



GraceLand Memory Verse

... And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and favor
with God and man.
Luke 2: 52

January 1, 2012 • Theme: A Marvelous Gift

Focus: For kids to learn and understand that Jesus is the most marvelous gift from God.

Movie Punchinello and the Most Marvelous Gift

January 8, 2012 • Theme: Jesus as a young boy (part 1 of 4)

Focus: For kids to learn about Jesus as a child and how he was blessed by prophets Simeon and Anna who first recognized Him as Savior and Lord.

Scripture: Luke 2: 25-38

Theme Summary: Over the next four weeks GraceLand will be learning about Jesus as a young boy. There isn't a lot of information written about Jesus as a young boy...but scripture in Luke tells us of how Jesus grew in strength and wisdom, how He was favored by God, received blessings, and discussed religion with philosophers and scholars, obeyed His parents, showed responsibility and confidence. When Jesus was about twelve years old he travelled to Jerusalem with his mother Mary and stepfather Joseph for the Passover festival.

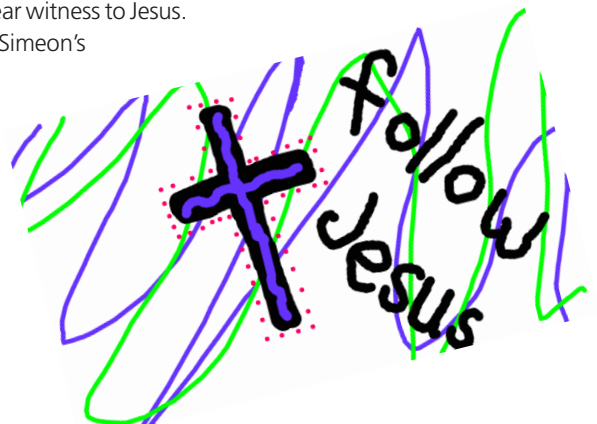
Life Application Summary: When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated to God, they met an old man who told them what their child would become. Simeon's song is often called the Nunc Dimittis, because these are the first words of its Latin translation. Simeon could die in peace because he had seen the Messiah.

The Jews were well acquainted with the Old Testament prophecies that spoke of the Messiah's blessings to their nation. They did not always give equal attention to the prophecies saying that he would bring salvation to the entire world, not just the Jews (Isaiah 49: 6). Many thought that Christ had come to save only his own people. Luke made sure his Greek audience understood that Christ has come to save all who believe, Gentles as well as Jews. Joseph and Mary were amazed for three reasons: Simeon said that Jesus was a gift from God; Simeon recognized Jesus as the Messiah; and Simeon said Jesus would be a light to the entire world. This was at least the second time that Mary had been greeted with prophecy about her son; the first time was when Elizabeth welcomed here as the mother of her Lord. Simeon prophesied that Jesus would have a paradoxical effect on Israel. Some would fall because of him (Isaiah 8:14, 15), while others would rise (Malachi 4:2). With Jesus, there would be no neutral ground: People would either joyfully accept him or totally reject him. As Jesus' mother, Mary would be grieved by the widespread rejection he would face. This is the first note of sorrow in Luke's Gospel.

Although Simeon and Anna were very old, they had never lost their hope that they would see the Messiah. Led by the Holy Spirit, they were among the first to bear witness to Jesus.

In the Jewish culture, elders were respected, so because of Simeon's and Anna's age, their prophecies carried extra weight. Our society, however, values youthfulness over wisdom, and contributions by the elderly are often ignored. As Christians, we should reverse those vales wherever we can. Encourage older people to share their wisdom and experience. Listen carefully when they speak. Offer them your friendship and help them find ways to continue to serve God.

Anna was called a prophet, indicating that she was unusually close to God. Prophets did not necessarily predict the future. Their main role was to speak for God, proclaiming His truth.



WISDOM

is finding out
what you should
do and doing it.

BOTTOM LINE

Since God knows
everything, I
should discover
what God says.

January

January 15, 2012 • Theme: Jesus as a young boy (part 2 of 4)

I will Obey!

TELL GOD
about a situation
where you need
his wisdom, and
ask for it.



THANK GOD
for wisdom
he gives you
through other
people!



Focus: For kids to learn about Jesus as a child and how His parents (Mary & Joseph) obeyed God, the law and all that was required of them.

Scriptures: Luke 2: 27, 39 – That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there.

When Jesus' parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the Lord, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee.

Matthew 5:17 – Don't misunderstand why I have come, I did not come to abolish the Law of Moses or the writings of the prophets, No, I came to fulfill them.

Life Application Summary: Luke twice reminds us in this passage that Mary and Joseph did everything that the custom of the Law required of them (v27 and v39). Christ had come to fulfil the Law (Matthew 5:17), and this process began with the actions of His faithful mother and step-father.

God's moral and ceremonial laws were given to help people love God with all their hearts and minds. Throughout Israel's history, however, these laws had often been misquoted and misapplied. By Jesus' time, religious leaders had turned the laws into a confusing mass of rules. When Jess talked about a new way to understand God's law, he was actually trying to bring people back to its original purpose. Jesus did not speak against the law itself but against the abuses and excesses to which it had been subjected own comfort and security so that others might join us in receiving God's love.

January 22, 2012 • Theme: Jesus as a young boy (part 3 of 4)

Focus: For kids to learn about Jesus as a child and how He grew up healthy and strong. Was filled with wisdom and received God's special favor.

GRACE

Scripture: Luke 2: 40

There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom beyond his years, and God placed his special favor upon him.

Life Application Summary: Jesus was filled with wisdom, which is not surprising since he stayed in close contact with his heavenly Father. James 1: 5 says God gives wisdom generously to all who ask. Like Jesus, we can grow in wisdom by walking with God.

The word "favor" is used to translate words that mean grace, goodwill or acceptance. To talk about the favor of God would be like talking about the grace of God. Luke mentions in this verse that God placed His special favor (grace, goodwill and acceptance) upon Jesus.

January 29, 2012 • Theme: Jesus as a young boy (part 4 of 4)

Focus: For kids to learn about Jesus as a young boy and what happened on their family trip to Jerusalem.

Scripture: Luke 2: 41-52
Study and read from your bible.

Life Application Summary: Luke tells us that when Jesus was about twelve years old he travelled to Jerusalem with his mother Mary and stepfather Joseph for the Passover festival. At one point Jesus left the family group to stay behind for a tutorial with the Temple philosophers and scholars, who were amazed by the boy's level of understanding.

PRAY... that God
will use knowledge
to build your
relationship with
Him.