



## LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

**We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...**

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Shows Us What God Is Like

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Colossians 1:15

I'll never forget that day.

A friend and I had taken our kids to a children's museum. We were standing near the elevator debating which exhibit to visit next when I realized I didn't see Will, my three-year-old. We began to search, working our way up to the enormous lobby. Frantically scanning the crowds, I spotted Will slipping out the front doors. I dashed to him, scooped him up, and burst into tears. He was perfectly calm. I most definitely was not.

Take a moment to read Luke 2:41–52. Most parents have a story like mine. They instantly connect to Joseph's dismay, to Mary's fear. Do you ever wonder what they made of Jesus' response? His calmness in the face of their worry?

Jesus did not share Mary and Joseph's fear; His connection to His Heavenly Father was secure. He knew where He belonged.

What about you? Do you get swept up in the anxieties that surround you? Even as a child, Jesus shows us what God is like: a haven where we can grow and mature and learn, no matter how old we are.

Mary herself seems to make the shift from anxiety (v. 48) to wonder (v. 51). She learned more about her Father by watching her Son.

May we do the same.

—Lise Caldwell

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## LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

### JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

#### DID YOU KNOW?

#### FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

##### WHO?

The Jewish teachers were religious experts who instructed pupils in the temple courts. The teachers in Luke 2 were likely *rabbis*, which means “my teacher” or “my master” in Hebrew. Rabbis would have taught apprentices, who sat at their feet, using a question-and-answer format.

##### WHAT?

Every year Jewish families made the trip to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. When Jesus’ family left to go home, Jesus stayed behind in His Father’s house, listening to the teachers and asking questions. The 12-year-old Jesus amazed the rabbis at the temple with His wisdom and understanding.

##### WHERE?

Jerusalem was about 40 miles from Jesus’ home in Nazareth. It typically took about three days to get from one city to the other. The temple in Jerusalem included buildings and courtyards used for both sacrifice and instruction. Jewish teachers may have taught here or in other areas of the temple.

##### WHEN?

At this point in God’s big story, King Herod had died, and his son Archelaus reigned over Jerusalem. Caesar Augustus was likely nearing the end of his reign as Roman emperor. Passover happened in late March or early April.

##### CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

This account bridges Jesus’ infancy and adulthood. It depicts Jesus growing strong and wise, living in step with the Father as He prepared for His kingdom work. It shows that Jesus understood His special relationship with God the Father, a relationship God would confirm years later at Jesus’ baptism.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Activity: Time to Go

**SUPPLIES:** toy cars and trucks (1 per kid)

**In our story about Jesus, we're going to hear that Jesus and His family went on a very special trip. Let's pretend these cars are going on a trip and they have to get from here to there.** Determine a "there" location and show the kids where to drive their cars. Invite them to make car noises and experiment with pushing their cars slow and fast. Also invite them to experiment with going over and under various pieces of furniture.

**Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS SHOWS US WHAT GOD IS LIKE.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**JESUS—Open arms out to sides, one at a time.**

**SHOWS US—Point to chest with both thumbs.**

**WHAT GOD IS LIKE. —Cross arms over chest in a hug.**



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## LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You that we all got here safely today and that we get to come together and worship You. As we listen, play, and ask questions, help us learn more about who Jesus is. And help us see how Jesus shows us more about You and Your love. Thank You for Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

#### Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 296-302

Jesus Is Lost

### Word of Wonder

#### WORD OF WONDER

**The Son is the exact likeness of God.**

Colossians 1:15

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- What are some words that tell us what Jesus is like?
- What do those words show us about God?