

Materials I Need:

Legend:

-  = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade
 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” Luke 2:52

Aim Questions:

1. Who were the two people who met Joseph and Mary at the Temple, and what did each of them do?
2. Where did Jesus go with His parents when He was 12, and what happened on the way home?
3. What was Jesus' answer to His mother in the temple, and how did His parents respond?
4. What does the Bible say Jesus did to His parents after all of this happened?
5. What do you think Jesus would say to the complaint, “My parents just don't understand me”?
6. How does God expect you to act toward your parents? Give examples of how you are succeeding or failing at this.

 Hook:

- Will the First Born Please Stand? (Discussion).** Have students stand if they are the firstborn male in their family. This was a special privilege and unique position in Bible times. The firstborn male had extra responsibilities but also was given certain rights. For the rest of the day, the firstborn males will be able to: *(Decide what will work best for your class - hand out materials, take offering, etc.)*
- Count it a Privilege (Discussion).** Is there a certain age where your parents will give you more privileges? What privileges will you get at 12, 16, 18 or 21? In Jewish culture, 12 was the age of becoming an adult.
- Scared Stiff (Discussion).** When was the last time you were afraid? Did your heart beat faster? Were you unable to move or did you run so fast that your feet didn't hit the ground? When might fear be a good thing? What does true worship involve? *(Awe of God and His power.)* Today's Adventure tells of some badly frightened shepherds. How did they respond when told not to be afraid?
- I Will, I Won't (Game).** Have the students sit in a circle and choose a student to be “IT.” “IT” points to any student and says, “I will, one, two, three” or “I won't, one, two, three.” Before “IT” gets to the count of three, the other student must answer an “I will” with something that would show obedience such as “I will be kind” or “I will do my homework.” The “I won't” answers are to be actions that will **not** please the Lord such as “I won't go to church” or “I won't be truthful.” If the student doesn't start the answer by the count of three or he answers incorrectly, he becomes “IT.” The students who never become “IT” *(except for the first one chosen to begin the game)* are declared the winners. Discuss the importance of obedience and what affect disobedience will have on our lives. We often don't say our “I won'ts” out loud, but our attitudes and actions say it for us.

- Last Request (*Discussion*).** If you were very old and knew you would die soon, what would be the one most important thing you would want to do or see while you were still alive?
- Home Alone (*Discussion*).** Have you ever missed the school bus? Have you ever been left behind while traveling? Has your family ever had to come back for you when they realized you were not with them? Share your stories.
- Rules, Rules! (*Brainstorm*).** Have students think about the rules their parents have made for them at home. At the board, make a list of common “least favorite” rules.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

- Simeon Holding Jesus (*Illustration/Overhead*).** Simeon, who was told he would not die before he had seen the Messiah, offers up a thankful prayer to God for a promise come true, **BLUK02.GF1.**
- Anna Tells All (*Illustration/Overhead*).** “Coming up to them at that very moment, Anna gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.” Luke 2:38, **BLUK02.GF2.**
- Jesus in the Temple (*Illustration/Overhead*).** “After three days they found Him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.” Luke 2:46, **BLUK02.GF3.**

Bible Adventure -

When your family gathers at Christmas time, is it one of your traditions to read the Christmas story together? The second chapter of Luke is probably the most well used passage in the Bible telling of the birth of God’s Son, Jesus. Today we are going to look at Luke two a little more closely. There are some lessons there for us that we might miss if we only focus in on the birth of the Savior.

Last week we learned that Luke spent a lot of time researching for himself the details of Jesus’ birth and life before writing it all down. Some of those details do not appear in other gospels, but we know that Luke was very careful in his research, and modern Bible scholars have found his record to be extremely accurate. One of the details Luke mentions is the appearance of a host of angels before the shepherds outside Bethlehem; this was truly an amazing sight. The shepherds spread the news about the things they had seen and heard, and about their visit to the manger to see Jesus.

Luke also mentions that when the baby was eight days old and about to be circumcised, they gave the name “Jesus” to Him, just as they had been instructed by the angel Gabriel to do. The Hebrew form of Jesus is Joshua, which means “Jehovah is salvation.” God was careful to give Him a name that would also show us the reason He came to this earth.

In those days, a Jewish woman was to wait for 40 days after the birth of a son before going to the temple. When that time arrived, Mary and Joseph took Jesus there to present Him to the Lord. Every Jewish family was to do this. It was God’s law. It began when God’s people were in Egypt and they put blood on their doorposts so the angel of death would pass over their houses and not kill their firstborn sons. After God rescued them from slavery there, He told them to give over to Him the firstborn of both children and animals. Joseph and Mary were being obedient to God’s command. They were also there to offer a sacrifice of doves or pigeons, which was also required by God after a husband and wife had a baby. As they entered the temple, they discovered someone there they had not expected. Have you ever heard of a divine appointment? That’s when God arranges for people to meet for a purpose only He knows for sure. Mary and Joseph had a divine appointment with a man named Simeon. Simeon was a righteous man who loved God very much. He was eagerly awaiting the arrival of God’s promised Messiah. God’s Holy Spirit had told him he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Christ. God prompted him to go to the temple courts where he saw Joseph and Mary bringing in Jesus. Simeon knew this was his promised Messiah. He took Jesus into his arms and began to praise God. Imagine holding the Savior of the world in your arms! “Sovereign Lord,” Simeon said, “as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a

light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory for your people Israel.” Did you catch what Simeon was saying? “I can die happy now, Lord. I’ve seen the Savior, and He’s not just a Savior for my people. He’s the Savior of the whole world!”

Joseph and Mary were amazed at the things Simeon was saying about Jesus, but not all the words he said were easy to take. He told Mary that her child would cause the rising and falling of many people, and that she herself would go through much suffering as she watched Him grow and fulfill God’s purpose for His coming.

Also in the temple that day was an old woman named Anna. Anna was a prophetess who never left the temple and who worshipped God both night and day. As Joseph and Mary were with Simeon, Anna approached and also recognized Jesus as the Savior. She told everyone who would listen that Jesus was the one who had been sent to redeem Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary finished with what was required of them at the temple and returned to Galilee.



Look:



Relay Review (Game). Divide into teams of five or six students and one teacher. Have them line up with the first student facing a table where a set of question cards is placed face down. Have the teacher on each team stand next to the table in charge of the card stack. Hand student #1 on each team a scarf or some object that can be easily put on and taken off. Each student must put on the scarf, pick up a question, answer it correctly, take off the scarf and hand it to the next student, who then must put it on, take a question and answer it correctly, take off the scarf and pass it to the next student. The first team to get through their line is the winning team. If a question is missed, the teacher must give the correct answer and the team must start from the beginning again. *(These should be copied on card stock. Also, please notice there are two sets per page)* **BLUK02.GF4.**



Find Your Match (Activity). Cut out the cards from **BLUK02.GF5** before class-time and then give each student one card each. Don’t let them show anyone else. When you say, “Go,” they need to find someone who has a symbol that represents how each person responded to Jesus. This can be done in teams. The first team with all the matches wins. If done individually, a time limit can be set or the game is over when the music stops, etc. **DEBRIEF:** Which match did you pick and why? *(Copy on cardstock. Make sure sets are distributed evenly so that there is a match for everyone. Correct matches would be a mouth for Anna who told all, a heart for Mary who pondered these things, a trumpet for the angels who announced the news, fear for the shepherds who rejoiced, arms holding a baby for Simeon.)*



All About Obedience (Bible Drill). At the word, “Go,” have the students find the following verses, one at a time, as fast as they can. The first person to find the verse needs to stand up immediately and read it. Deuteronomy 32:46; Proverbs 6:20; Proverbs 13:24 Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20; 1 Timothy 3:4; Philippians 2:8; John 15:10; Hebrews 5:8,9.



Examples of Obedience (Discussion). Why did Mary and Joseph go to the temple when Jesus was a baby and again when He was 12 years old? They were being obedient to commands that God had given the Jewish people. See Leviticus 12:6, 8 and Numbers 9:2, 3. Children must obey their parents because God commands it. Parents need to obey God’s commands for them, too. Ultimately, obedience to God is the issue for all of us. In fact, the reason children learn to obey their parents is so that they will learn to obey God. *(We suggest you divide into small groups to enable better discussions involving more student interaction.)*



My Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation (Color Page). Who said this? For whom was this salvation? Color these eyes the same as your own, **BLUK02.GF6.**



Chores ‘R’ Us (Worksheet). Luke 2:51 tells us that Jesus was obedient to His parents. Circle the things that Mary and Joseph may have asked Him to do. Put a box around the things that our parents ask us to do. Some items will have both a box and a circle. Have things really changed all that much? Some things we do are the exact chores Jesus had to do in His home! **BLUK02.GF7.**



Vocabulary (Game). Play this game as “dictionary” is played in teaching groups or as a class.

Give each student a blank sheet of paper. Have them write the following words and their own definition for each. These definitions can be guesses at the true meaning or they can be something creative that might fool their classmates. A teacher will write the true meanings (*supplied here*). Then, collect and re-distribute papers. (*Continue to exchange after each word.*) Have students read the definitions they now have to the group. Try to guess the correct ones.

1. The name Jesus (or Joshua): Jehovah is salvation.
2. Messiah: the anointed one. Back in David's time, when God chose the man to be the next king, His prophet would point him out ahead of time by putting oil on the man's head in a small ceremony. That man was anointed.
3. Salvation: deliverance; rescue;
4. Revelation: to be disclosed, uncovered, or lit up so as to be seen.
5. Gentiles: members of a foreign (*non-Jewish*) race.
6. Savior: a deliverer; one who saves.
7. Redeem: to purchase; to buy.
8. Wisdom: knowledge and good judgment; discretion.
9. Grace: manner of life that reflects divine influence upon the heart.

Looking for Jesus (Game). Arrange students in a circle. Distribute game cards - one to each student. (*Use all the cards you need, but use only one "temple" card.*) Individuals will take turns pretending to be Mary or Joseph "looking for Jesus." "Mary" or "Joseph" will approach any member or the group and ask if they have seen Jesus. If that student has a friend or relative card, he will say "no." If he has a "stranger" card he will say "Who?" "Mary" or "Joseph's" turn continues until he or she encounters a stranger. Then a new "Mary" or "Joseph" may resume play. A Mary or Joseph wins when the temple card is found. Then cards can be shuffled for a new round of play, **LUK02.GF8.**



Took:

How Obedient Am I? (Worksheet). Score yourself as indicated. (*Younger students work as teacher reads*), **BLUK02.GF9.**

Grow More Like Jesus (Craft). Make a grow chart! Each student will need a strip of butcher paper (*36 X 10*). Mark it with feet and inches (*starting with three feet*) along one edge. Glue verses and illustrations as indicated. Color and decorate, but leave room to mark student's growth, **BLUK02.GF10.**

Rules Review (Discussion). Look at the "least favorite" rules list from Hook time. Which of these rules might Jesus have been required to obey? We already know He obeyed His parents perfectly, even though He was God of the universe. Can we do any less?

Are You Responsive? (Worksheet). How WOULD you respond in each of the following situations? How SHOULD you respond? **BLUK02.GF11.**

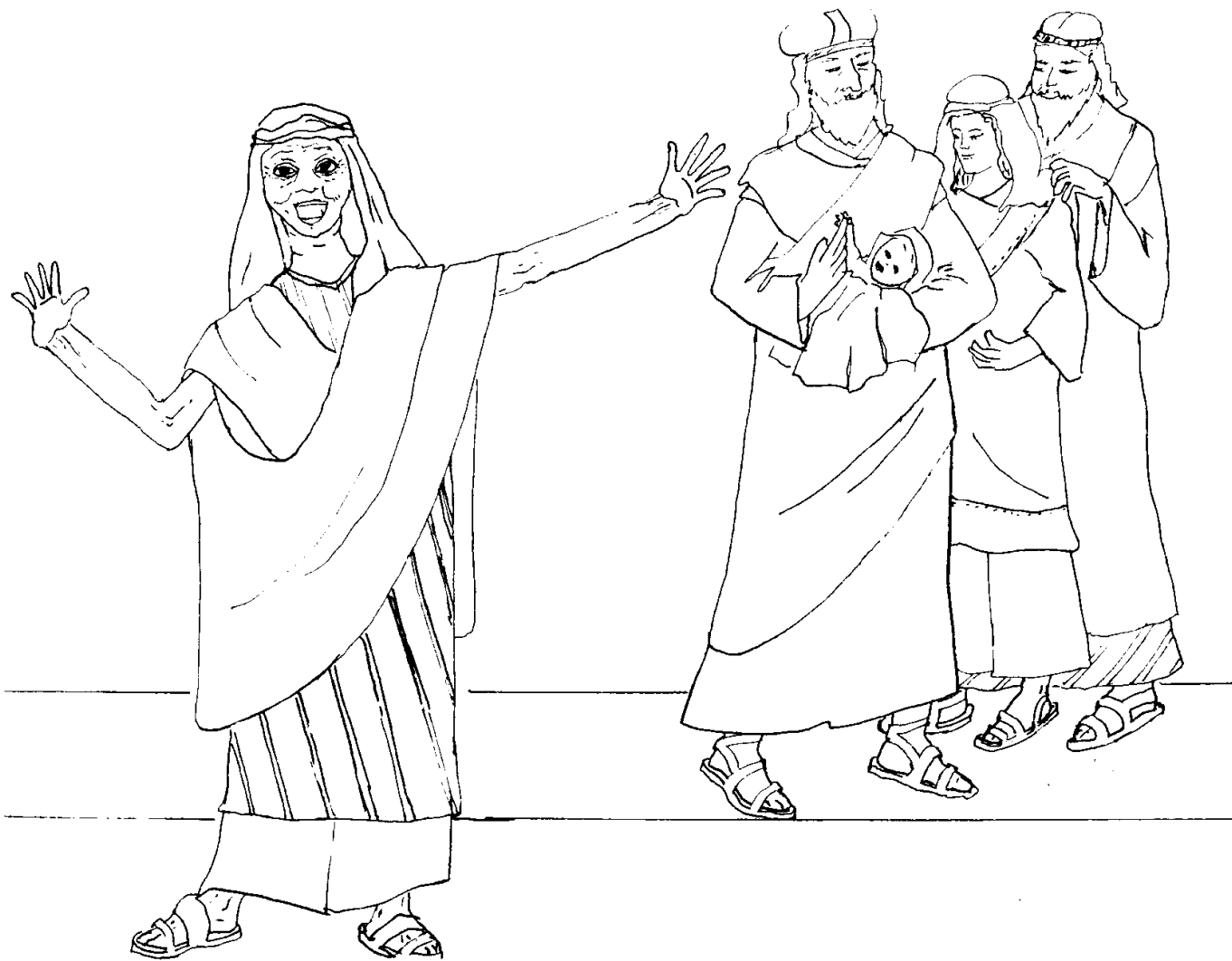
Wisdom and Stature (Activity). Luke 2:52 says Jesus grew in wisdom and favor with God and men. The Bible values wisdom over things the world would think to be important. Let's test the wisdom in this class. Line kids up in a row. Have anyone that can say this week's Bible verse stand up and say it. If correct, let them take one step forward. Then allow them to say another Bible verse. Each time they get one correct, have them advance another step, showing their growth in wisdom by knowing the place where true wisdom comes, the Scriptures. (*You may want to add some requirements such as using reference, only quoting verses from Sunday School, etc.*)

What God Wants from You (Worksheet). Jesus knew and did something very important that we need to do, too. To find out what that is, color in dark crayon all the boxes that show how we should not respond to others, especially our parents. When all the "bad" boxes are colored in, see if you can tell what the "magic" word is that remains, **BLUK02.GF12.**

Simeon Holding Jesus



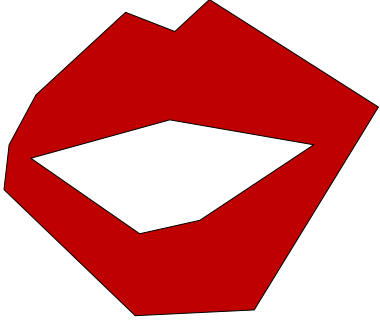





Anna Tells All



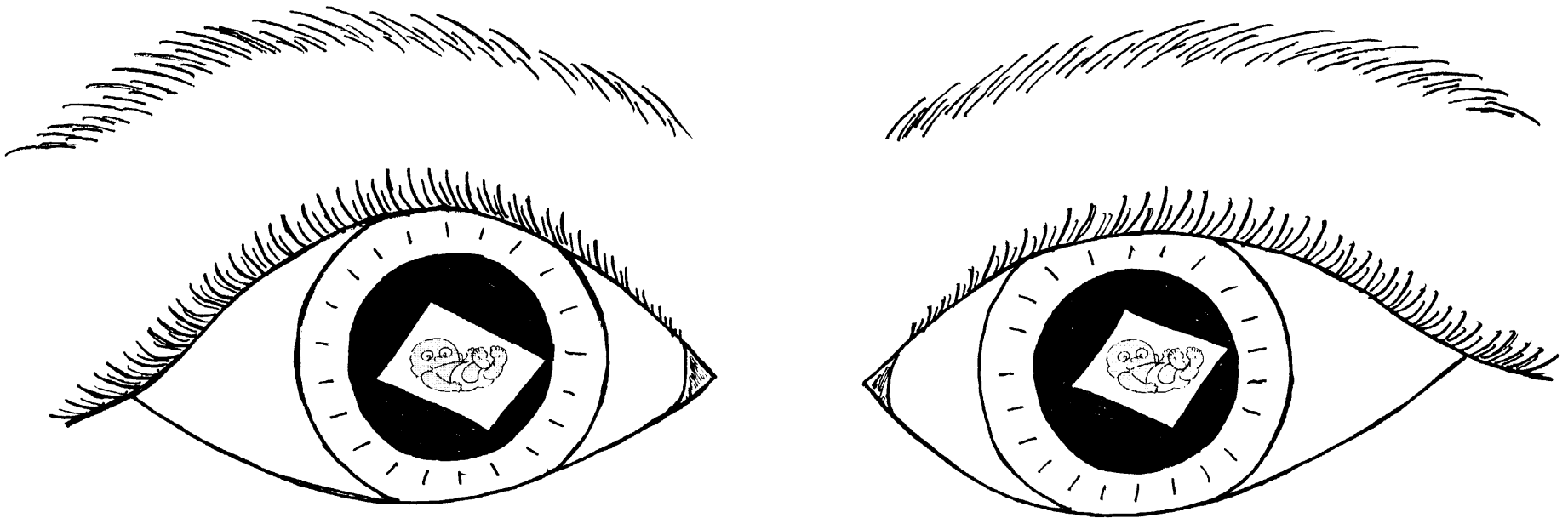
Jesus in the Temple



What does the name Jesus mean?	Who gave Jesus and John their names?	What does the name Jesus mean?	Who gave Jesus and John their names?
Where had Jesus gone when his parents couldn't find him?	Who was the woman in the temple who spread the news of the Messiah to everyone?	Where had Jesus gone when his parents couldn't find him?	Who was the woman in the temple who spread the news of the Messiah to everyone?
Who told the shepherds about the birth of Jesus?	As Jesus grew, what does scripture say he was filled with?	Who told the shepherds about the birth of Jesus?	As Jesus grew, what does scripture say he was filled with?
Who said, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about"?	How old was Jesus when his parents found him in the temple courts sitting among the teachers?	Who said, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about"?	How old was Jesus when his parents found him in the temple courts sitting among the teachers?

Anna	Angel		
Shepherds	Mary		
Simeon	Teachers		

“My eyes have seen your salvation...



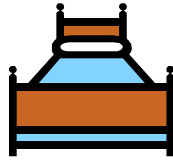
...a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

Chores 'R' Us

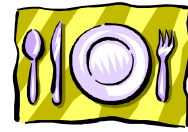
Luke 2:51 tells us that Jesus was obedient to His parents. Circle the things that Mary and Joseph may have asked Him to do. Put a box around the things that our parents ask us to do. Have things really changed all that much?



sweep the floor



go to bed



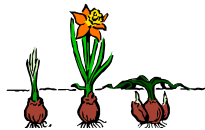
set the table



play with little brother or sister



wash dishes



weed the garden



mow the lawn



pick up toys



turn off the T.V.



haul firewood



wash the car



schoolwork / study



comb your hair




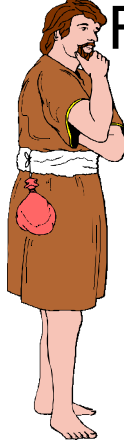

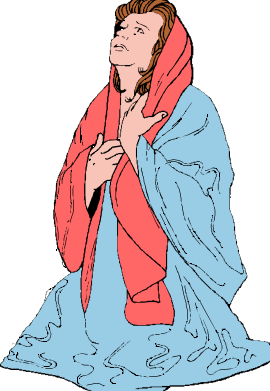

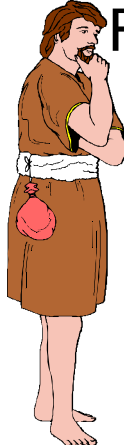
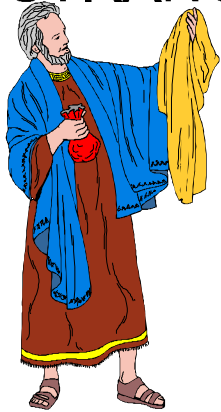





Looking for Jesus



Arrange students in a circle. Distribute game cards - one to each student. (Use all the cards you need, but let there only be one "temple card"). Individuals will take turns pretending to be "Mary" or "Joseph" looking for Jesus. "Mary" or "Joseph" will approach any member of the group and ask if they have seen Jesus. If that student has a friend or relative card, he will say "no". If he or she has a "stranger" card he will say "who?". "Mary" or "Joseph's" turn continues until he or she encounters a stranger. Then a new "Mary or "Joseph" may resume play. A "Mary" or "Joseph" wins when the temple card is found. Then the cards can be shuffled for a new round of play.

BLUK02.GF8

<p>COUSIN</p> 	<p>GRANDFATHER</p> 	<p>AUNT</p> 	<p>FRIEND</p> 
<p>COUSIN</p> 	<p>GRANDMOTHER</p> 	<p>TEMPLE</p> 	<p>FRIEND</p> 
<p>STRANGER</p> 	<p>STRANGER</p> 	<p>STRANGER</p> 	<p>UNCLE</p> 

How Obedient Am I?

Rate yourself by circling a number. Be as honest as you can.
 4=Almost Always, 3=Usually, 2=Sometimes, 1=Almost Never

I come immediately when called.	4	3	2	1
At bedtime, I go to bed by myself or with one reminder.	4	3	2	1
I do helpful things without being asked.	4	3	2	1
I ask permission when I'm not sure what my parents would want me to do.	4	3	2	1
I "stick around" even when I know I might be put to work - like after dinner.	4	3	2	1
I behave in public.	4	3	2	1
When my parents leave someone else in charge (like a babysitter), obey them.	4	3	2	1
I obey the rules even when no one can see me.	4	3	2	1
I tell my parents when I break something.	4	3	2	1
I do my chores on time or after one reminder.	4	3	2	1
I say good things about my parents to my friends.	4	3	2	1
When I'm asked to do something that's usually not my job, I do it cheerfully.	4	3	2	1

Now, add up your points. **Total Points** = _____

Think back through the last week. Take off one point for every time you said: "It's not fair," "You don't understand," or "Do I have to?" **Bad Comments** = _____

Do you have any points left? **Points Left** = _____

- 0 - 18 Your parents need prayer.
- 19 - 28 Take this lesson to heart.
- 29 - 38 Good, but could be better.
- 39 - 48 There is grace in your life.

Grow More Like Jesus

Make a grow chart! Each student will need a strip of butcher paper (36X10) - marked with feet and inches (starting with 3 feet) along one edge. Glue verses and illustrations as indicated. Color and decorate, but leave room to mark student's growth.

Grow More Like Jesus

(place at top of chart)

He was obedient...



(place near center of chart)

And Jesus grew in wisdom
and stature, and in favor
with God and men.



(place near top of chart)

And the child grew and
became strong; he was filled
with wisdom, and the grace of
God was upon him.



(place near bottom of chart)

BLUK02.GF

ARE YOU RESPONSIVE?

When your parent tells you to clean your room . . .
How do you respond?

How should you respond?

When you have to stick around and talk to adult company . . .
How do you respond?

How should you respond?

When you are doing poorly in school and your parent isn't pleased . . .
How do you respond?

How should you respond?

When your parent asks you to mow the lawn . . .
How do you respond?

How should you respond?

When the TV channel gets changed when you are in the middle of a program .
. . .
How do you respond?

How should you respond?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO DO?

Color in the boxes that have things God doesn't want us to say or do with a dark crayon or marker. The boxes that remain will spell out the "magic" word of what God wants you to do.

I don't want to.	No way.	Not again!
I'm gonna tell.		
Forget it.	Trust	Why me?
She did it first!		
It's not fair!	It's his fault.	You can't make me.

I don't like it.		
Yeah right.	Yes, Mom	Not my job.
I'm gonna tell.		Fighting
Get out.	I'll do it right now.	I won't
I don't like you.		

Sassing.	Whining.
	Thank you.
Do I have to?	Arguing.
	I will.
	Go away.

Please		
No	Ick!	
Scram		
Sure	You bet!	
I love you	Later	No problem at all.
I'll help!	You do it	