

LESSON PLAN

THE BOYHOOD OF CHRIST

Matthew 2:13-23; Luke 2:40-52

Lesson Memory Verse: Luke 2:49b - "How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

Lesson Aim: God has a plan for our lives, so we must find what that plan is and follow it.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Begin the lesson by asking the students about their favorite vacation. (Have them tell why their choice is their favorite vacation.) Then tell them that their parents have to do a lot of planning to have a good vacation. Can you tell me what kind of plans they have to make? (They have to make a list of all the things to take along – food, clothes, camping equipment, toys, games, books, places to stay, etc. Then they have to plan the roads to take by looking at a map. They may even have to write letters to friends and relatives, if they want to stop by and see them. They have to plan on how much money to take to pay for the gas and meals along the way. They even have to plan on how to care for their home while they are gone – picking up the mail, feeding the pets, watering the lawn and garden, cutting the grass, etc.) There certainly is a lot of planning to do when your parents take you on a vacation.

Just as your parents have a plan for every part of your vacation, so God has a plan for every day of your life. If you follow His plan for your life, you will be doing exactly the right thing all the time during your life. His plan for your life follows four rules in this order. First, it should agree with His words in the Bible. Second, it should glorify Him. Third, it should give you peace. Fourth, all things should work together for good.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us that Jesus knew the plan that His Father's had for His life. In Jewish life a male child became a boy, a son of the covenant, at age twelve. That meant he could leave the women and children and be with the boys and adult men in their discussions. When Jesus was twelve, He took advantage of this privilege when He was in Jerusalem with His parents for the Passover. During the end of their time in Jerusalem, He went to the temple to discuss spiritual subjects with the religious leaders. He did this because He wanted to do His heavenly Father's business.

When his parents left Jerusalem with a large group of people to go home, they thought that Jesus was with relatives or with the other boys his age, but Jesus was still at the temple discussing important matters with the religious leaders. When his parents could not find Him with the group, they returned to Jerusalem to try and find Jesus. After a desperate search for Him, they found Him at the temple talking to the leaders who were very impressed with the knowledge and understanding that this young boy had. With great concern, Mary scolded Him for the sorrow He had caused His parents. That is when Jesus said, "How is it that you sought Me?" (In other words, "Why are you seeking for Me?") Then He said, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ("Did you not know that I must do what My heavenly Father has planned for Me to do?") This is an example for all of us to follow. We must know the plan that He has for our lives and then do it.

Explanation of difficult words:

"Sought" – seek for

"Father" – God (the heavenly Father of Jesus)

"Business" – work

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

In our Bible story today we will see how God had a plan for Jesus' life, which involved Joseph until Jesus was old enough to make His own decisions.

I. God's Plan for Jesus in Egypt - Matthew 2:13-15

When Jesus was still a young child, King Herod had heard that a baby boy had been born in his kingdom that was going to be the King of the Jews (2:2). King Herod was a wicked man that killed anyone that he thought was a threat to him, even though they were innocent. So when he learned that this baby boy lived in Bethlehem, he ordered all the children in Bethlehem to be killed who were two years old and younger. Before Herod gave the order to kill all these children in Bethlehem, God appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him to take the child, Jesus, and Mary, his wife, and flee to Egypt. Joseph gathered his family and

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quickly fled to Egypt as God had told him. It was God's plan for Jesus to live in Egypt until Herod died. About six hundred years before this, God had told the prophet Hosea that He would call His Son out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1), so it did not surprise God when Herod wanted to kill Jesus. God already had planned to send Him down to Egypt to protect Him from that wicked king.

WE: God has a plan for our lives. He knows all things, so His plan for us is very good. It is much better than any plan that we could make for ourselves. He will tell us His plan for our lives, if we obey Him and do exactly as He shows us in the Bible. We must hear, read, study and memorize the Bible to know what He wants us to know. Then we must meditate on what God has showed us in the Bible so we know how He wants us to live. That is how His Word will be a light on our path (Ps 119:105), so He can show us His plan for our lives.

II. God's Plan for Jesus in Galilee - Matthew 2:19-23

When King Herod died, an angel from God told Joseph in a dream that it was safe to return to the land of Israel. So Joseph left Egypt and returned to Israel with his family. However, when they returned, Joseph heard that Archelaus, Herod's son, was now the king. This made him afraid because he thought Herod's son might try to kill Jesus. Once again God showed His plan to Joseph in a dream and He told him that he should go to the land of Galilee to live. Joseph knew God's plan for their lives, so he went to Galilee and settled in the despised city of Nazareth, where he had lived before he went to Bethlehem. Many, many years before this, God had showed some of His prophets that Jesus would be a despised person. So when he was called a Nazarene, it was a fitting name for Him (He was a despised person from a despised city— Jn 1:45-46). This part of God's plan for Jesus showed the humiliation He suffered to be our Savior. .

WE: We will learn God's plan for our lives little by little as we obey Him. We should not expect that He will show us His plan by dreams and angels as He did for Joseph. He can, but it is not likely that He will use those ways to show us His plan. Instead, He has given us the Bible to tell what we need to know about His plan for us. When we read the Bible He will speak to us and tell us His plan. Also, He may use different things that happen in our lives to lead us (i.e., the death of Herod, and the ruling of Herod's son). God will let us know enough by the Bible and things that happen to us, so we can know His plan for our lives.

III. God's Plan for Jesus in Jerusalem - Luke 2:40-52

When Jesus was twelve years old, He and His parents went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover as they had done every other year, but this time something very interesting happened. After the feast of the Passover was finished, Mary and Joseph along with their friends and relatives started back home. Mary and Joseph did not know that Jesus was missing until they had traveled for one day. After asking all their friends and relatives if they had seen Jesus they decided that He must have been left behind in Jerusalem. So they returned to search for Him. After three days of searching they found Him sitting in the temple with many of the wise men (doctors) asking them many hard questions and listening to what they were saying. All the people that heard Him were very surprised by how much He knew and by the answers He gave.

When Jesus' mother saw Him, she asked why He had not come with them when they had started home. Then she told Him how worried she and Joseph had been. Jesus calmly said to His parents, "Why did you look for Me? Do you not know that I must be doing what My Father (God) has planned for Me to do?" Even though Jesus was only twelve, the Jewish people considered him old enough for special training in the law and that is what He was doing in the temple. That was God's plan for His life.

WE: Are we trying every day to do what God wants us to do? Even now God has a plan for us. He wants us to tell others about how they can be saved. He wants us to read our Bible and pray every day. He wants us to come to church every week. These are just a few things that God has planned for us to do. If we begin to follow God's plan now, we will be trained to do it for the rest of our lives (Prov 3:5-6).

BE (for Action): You heard about God's plan for Jesus while He was on earth. God has a plan for you too. How will God show you His plan for your life? (Bible and happenings will show us God's plan.) His plan will be the best for you. (Have your students bow their heads and ask them to raise their hands if they want to follow God's plan for their lives; pray for those by name who raise their hands.)