

# Week 37: Jesus as a Child - Obedient and Wise

*A Sabbath Family Bible Study*

---

## Introduction

Scripture gives us very little detail about Jesus' childhood, but what it does reveal is reflective and instructive as an example. Even Jesus did not skip the growth, family structure, or obedience stages of life. He lived through childhood, learned within a household, submitted to parental authority, and increased his wisdom through obedience and faithfulness setting the example for us.

This week teaches families that godliness is formed through consistent daily obedience, not single moments. Jesus honored His parents, respected God's law, learned Scripture, and grew under loving parents in God's favor. In doing so, He sanctified childhood, discipline, learning, and family order.

---

## Scripture Reading

---

### Luke 2:40 - Growing in Wisdom

*40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.*

### Commentary

This verse establishes an important truth: Jesus grew. He was not born fully developed, or disciplined - He learned. Strength, wisdom, and grace were cultivated slowly over time. Families are reminded by this, that spiritual maturity is formed patiently through daily instruction, correction, and obedience under God's grace.

---

## **Luke 2:41–45 - The Journey to Jerusalem**

*41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.*

*42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.*

*43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.*

*44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.*

*45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.*

### **Commentary**

Jesus was raised in a household that honored God's appointed feasts and rests. His parents practiced faithful worship and obedience. This passage also reminds families that even faithful parents experience moments of confusion and fear. God's purposes are not thwarted by human limitation, but faithfulness remains the standard for all time.

---

## **Luke 2:46–47 - Learning in the Temple**

*46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.*

*47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.*

### **Commentary**

Jesus showed His wisdom not through arrogance, but through teachability. He listened before He spoke and He asked questions before giving answers. This models how children (and adults) should approach God's Word, because wisdom grows through humility, attention, and disciplined learning.

---

## **Luke 2:48–50 - Authority and Understanding**

*48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.*

*49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*

*50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.*

### **Commentary**

Jesus acknowledged a higher calling, yet He did not reject the earthly authority He was placed under. His statement reveals divine awareness without the spirit of rebellion. Families learn here that obedience and calling are not enemies, God's design includes both submission and purpose, rightly ordered.

---

## **Luke 2:51–52 - Obedience and Growth**

*51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.*

*52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*

### **Commentary**

This passage is the anchor of this entire study. Jesus willingly submitted Himself to parental authority. He was not impatient to start His mission, He obeyed, learned, worked, and grew. True maturity is proven not by independence, but by faithful submission to God's order. Families are reminded that obedience precedes influence, and humility precedes authority.

---

## **Discussion Questions for All Ages**

### **Young Children**

- Where did Jesus grow up?
- Did Jesus obey His parents?
- What does it mean to learn God's Word?

### **Older Children & Teens**

- Why did Jesus submit to His parents even though He was God's Son?
- How does obedience prepare us for future responsibility?
- What habits help us grow in wisdom?

## Adults

- How does Jesus' childhood challenge modern ideas of independence?
  - Are we patient with the process of growth in our children?
  - How can our home better support disciplined learning and obedience?
- 

## Psalm Reading

### Psalm 128:1–4 (KJV)

*1 Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.*

*2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.*

*3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.*

*4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.*

## Commentary

God's blessing flows through order, obedience, and faithfulness. This psalm reflects the kind of household Jesus was raised in, one marked by fear of the Lord, daily labor, and generational blessing.

---

## Hymn: "O Jesus, Thou Art Standing"

By William Walsham How (1867)

1

O Jesus, thou art standing  
outside the fast-closed door,  
in lowly patience waiting  
to pass the threshold o'er:  
shame on us, Christian brethren,  
his name and sign who bear,  
oh shame, thrice shame upon us  
to keep him standing there!

2

O Jesus, thou art knocking;  
and lo! That hand is scarred,  
and thorns thy brow encircle,  
and tears thy face have marred:  
O love that passeth knowledge,  
so patiently to wait!  
O sin that hath no equal  
so fast to bar the gate!

3

O Jesus, thou art pleading  
in accents meek and low,  
'I died for you, my children,  
and will ye treat me so?'  
O Lord, with shame and sorrow  
we open now the door:  
dear Saviour, enter, enter,  
and leave us never more!



## Family Application Points

1. **Honor God's Order**

Jesus submitted to the authority He was placed under. Godly homes should always teach obedience before independence.

2. **Value Steady Growth**

Wisdom develops over time through discipline, learning, humility and obedience.

3. **Practice Faithful Rhythms**

Regular worship, study, and obedience shape the lasting character of each person.

4. **Teach by Example**

Children learn submission and reverence by watching their parents live it, they ONLY learn by example, never by words.

5. **Trust God's Timing**

God always prepares His servants privately before He uses them publicly.

---

 **A Sabbath Feast Prayer**

Father, we thank You for the example of Your Son, who grew in wisdom and obedience within a faithful household. As we sit at this table, bless this food before us and bless the loving hands that prepared it. Teach our family to value discipline, patience, and faithfulness in the small things. Shape our home into a place where wisdom grows and obedience is honored. In Jesus' name, Amen.

---

 **Closing Prayer**

Lord, thank You for showing us that growth, obedience, and humility are precious in Your sight. Teach our family to walk patiently in Your ways, to submit willingly to Your order, and to trust Your timing. Help us train our children in wisdom, discipline, and reverence, and help us as parents to lead faithfully. May our home reflect the quiet strength and steady obedience modeled by Christ Himself. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.