

1

Family Dynamics

Worship
We praise God for His great love.

POWER TEXT

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

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 2:51, 52; Isaiah 53:7-12
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 7, pp. 68-74
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 63-73
- Student story on page 22 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 22, Christian Behavior
- No. 4, The Son
- No. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that we honor God when we obey Him.
- **Feel** committed to doing their best to honor God.
- **Respond** by willingly worshiping God.

POWERPOINT

We honor God when we obey Him.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus spends His early years in His home in Nazareth. He obeys His parents and shares in the responsibilities at home. He grows intellectually and physically and is loved by God, His family, and His community. In His father's carpentry shop He learns to do His best work. Jesus' example of perfect obedience to God was reflected in His obedience to His earthly parents and the respect He showed to everyone else.

This is a lesson about worship.

Jesus honored God by being faithful and loyal in everything He did. Just as Jesus showed respect to the people of His day, large and small, we can honor God and respect people in our day by reflecting God's love to them and meeting their needs. Doing our very best in everything reveals God to others.

Teacher Enrichment

Among the Gospel writers, only Luke gives us any report of Jesus' childhood. It says that Jesus was "subject" or obedient to His parents. "For 18 years before He left home Jesus realized that He was the Son of God, yet during those 18 years He remained dutiful as a son to those who were His earthly guardians. As the Son of God He might have considered Himself exempt from parental jurisdiction, but as an example to all youth He was 'obedient' to His human parents. . . . During these 18 years Jesus became known . . . as 'the carpenter' of Nazareth (Mark 6:3, KJV) and 'the carpenter's son' (Matt. 13:55, KJV).

"At some time during these 18 years, Joseph died, for at the close of this period of time the shop is spoken of as 'the carpenter shop that had been Joseph's' (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 109; cf. p. 145). Luke 2:51 is the last indirect Scripture reference to Joseph in the narrative of Christ's life. . . .

"It is important to a proper understanding of how Christ met the problems of life to recognize that He was not born, or supernaturally endowed, with knowledge, understanding, and wisdom—He 'increased,' or 'grew,' in wisdom" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 711).

In what ways do my students see me living Jesus' example by putting my best effort into Sabbath School for them?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness Activities	10-15	*A. Sports Interview*	Bibles, guest, slips of paper, pencils
		B. Offering Encouragement	Bibles
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 17. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, letter to parents (p. 144), offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	Bibles, carpenter's tools
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, photocopies (p. 145)
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Like Jesus*	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk, wood scraps, nails, tools
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments	
		Reminder to Parents	
		Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ guest
- ☐ slips of paper
- ☐ pencils

Sports Interview

Ahead of time, ask an outgoing adult or youth guest (or one of your assistants) to come in to be interviewed as if they are a sports personality. Let them know that the focus of the questions is to be their commitment to always doing their best and to growing in strength and ability little by little. Say to the students: **Today we have a special guest, we are pretending that he/she is a world class athlete in (name one of the students' favorite sports).** Pass slips of paper to the students and ask them to write out a question they would like to ask the "athlete" about how he/she has reached goals and stayed motivated.

Collect the slips of paper and conduct the interview from the students' questions. Eliminate silly questions, and help focus others as necessary.

Debriefing

Ask: **How can we compare growing in strength and wisdom as we mature with growing in ability in a sport? What motivates a person to do their best? As Jesus kept growing and developing physically, mentally, and spiritually, He was continually in harmony with God. His life displayed unselfish love toward others whom He tried to help, doing His best. Let's say together the power text,**

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

As our power point states,

We "honor God when we obey Him.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Offering Encouragement

Have students form groups of three or four and ask them to share, in one or two sentences any praise and thanksgiving for God's guidance as well as any personal need or concern for which they would like to request prayer. Then allow time for each person to offer a few words of encouragement and to say short sentence prayers for their peers.

Debriefing

Ask: **How is praying for one another an active part of our worship?** (Prayer is one way we connect with God through faith. When we pray for ourselves and for others, we acknowledge that God is in control of our lives. We owe everything to Him and trust our lives to His guidance.) **How does this activity relate to honoring God?** (When we let our lives be a living expression of God's love to others, we honor Him and become more like Jesus.)

Let's say together the power text, Luke 2:52:

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

Like Jesus,

We honor God when we obey Him.

Prayer and Praise

Notes

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"We Are an Offering" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 136)
"Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 126)
"Our Prayer" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 137)
"I Want to Be Like You" (*Praise Time*, no. 90)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins
- ☐ letter to parents (p. 144)

Use *Adventist Mission* for youth and adult (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place. At the beginning of the quarter, send a letter to the parents, informing them that an offering is taken up each week in Sabbath School (see p. 144).

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **We honor God by bringing Him our freewill offerings. The Lord is pleased with our worship when we support the various ministries of the church and help those who will benefit from the mission projects around the world.**

Prayer

Invite students to form groups of two or three and say brief prayers of thanks and praise to God for His goodness to us. If they have any prayer requests, they may pray for one another. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ carpenter's tools

Introducing the Bible Story

Invite a Christian carpenter/cabinetmaker to visit your class and bring along some of the tools of that trade. Have your guest explain the use of each tool and answer whatever questions the students may have. (If you are unable to find a carpenter/cabinetmaker, display several tools such as a hammer, saw, screwdriver, etc., and have students tell how a carpenter would use each.) Then say: **Today our lesson is about Jesus growing up in a carpenter's shop. Jesus always did His best as a carpenter.**

We honor God when we obey Him.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ photocopies (p. 145)

Experiencing the Story

Have the students read aloud together Luke 2:51, 52. Say: **These two verses come right after the ones that tell us that Jesus had been in the temple, questioning the religious teachers. He was just beginning to realize the work that God intended for Him to do. He did not grow up understanding everything about His mission to our world. But even after He told His parents that God was His Father in a special way, He was willing to go home and obey His earthly parents, and do His very best work for the customers of the carpenter's shop.** Distribute copies of the excerpts from *The Desire of Ages* (see p. 145) to the students. Ask them to read the passage aloud, taking turns between the boys and the girls (or a boy and a girl).

(Optional) Say: **Let's also look at Isaiah 53:7-12.** Read the passage together. **This is a passage that Jesus would have heard read at the synagogue. He was coming to realize that this was about Himself. How do you think that would have made Him feel?**

Debriefing

Ask: **What did Jesus learn in the carpenter's shop that would have contributed to His success during His earthly ministry later on? How would the daily routine tasks of His work with Joseph have taught Him to honor God and obey Him? How did Jesus' daily connection with God help Him to identify and respond to other people's needs?**

We honor God when we obey Him.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Write the texts below on the board. Divide the students into six groups. Have each group find one set of texts that showed a way in which Jesus honored God by following his requirements and helping others.

1. Matthew 4:23, 24 (taught in the synagogue, proclaimed the good news of the kingdom, healed).
2. Matthew 6:5-13 (taught disciples how to pray).
3. Luke 19:1-9 (came to seek and save the lost).
4. Matthew 19:13-15 (welcomed the little children and pointed to their honesty as a requirement to entering the kingdom of heaven).
5. Luke 15 (told stories to clarify teachings of deep spiritual significance).
6. John 4:1-10 (explained the meaning of true worship).

Debriefing

Say: **What kinds of things did Jesus do for others that were evidence of His strong connection with His heavenly Father? What are some ways we can be like Jesus and show others in practical ways that God loves them? What is the message of the power text, Luke 2:52? Let's say it together:**

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

Like Jesus, we can grow in wisdom and in favor with God and others if we stay close to Him and communicate with Him daily.

Remember that

We honor God when we obey Him.

Scenario

Read and discuss the following scenario with your students.

Najeb has been studying the character of Jesus in the Bible with his family. He has been impressed by Jesus' life of self-sacrificial love to God and to others, and the call for him to follow Jesus. He has decided to commit His life to Jesus, and he wants to do his very best to honor God. But he is not sure how to start or what he can do.

Debriefing

Ask: **What personal experience would you share with Najeb to help him get started? How can he do his best as he follows Jesus and reflects His love to others? In what ways can he share Jesus with others in his family, in his church, in his neighborhood, and at school? Remember that**

We honor God when we obey Him.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

Like Jesus

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk
- ☐ wood scraps
- ☐ nails
- ☐ tools

Invite students to share with the class if they had the opportunity last week to show kindness as Jesus did, allowing God to bless others through them. Ask: **In what ways did you share God's love with someone? How did that person respond?**

Ask the students to brainstorm qualities of Jesus that reflect His close connection with His Father and His love for people. Write these on the board.

Debriefing

Ask: **How can we be more like Jesus?** Have the students pair up with another person and take turns telling one way they plan to honor God by doing their best in their interactions with others as Jesus did. Have them make a simple object from the scraps of wood that they can take with them to be a reminder to always do their best.

Say: **When you look at the object you made from wood, it can help remind you that by doing your best you may gain favor both with God and with others. Like Jesus,**

We honor God when we obey Him.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Dear Jesus, please show us how to honor You and reflect Your love to others. Please give us opportunities to do our best work for You. Amen.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus cleanses the temple. We worship God when we show respect and reverence in His house.**

Notes

Student lesson

Family Dynamics

Take a careful look at a piece of furniture in your home, perhaps a chair you find comfortable. Examine how the different pieces fit together. What did the builder of this piece of furniture have to know? What tools do you think the builder used? Now imagine Jesus in the carpenter shop learning how to be the best carpenter possible.

The fragrance of green wood, like evergreen trees, was the first greeting a customer received at the local carpenter's shop. The carpenter stood in the back corner, a piece of charcoal behind his ear. He measured carefully before skillfully fitting the top of a table to the legs, pounding wooden pegs into the holes to hold it together. With a low whistle, the man smiled and stood back to admire his work: smooth grain and perfectly matched, corners meeting exactly, all legs evenly balanced. Meanwhile, his youngest Son hurried forward with a smile of His own to greet a customer.

It was always that way in this shop. The owner was an honest man who built everything with the care he would take if it were for himself. If you asked for cedar, you got cedar, not some other wood the carpenter had found cheaper so he could make a profit on your ignorance.

Picture Jesus as a young man getting up early. The first thing He did when He woke up was to talk to His heavenly Father. In prayer He asked for strength to carry successfully the challenges of the new day. As Jesus arrived at Joseph's carpentry shop, He got the tools ready for the day. He may have selected the wood they would be using. Maybe He talked to the first few customers who were standing in line in front of the shop.

Although the carpenter's family belonged to the royal lineage of King David, they were not rich in material possessions. However, what Jesus' parents offered their Son was far greater in value than what silver or gold could buy. These parents did everything they could to introduce Jesus to the spiritual treasures that are of eternal value. Joseph and Mary did not send Jesus to the schools of the rabbis. Instead, they offered their Son an education centered in God's will for His life. Thus, Jesus became a person of integrity whose character was pleasing to God as well as to everyone who knew Him.

Jesus' mind was very receptive, soaking up everything His mother taught Him. Jesus faithfully attended the synagogue with His parents every Sabbath. Then, during the week, He had the opportunity to discuss with His parents the stories of Creation, Noah and the Flood, Moses and the Passover angel, Abraham and Isaac, and many other captivating accounts about people of faith.

The Boy asked thought-provoking questions that His mother couldn't always answer. Mary answered Him according to her understanding of the Scriptures. The great day would come when Jesus would turn 12. Then the family would travel to the temple in Jerusalem, and Jesus could address His difficult questions to the religious teachers there.

Mary treasured in her heart the memory of the events that preceded and followed the miraculous birth of her Son. These stories included personal visits of angels and shepherds and rich kings following a star—evidence of God's guidance in their lives.

Jesus' mother told Him of His divine orgins as announced to her by Angel Gabriel. As He read from the Scriptures the prophecies about the coming of the Messiah, Jesus must have paid special attention, thinking of how He Himself is the fulfillment of these prophecies.

Carefully this gentle mother did her best to raise the Son of God. She quietly cherished the knowledge that He was the Messiah everyone was looking for, the future King of kings and Lord of lords. But this truth was kept by Jesus' family until just the right time. God would choose the time and the way to impress hearts about this great truth.

Until then, the best way for the Son of God to learn how to be a good king was to live like the common people did, so He could understand the challenges that everyone faced.

The Boy Jesus honored God and had a strong relationship with His heavenly Father. He was an obedient Son to His parents, a good student, and a kind young man to everyone He encountered. He not only had friends His own age, but even the grown-ups in the town loved Him. Can you guess why? Because He treated everyone with respect. He treated others as He would want to be treated—the same way His earthly father treated his customers in the carpenter shop.

KEY REFERENCES

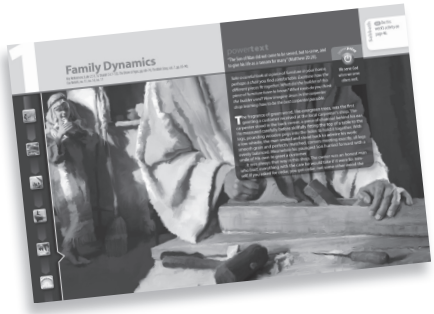
- Luke 2:51, 52; Isaiah 53:7-12
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 7, pp. 68-74
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 63-73
- Our Beliefs nos. 22, 4, 9

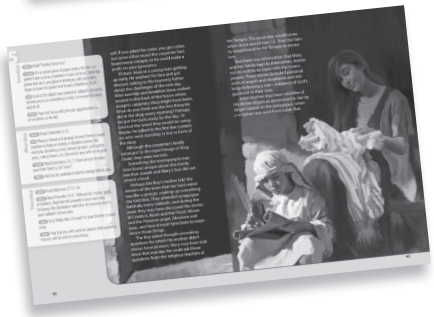
POWER TEXT

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

POWER POINT

We honor God when we obey Him.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 18.

Sunday

READ Read Mark 3:33, 34 and this week's lesson, "Family Dynamics."

LEARN On a narrow piece of paper, draw a familiar carpenter's tool, such as a hammer or saw. Cut it out. Write the power text on it, and place it where you will see it often.

DO Plan practical ways you could honor God this week.

REVIEW Review the power text, Luke 2:52.

PRAY Pray for opportunities to follow Jesus' example in honoring God and reflecting His love to others.

Monday

READ Read Colossians 3:12.

THINK What are the characteristics of God's chosen people, who worship and honor Him?

DO Help a friend or someone close to you to understand what it means to honor God by doing your best.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to build your faith in Him.

Tuesday

READ Read Colossians 2:6, 7.

ILLUSTRATE With pencil, crayon, paint, or markers, illustrate what it means to you to honor Jesus with your life.

SING Sing "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee" or another song of commitment to God.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that you will come in contact with someone who needs to know about God's love.

Wednesday

READ Read Romans 15:1, 2: "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up."

WRITE In your Bible study journal,* write ways you could honor God by following the advice given in these verses.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for patience and understanding toward others as you seek to honor God in everything you do.

Thursday

READ Read Luke 2:21-52.

WRITE What are the ways in which Jesus "grew" or "increased" (see Luke 2:51, 52)? Write in your own words what each means.

HELP Decide on ways you will do your best today.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you grow spiritually as you seek to please Him and share His love with others.

Friday

READ Read Luke 2:51, 52.

REPEAT Repeat the power text by memory.

SHARE Together with your family express your gratitude to God by sharing your experiences of how the Lord has blessed you.

PRAISE Sing several praise songs for family worship.

PRAY Ask God to help you honor Him in your relationships with others and in everything you do.

*NOTE Your Bible study journal is found at the back of your PowerPoints Bible study guide. If you need additional space, use a notebook or open a special file on your computer. Writing out your thoughts and ideas every time you study the Bible helps you gain a deeper understanding of God's Word.