

## JESUS GREW IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN

Matthew 2:22,23; Luke 2:39,52

*When Joseph fled to Egypt with Mary and the boy Jesus, he didn't know how long they would live there. One day he heard that wicked Herod had died, then he knew that it was safe for him to take his family back home to Israel. Joseph also heard that Archelaus, the son of Herod was ruling in Judea. Once again the Lord warned Joseph in a dream, so that he settled to live in Galilee rather than going back to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph made Nazareth their home: that what the prophets had spoken might be fulfilled.*

*The child Jesus grew and became strong in spirit. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. He would have been the perfect friend, for he was always kind, and never hurtful. He was the perfect son for he was always obedient and respectful. We know this because the Bible tells us that Jesus never sinned. How different he must have been from all the other children in that little town.*

*Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the feast of the passover. When the Lord Jesus was twelve, they went to Jerusalem just as they had every other year. After the feast was over, they started their return journey to Nazareth. Mary and Joseph did not realize it, but when they left, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. They thought that Jesus was with some other people who were traveling with them. And so they traveled a whole day before they realized that Jesus was missing. Then they began to look for him among all their relatives and traveling companions. How frightened they were when they could not find Jesus anywhere! Immediately Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem to search for their son.*

*Mary and Joseph looked for Jesus everywhere, and as any loving parents would be they were frantic with worry, for even in those days there were wicked people who might steal a child to sell him into slavery. I'm sure that they imagined all the worst things that might have happened to young Jesus. After searching frantically for three days, they discovered Jesus in the temple, sitting among the great teachers of the land; listening to them teach and asking them questions. Every one that heard him was amazed at his understanding and answers.*

*When Mary and Joseph saw their son they were happy and at the same time upset. Isn't that the way it is with parents, so happy to have found their lost child, but at the same time angry with the child for causing them so much worry? His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? Your father and I have looked for you with sorrow in our hearts." Jesus gave them a very strange answer. He said, "Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house, attending to his business?" Mary and Joseph didn't understand. It was hard for them to realize that this twelve year old boy, was not just their boy, but at the same time he was God in the flesh.*

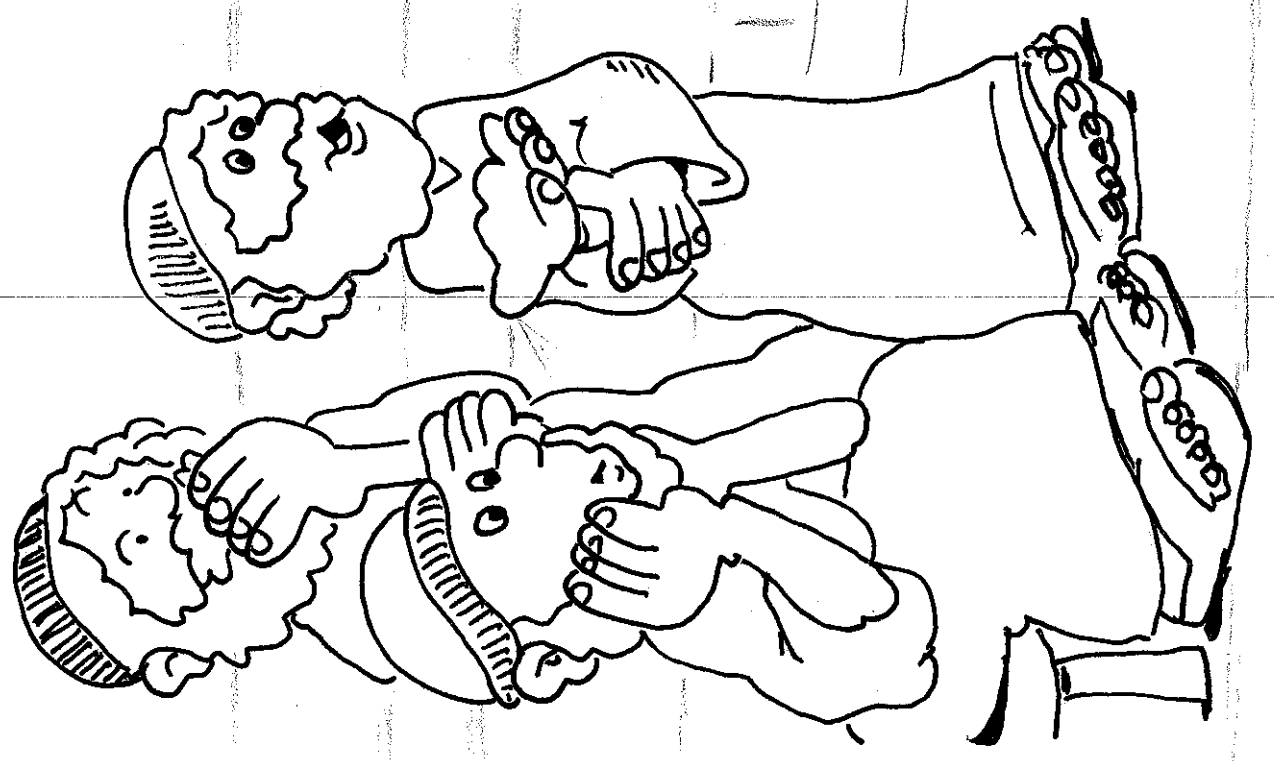
*Even in this matter Jesus was an obedient son. He returned home to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph, and there he was obedient to them. Mary stored all the things that he had said in her heart.*

*Jesus continued to grow in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. That is, he grew up as all children do, his body grew as well as his intellect. At the same time he was in God's favour, for he walked in perfect obedience to his heavenly Father. He also was liked by all those who knew him, for he always showed perfect love towards all he came in contact with. Jesus was always kind, gentle, helpful, respectful. In every thing he did only that which was good towards others.*

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

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1. Color teachers sheet.
2. Color Mary + Joseph + ~~Jesus~~ Cut them out
3. Choose which Jesus to use on teacher picture + color + then cut out.
4. Paste each figure in correct spot on teachers picture.

