



Jesus Grows up



THE MISSION AIM

To show Jesus' divine and human nature through His development to adulthood.



KEY VERSE

Matthew 3:17: "And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son whom I love, with him I am well pleased.'"



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Posters that recruits made at home during the week

Directions

SAY: Last week, we learned that Jesus' birth had been prophesied long before it happened. We even talked about what it was like for Jesus to be a baby. He needed to be cared for, to be fed and to be changed just like we did when we were babies. Your assignment over the week was to complete a poster explaining your birth story. What were you like as a baby? How much did you weigh? What did you look like? I am excited to see each recruit's birth story today.

DO: Share your poster about your birth story. Have recruits share their birth story posters. This should be a brief sharing time. If able to do so, post the recruits' posters in the room where you meet or elsewhere in your corps to share with the congregation.

SAY: Thank you for all of your hard work preparing your posters. It is exciting to hear about each of your own stories. It is time for us to check in with the Recon Team. I wonder what mission we can join them on today. Recruits, are you ready to check in? Let's go.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 2 – Who Is This Jesus? Episode 2: Jesus Grows Up"

Play "Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 2 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have WITJ-Episode_2-Jesus_Grows_Up.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



Supplies Needed

- Pictures on Cards Needed:
 - Suitcase
 - Hammer or small pieces of wood
 - Books/ football or sports equipment
 - Scroll
 - Picture of extended family members or a collage of pictures of people from a magazine
- Sample card with a picture of a cat on it
- Post it notes or small pieces of paper
- Poster board or bulletin board with the following heading, "Jesus As A Child"



Mission Assignment

SAY: It looks like Simon is in trouble once again. It seems to be difficult for him to listen and follow the instructions of the older Recon team members. I do hope Simon is able to figure things out soon. In the meantime, we have been asked to take on another mission. Let's read it together (reading mission card from satellite uplink): "Recruits, we know that Jesus was born a baby and grew and learned as he got older. What was life like for Jesus? What did His parents do? Did He ever move from His home? Did He follow His Father's rules? Your first mission is to use the Bible to help answer some of these questions."

SAY: Well, we know that Jesus began His life here on earth as a baby but He grew up, of course. He became a child. But, what was life like for Him during the childhood stages?

SAY: To find out, we are going to look at a number of different items. But first we need to find out what these items are. I have five cards here. When it is your turn, you will take a card, without looking at the picture on it and hold it on your forehead so that the rest of the team can see the pictures. You need to ask the recruits questions, that they can answer with yes or no to try and discover what the picture is on your head. For example, I could hold this card to my head (show how to do this with the cat card). I would then ask you questions. You can only answer yes or no.

SAY: Let's try. Is it a person? Is it a household item? Does it make any noise? Is it an animal?

DO: Continue asking yes or no type questions until you have shown them how to play the game.

DO: Play the game. Help if required so that all five cards are identified. Place all five cards on the floor and give each recruit five pieces of paper. Ask the recruits to use one piece of paper per item and to write on the paper (or draw) why this might be important to Jesus' life as a child.

SAY: Each of these items gives us clue into the life of Jesus as a child. Take a quick moment to write down or draw what you think each item means. Place your card or paper under the item that you are referring to.



DO: Allow time for this and if needed, write down some of the recruits' answers for them.

DO: Place the Poster board with the title, "Jesus as a Child" on the wall.

SAY: Now that we have finished this, let's look at the Bible to find the correct answers. We have a few verses to read. Do I have five recruits that would like to look up the verses and read them to the group?

DO: Choose five recruits. You may want to have five Bibles ready, in advance, with the verses marked for them to read. This will speed up the process. Allow the first verses to be read.

Matthew 13:55-56a

SAY: What does this verse tell us? It tells us that Jesus was the son of a carpenter, that He had brothers and sisters. Which card matches this verse?

DO: Allow a recruit to find the correct card (*the hammer or pieces of wood for the carpenter and maybe even the picture of the people to signify family members*). Ask the recruit to tape it to the poster board.

Matthew 2: 21-23

SAY: What do you think this verse is telling us? Yes, Jesus had to leave the land he knew and had to move with His family to Israel. Which picture card fits best here? (*The suitcase*)

DO: Have a recruit attach it to the board.

Luke 2: 39 and 40

SAY: What do you think this verse is telling us? (Give time for recruits to answer) Verse 40 says that Jesus was strong and wise. To be strong, He must have been active and healthy. Which card matches this verse? (*The book or sporting goods*) Let's attach this one to our poster board as well.

Luke 2:41 and 42

SAY: These verses tell us that Jesus grew up in the Jewish faith. He knew the religious laws well. Which card is left for us to choose? Right the scroll. Let's add that to our poster. I do have a few more verses for us to read.

Luke 2:41 – 52

SAY: Jesus stayed behind at the temple. He didn't do this to be disobedient to His parents; in fact these verses tell us that he obeyed them. However, Jesus knew He was to do His Father's will. He listened to the teachers and asked them questions. This showed that he respected them and wanted to learn from them.

SAY: Many relatives and family members had been on this journey with Jesus and His parents. They did not know where Jesus was. Mary was concerned for Him but when they found Him in the temple, He obeyed them and went with them.



SAY: We have learned five important things about Jesus' life as a child. First, He was the son of a carpenter and He had younger brothers and sisters just as many of you do. He had to move from the home He knew to someplace different. He was healthy and strong and wise. He grew up in His faith learning about God and the laws. And He was obedient to His parents and respected the teachers in the temple.

SAY: Jesus was a child just as you are now and as I once was. Let's report back to the Recon Team about all that we have learned today. I hope that these insights will help them in explaining to Todd that growing up wasn't easy for Jesus either, but His childhood experiences helped prepare Him for life as an adult.

SAY: Let's report back to the Recon Team.



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 2 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.



Mission #2



Supplies Needed

- Large cardboard or Bristol board "X" and "O" pieces (You may need five of each)
- Skipping ropes or string to make a large tic-tac-toe board on the floor



Mission Assignment

SAY: Let's have a drumroll for our next mission (reading mission card from satellite uplink). "Jesus was never just a child. He was also the Son of God. What was this like for Jesus? How did He find favor with God?" We have already read the story of how Jesus' parents took Him to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. Now, let's play a game of tic-tac-toe to see how much information you remember and what we learned from this story. To do this, I need to split you into two teams. One team is the X team and the other will be the O team.

SAY: I will ask you a question and if your team answers correctly, you will get to put your marker on the board. You need to get three in a row vertically, horizontally or diagonally. Remember, because you also don't want the other team to get three across, think about possible blocks if you answer correctly. If your answer is wrong, the other team gets a chance to answer the question and to place a marker on the board. Ready? The X team will begin.

DO: Begin asking the questions alternating between teams. If the game is won, and you have not completed all of the necessary questions, continue by playing a second game.



NOTE Squad leader, if you have a large group create two tic-tac-toe boards and have two groups of Xs and Os, one for each board.



Question 1: How old was Jesus when He went to the temple? (12)

Question 2: When Mary and Joseph began travelling home, who was with them? (*Relatives and friends*)

Question 3: After travelling for a day, Mary and Joseph began looking for Jesus. Where did Mary and Joseph find Him? (*At the temple in Jerusalem*)

Question 4: What was Jesus doing in the temple? (*Sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions*)

Question 5: What did the people who heard Jesus think of Him? (*They were amazed by His understanding*)

Question 6: When Mary and Joseph found Jesus they asked Him why He would treat them this way. How did He respond to this? (*He was surprised that they were looking for Him as He knew that He needed to do what his heavenly Father wanted him to do.*)

Question 7: What did Jesus do next? (*He went home to Nazareth with His parents.*)

Question 8: How did Jesus behave for His parents? (*He obeyed them.*)

Question 9: Jesus had to continue to grow in size as He went from being a baby to a child and then later as a man. But he also grew in two other ways? What are they? (*Wisdom and in favor with God and men – meaning he grew more and more pleasing to God and to people.*)

SAY: Good game recruits. I think we know this story well now and we have learned that Jesus was obedient to His parents, Mary and Joseph, but knew that He was also the Son of God and wanted to learn more. He respected His elders and asked them questions and listened to them. Because of this, not only did Jesus grow in size, He also grew and matured in His knowledge and wisdom. As he grew and develop God was more and more pleased with Him.

SAY: As Michael said, I am sure that Jesus had many fun times as a child as well. It may be that He enjoyed games with His brothers and sisters however, the Bible tells us specifically about this time when Jesus was 12 years old. As Jesus grew his heavenly Father continued to love Him and guide Him.

SAY: Let's look at Luke 3:21-23a. Could someone read those verses for us?

DO: Allow them to be read.

SAY: We see Jesus next when He is 30 years old and beginning His ministry. Here we read about His baptism. Such an amazing story. The voice from Heaven confirms what we read back in Luke 2:52, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." God the Father loves Jesus. Because Jesus loves his heavenly Father he obediently starts out on his earthly ministry of preaching and teaching about God and healing the sick.

SAY: Let's report back to the Recon team. I hope that we gathered enough information for them. I wonder if Simon will ever explain why he was late earlier today. Let's check in and see.





Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play “Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 2 (3/4)”. Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



Field Mission Project



Supplies Needed

- Permission from your Corps Officer to work as a RTS team to work on a project to support family and community services or a homeless shelter in your city
- Ask these places about possible opportunities for you and the recruits to serve or ask what their needs are
- Newspaper clippings or information about places in your city that help care for the homeless
- Pre-book a date on your corps calendar when the recruits can carry out a project to serve others

Mission Project

SAY: Simon just told us about his friend that has been homeless for a number of years. This boy had been living with his family in a tent and in his car for some time. This is such a sad situation that happens more often than we realize. Let’s check out our last mission for today (reading mission card from satellite uplink). “Some people are not able to live in the country where they were born and are away from family and friends. This cannot be an easy thing to do. Recruits, consider what it would have been like for Jesus and his parents when they were refugees living in Egypt. What is it like for children living as refugees today?”

SAY: As we read earlier from God’s Word, we read how Jesus and His parents lived in a foreign country, unable to go home. They did this to protect Jesus. It meant that they were far away from friends and family. Not an easy time, I am sure.

SAY: Many people are forced to leave their homeland and travel to other countries to live. They are called refugees. At times, refugees find themselves in sad situations. They are away from family and friends and cannot get the help they need. Like Simon’s friend, many refugees find themselves without homes or places to live.

SAY: Michael tells us to, “Always ask how we can be of help!” Today, I thought we could ask how we could be of help. What are some ideas of what we could do to help those who are refugees or without homes of their own?

DO: Come prepared with ideas of how the recruits could be of service

Here are some suggestions:

- * Collect money for a homeless shelter by running a car wash, bake sale or garage sale
- * Volunteer at a shelter serving a meal



DO: Take their ideas as well. Plan a project that you could do as a group.

Alternative Options:

Option 1

DO: Bring in a Community & Family Services worker or someone from another agency who works with refugees and interview them. Have them share about their struggles as refugees. Ask how we might help them. Then try to play your project around the suggestions they might have for your recruits.

Option 2

DO: If you have a refugee family who has started coming to your church or is connected to someone from your church, invite them to Ready to Serve and interview them about their experiences (keep it age-appropriate). Ask them what would be helpful for us to know about helping refugees when they arrive here to make them feel welcome.



Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play “Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 2 (4/4)”. Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



Supplies Needed

- Have some pictures of children that are living as refugees or that are homeless
- Scraps of paper
- Pens/pencils

Directions

SAY: There are many people hurting today. We have spent a great amount of time brainstorming and have put a plan into place of how we could be of help. But before we go out and work through our plan we need to spend some time talking to God.

DO: Show the recruits the pictures of children living as refugees or who are homeless.

SAY: As you look at these pictures, I want you to think about a specific prayer request that you can bring to God for each of these children. You might want to ask God to find them a home or that they might have someone show them kindness today. Maybe you want to ask God to provide a meal for them tonight or to give them a warm place to sleep. Think about this for a moment. Then, I want you to take a piece of paper from the pile.

DO: Provide a moment for the recruits to look at the pictures and to think of a specific prayer.



SAY: We read in Matthew 3:17 that “A voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son whom I love, with him I am well pleased.’” God loved Jesus and arranged for him to be born on earth as a baby. Jesus grew and became a child. He was a refugee, much like those we are looking at in these pictures. God loved him. And God loves each of these children.

SAY: Now take your piece of paper and tear a large heart out of it. Write on the heart your prayer request.

DO: Help the recruits to tear a heart shape out of their piece of paper and have them write a prayer on it.

SAY: Now as we pray, place your heart on the pictures of the children and pray your request to God.

DO: Close with a prayer for the recruits, pray for the children in the pictures and allow the recruits to talk to God.

NOTES

