correct answer.

Yes

No



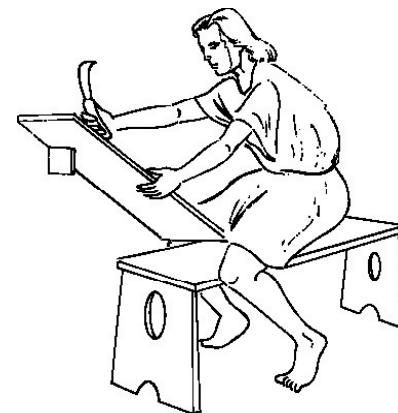
When Jesus was 12 years old, His parents took Him to the temple in Jerusalem. It was very exciting. He got to watch the priests do their work, join in the singing, and watch the sacrifices.

While He was there, He came to understand WHO He was and what His job would be. He watched the lambs being sacrificed and realized that HE was God's Lamb.

He spent time in the temple talking with the priests. They were very surprised at how much He knew about the Scriptures (the Bible back then), and how smart He was.

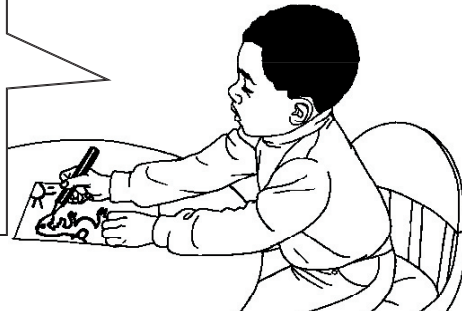
Thinking Jesus was with them, Joseph and Mary had started home. When they realized He was missing they were very worried. But they found Him in the temple talking with the priests.

In Luke 2:49 read Jesus' answer to Mary when she finally found Him.



Jesus returned home with His parents. He helped Joseph in his carpenter shop as He continued growing up. Jesus trusted God to tell Him when to start His job as God's Son and special Lamb.

*I have a stepfather who has other children too. We don't always get along, and sometimes they are mean to me. It makes me feel better to know that Jesus understands how I feel because He grew up with these same problems.*



*My family does not have very much money. Sometimes things are really hard. It makes me feel better to know that Jesus understands exactly what that is like. I can talk to Him about my problems because I know He understands.*

*My family runs a business, and so I spend a lot of my time helping my parents with their work. Sometimes it is hard to work so much when I know other children are playing, but I know Jesus understands. He worked in a family business too!*



Then the star led the wise men to Bethlehem and they found Baby Jesus. They knelt down and worshipped Him and gave Him expensive presents.

The wise men planned to tell King Herod they had found the baby, but an angel warned them in a dream NOT to go back to see Herod. So they went home another way.

Herod was angry when he realized that the wise men had tricked him.



**Read about Herod's horrible decision in Matthew 2:16.**

*Joseph! Wake up! Take Mary and the baby and leave right now for Egypt!*



What did Joseph do?



Circle the correct answer. You can find it in Matthew 2:14.

1. He decided to sleep until morning and then leave.
2. He thought he was having a bad dream.
3. Right away he did as the angel told him.



Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus had to run away to Egypt until it was safe to come home again. They were glad for the expensive gifts the wise men had given Jesus. They could sell them and use the money on their trip. They lived in Egypt until Jesus was a little boy.



*Our family had to move because of my dad's job. I don't know anyone here, and I miss my old friends. Can Jesus understand how I feel?*



*My family has moved to a new country. At first I did not even understand the people when they talked to me. Can Jesus understand what it is like to have to go to a strange country?*

*There is fighting in my country, and my family has had to run away to be safe. Now we live in a refugee camp. Does Jesus understand what it is like to be a refugee?*



What do you think?

**YES**      **NO**

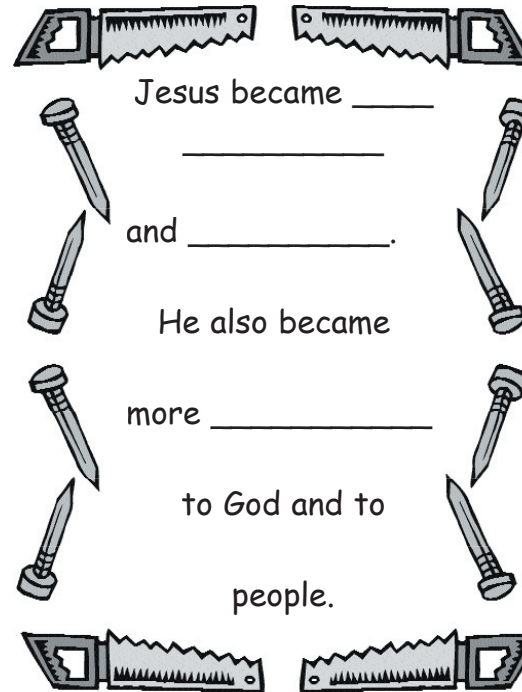
After King Herod died, Joseph, Mary and young Jesus moved back from Egypt. Herod's son was ruling in the part of the country where Bethlehem was, so they went to the town of Nazareth where they would be safe.


There, Joseph ran a carpenter shop and Jesus helped His dad. (Joseph was really his stepdad since God was Jesus' real father.)

Joseph was older than Mary, and already had children, so Jesus had stepbrothers, who were not always kind to Him. They probably missed their mother, who had died. Sometimes it annoyed them that their dad's new wife (Mary) thought her little Son was perfect, even though He really was.



***Sometimes people think that children from poor families or step families cannot be as successful as other children. But Jesus came from a step family, and they were very poor. What does the Bible say about Him. Read Luke 2:52.***



 Choose the correct words from those provided below to fill in the blanks.

**taller, wiser, annoying, pleasing, weaker, stronger, brighter, dull**