



LESSON 3

The Boy Jesus

Vocabulary

- **Pre-exist** – To exist or live before another
- **Caesar** – The ruler of the Roman Empire, which included the land of Israel in Jesus' time
- **Manger** – A place to put food for animals; a feeding trough
- **Magi** – The wise men who traveled from the East to honor Jesus
- **Passover** – A Jewish holiday celebrating the day Israelites escaped slavery in Egypt
- **Synagogue** – A gathering place for Jews to learn and worship

Jesus is the eternal God of the universe, which means that His birth was very different from ours. His birth was not His beginning. Jesus **pre-existed** His time on Earth. He had always been God, but then He chose to become human, as well. He lived His life on Earth as both God and a man.

3-A The Birth of Jesus

- You can find the story of Jesus' birth in **Luke 2:1-7**. Read the passage and complete the following paragraph with the keywords below.

Manger	Bethlehem	Caesar Augustus	Nazareth	Son
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Because of a decree from _____, Joseph
 and Mary had to leave the town of _____ and travel
 to _____. They could find no place to stay there, even
 though Mary was pregnant. So when Mary gave birth to her firstborn _____, she
 wrapped him in some cloths and laid Him in a _____.



► Continue reading through **Luke 2:8-20**. Complete the following sentences by checking the correct boxes.

After Jesus was born, God first decided to share the good news with . . .

an important king.	some religious leaders.	a group of shepherds.
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God chose to tell them by sending . . .

a large group of angels.	another prophet.	a talking sheep.
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According to verse 14, this moment meant . . .

confusion and fear.	glory to God, and peace.	war.
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The shepherds would find the Messiah by . . .

Looking for	a baby	a very old man	a king with a crown
In	the fields	Nazareth	the city of David
Wrapped in	fancy robes	cloths	hay
Lying in	a wooden cradle	a manger	a basket

► Describe how the shepherds felt when . . .

- ◉ They first saw the angels (v. 9):
- ◉ They decided to look for the Messiah (vv. 15-16):
- ◉ They returned home (vv. 17, 20):



3-B Jesus' Early Life

The Old Testament Law told Jewish parents to dedicate their firstborn sons to the Lord. So shortly after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in the city of Jerusalem (Luke 2:21–38). While there, they met a priest named Simeon who recognized Jesus as the Messiah. Simeon praised God and blessed the young family. Mary and Joseph also met Anna, a prophetess who told many people about the good news of Jesus the Messiah.

- Not everyone was happy to hear about Jesus. Read **Matthew 2:13–23** to learn how Jesus spent the earliest years of His childhood. Then fill in the blanks below.

Verse 13	God sent an angel to tell Joseph to flee with his family to _____.
Verses 14–15	Mary, Joseph, and Jesus stayed in that country until after the death of King _____.
Verse 16	That king tried to kill the Messiah by killing all male children in Bethlehem who were _____ years old and under.
Verse 20	An angel later told Joseph when it was safe for the family to move back to _____.
Verse 23	Jesus grew up in a small town called _____.

When He was 12 years old, Jesus traveled with His parents to Jerusalem to celebrate the **Passover**. Afterward, when everyone started the trip home, Jesus was nowhere to be found. His parents searched for Him until they discovered Him still at the Temple.

► Read **Luke 2:41-52** and answer the following questions.

- ◉ What was Jesus doing when His parents found Him? (v. 46)
- ◉ When Mary told Jesus that she and Joseph were looking for Him, how did Jesus reply? (v. 49)
- ◉ Note **verse 51** again. Did Jesus show disrespect to His parents?
- ◉ In what ways did the young Jesus grow up? (v. 52)



3-C Jesus Was Obedient

After Jesus became a human, He faced the same kinds of problems that we do. He knows what makes us happy or sad. He knows what it feels like to be hungry or tired. Jesus felt all these things, but He never responded by sinning. Instead, He set an example for us. He always obeyed God. Because of Jesus' example, we know that we can obey if we ask for His strength.

- Look up the verses below and fill in the blanks to explain how we should follow Jesus' example.

Philippians 2:8	Jesus to die on a cross.	Himself and was obedient, even
James 4:7	We should	ourselves to God.
Luke 2:51	Jesus submitted Himself to His parents as He grew up in Nazareth.	
Ephesians 6:1-3	We should	our parents, as is right to God.
Matthew 22:15-22	Jesus said to give Caesar whatever belongs to and to give God whatever belongs to	
Romans 13:1	We should be subject to	



Building Your Life Castle

- Which authorities in your life do you have the most trouble obeying?

Take some time to ask God for strength and wisdom to obey when you should. If Jesus chose to submit Himself to earthly rulers for the good of His ministry, then so can we.