



## “JESUS GROWS UP”

### Study Guide

The story of Jesus starts before he was even born. It begins with his mother Mary.

When the angel Gabriel came to ask Mary to be Jesus’ mother, she answered that she wanted to do God’s Will. What does it mean to “do God’s Will”? What is God’s Will for you right now?

While Mary was waiting for her baby to be born, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was old and needed someone to help her. How can you help older people in your family?

Babies weren’t born in hospitals in Jesus’ time. They were usually born in their own homes. But Jesus was born in an animal barn where it was cold and dirty. That certainly doesn’t seem right for God’s Son, does it? But often God doesn’t do things the same way we would.

Jesus had two sets of visitors when he was born. God sent his angels to celebrate Jesus’ birth. How wonderful it was to have these special creatures from Heaven welcome Jesus’ birth!

The other visitors Jesus had were very different from the angels. They were shepherds. Shepherds stayed outside in the fields all the time to take care of their sheep and goats. They ate outside, they slept outside, they even washed outside when they came to a stream or river. Most people stayed away from shepherds because they smelled like their animals and they didn’t wear nice clothes.

Yet God sent His angels to tell the shepherds to come visit Jesus after he was born. How do you think Mary and Joseph treated the shepherds when they came to visit Jesus?

When Jesus was a little older, his parents took him to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him to God. This was a time when the parents of a new baby would thank God for their gift of new life. But something special happened to Joseph and Mary. They met two old people who stayed at the Temple all day praying to God. They were very holy and God had given them a message for Mary and Joseph. They told Jesus’ parents that Jesus was the Savior. Many years before God had promised his people that he would send a savior to save them from their sins. How do you think Mary felt when she heard what Simeon and Anna had to say?

The next big surprise in Mary’s life was the visit by the Wise Men. Can you imagine how Mary, Joseph, and Jesus must have felt when these very rich and important men came to visit them in their little house?

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh don’t seem like very good gifts to give a baby. But they were very expensive gifts people would give to a new king. The Wise Men gave Jesus these gifts because they believed he would grow up to be a king. What gift would you bring to the baby Jesus?

As Jesus was growing up, he watched what his mother and father did, how they prayed and worked. He



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looked at everything around him and tried to learn about God from what he saw. What is something you have learned about God from your parents?

What part of this story did you like the best?

Who helps you learn about God?

When Jesus was almost grown, he traveled with his family to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Festival. After it was over, he stayed in the Temple to talk about God with the teachers there. He had learned many things about God, his Father. The teachers were amazed at how much he knew.

How can we learn to listen to God?

How can we be more like Mary, Joseph, and Jesus?

But Mary and Joseph were very worried. They had lost their son. They went back to Jerusalem and found him three days later. That is a long time to be lost! When they found Jesus, they were very happy that he was safe, but they were very upset that he had stayed behind and worried them. Have your parents ever felt that way about you?

Jesus went back home with them and continued to grow up the way we all do. Everyday he tried to learn more about God and how to do what God wanted him to do.