



IJ1-1

JESUS GROWING UP

Theme/Value

Growth

Notes:

Intro

Appendix B

Outline of this series.
What would you like to be/do when grown up?

Game

Appendix B

'Pairs' matching game. Match together the pictures of things that change as they grow.

Story

Ref: Luke 2:41-52
Boy Jesus in the Temple - See Appendix A

- Questions
- Mary and Joseph's feelings and reactions
- Jesus' words
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What can people tell about you now, and what you might become?
- How can you grow in wisdom and reputation?
- God has a plan for us

Reflection
Appendix B

It's Jesus, who is He to you?

Loves to learn, belongs, confident, knew who He was, grows...?

Song suggestion

I wanna be a Tree

Prayer

Thank you for making each one of us special.
Thank you that we all have different skills and abilities and characteristics that we can learn and develop as we grow.
Help us to be obedient to those who teach and support us so that we might gain favour from you and from those around us.

Equipment

Pairs cards
Appendix D

Suggested Entry Music

When I Grow Up
- Matilda the Musical





Appendix A: Story

As with all great stories we are going to start at the beginning, well almost the beginning. We'll come back to the very beginning at Christmas! Today we are going to investigate the first story written about Jesus when he was a young boy, just 12 years old.

Jesus in the Temple

It was hot and dusty on the crowded road, the Passover festival in Jerusalem had ended and Jewish people from all over Israel were making their way home.

Joseph had been walking with some of his family from Bethlehem, but now as they approached the turning that would take them back to Nazareth he returned to his wife Mary.

"You look worried," Joseph asked, "Is something the matter?"

Mary's forehead was creased in a frown, "I feel like we've forgotten something," Mary explained.

"You always say that when we go on a journey," Joseph laughed, "it is probably because our bags are lighter, we left our offering to God in Jerusalem remember."

Mary nodded, but she was still thinking hard as they continued to walk along the road, suddenly she froze.

"It's Jesus!" Mary shrieked.

"What?"

"Our son, Jesus, he isn't here!" Mary explained, her voice filled with panic.

"Of course, he's here," Joseph comforted her, "he'll be walking with some of his friends, or our relatives."

"Have you seen Jesus?" Mary called out to the group of people walking closest to them, "we don't know where he is?"

"Have you seen Jesus?" the message was shouted from group to group, "Jesus from Nazareth, Mary and Joseph's boy, have you seen him?"

"He's gone!" Mary cried, "He's not here, we've got to go back!"

Pushing their way through the oncoming crowd, Mary and Joseph turned back towards Jerusalem, moving as fast as they could go, they hurried back towards the city in search of their son.

Inside the temple at Jerusalem a crowd of people had gathered, it was cool and calm inside the high thick walls which muffled the noise of the city. After the busyness of the festival the huge courtyard felt strangely empty. Suddenly the peaceful space was interrupted by loud shouting.

"Jesus? Jesus? Are you in here?" Mary and Joseph burst through the temple gates. "Has anybody seen our son? He's just twelve years old. We can't find him"

The crowd in the middle of the courtyard moved apart allowing Mary and Joseph in. At the centre of the gathering a boy was sitting talking with the temple teachers and answering their questions.

"It's Jesus," Joseph breathed a sigh of relief, "we've found him."

Mary strode up to where Jesus was sitting, "What are you doing here? Your father and I have been worried sick. We had no idea where you had gone, we've been looking everywhere for you!"

Jesus looked up at his parents, his face full of confusion, "Why were you looking for me?" Jesus asked, "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"

"Come on son," Joseph said, "It's time for us to go home together."

Jesus stood up and followed Joseph from the temple, Mary followed behind them thinking about everything that had just happened.



Appendix B

Introduction

Hello and welcome to the very first episode of our new series of 'It's Jesus!'

Our worship this year is going to take us on a journey of discovery... to find out everything we can about Jesus. Who is he? What did he do or say? Where did he go? What did he think, feel, teach, and eat? What did he like? What did he hate? And why?!!! What on Earth has His Story got to do with us today?

Q: Have you ever thought about what you would like to be/do when you grow up?

[Take a few suggestions]

When you look at each other now, based on what you know about each other's personalities and some of the things you enjoy doing, I'm sure some of your friends and teachers might say ... oh, you'd be a great nurse – because you are so caring. Or they may say... you would be a brilliant engineer, because you enjoy learning about how things work, or perhaps you might have a natural ability for climbing and want to be a mountaineer? Or a musician, or a pilot or a footballer, or a dancer, or a gardener, or an artist, or an author? We all have different skills, talents, abilities, characters, feelings and emotions that develop as we learn and grow. All these things help to shape us into the person we become.

Game: Matching Pairs *Appendix D for pics*

A number of children volunteer to hold up one of the pictures below (with the picture hidden from the audience). Children in the audience can choose two pictures to be revealed – are they a pair?

Caterpillar/Butterfly Tadpole/Frog Egg/Chick Seed/Flower

Baby/Adult Kitten/Cat Acorn/Oak Tree

TIP: for added fun maybe pretend to believe whatever pair comes up is right e.g. "ah yes, what a wonderful sight to see an egg grow into an oak tree"

Reflection *Refer to the image of this story as you ask the questions*

What an introduction to Jesus! Our first encounter with him and he stayed behind in the Temple!

Q. How did Mary & Joseph feel when they realised Jesus was missing?

Q. What was their reaction when they found him?

Q. What did Jesus tell his parents as to why he stayed at the Temple?

Q. What specific things can we learn about Jesus from this story?

Immediately after this event, the bible says that Jesus grew in size, wisdom and reputation (street cred) – in favour with God and men. ('in favour' means people were pleased with him, they supported him and thought that he was a good thing)

Even at the age of 12 we get a hint from Jesus of what's to come. His passion for learning and teaching in the temple, being the son of God and amazing all those who met him.

I wonder from the person you are now, whether we can get a hint of the person you will become as you grow? How can you grow in wisdom and reputation?

We are all different, with different characteristics, skills and talents, we are all very special. Like Jesus, we can grow in wisdom and strength as we get older with the help and support of those around us and God.

Christians believe that God has a plan for each of us. "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord...plans to give you hope, and a future." Jeremiah 29:11. Plans where we can use all the skills and talents God has given us. Just as Jesus was part of God's perfect plan, to come into the world.

Notes:



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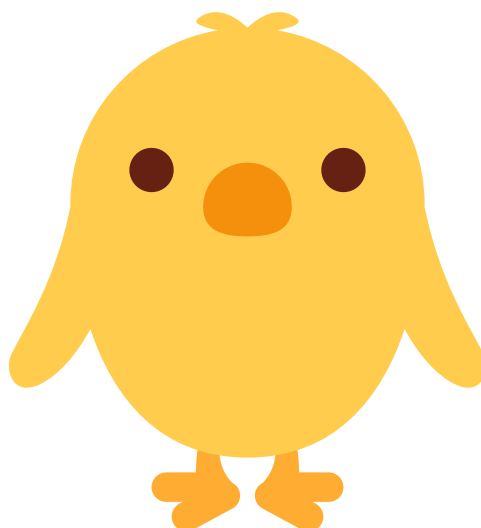
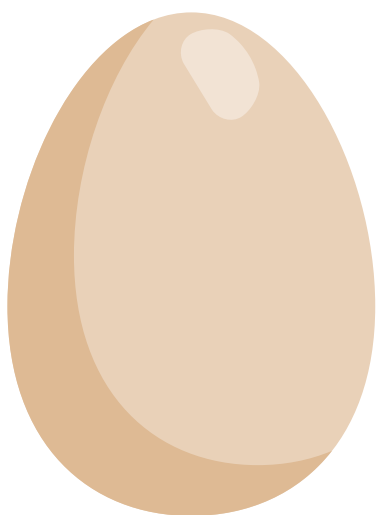
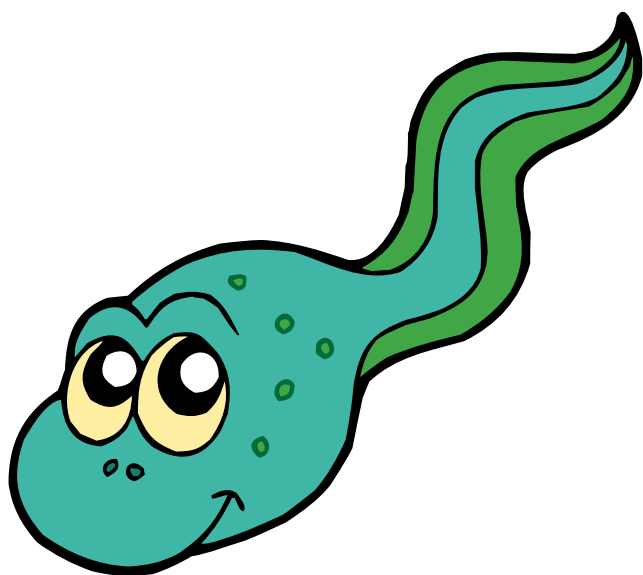
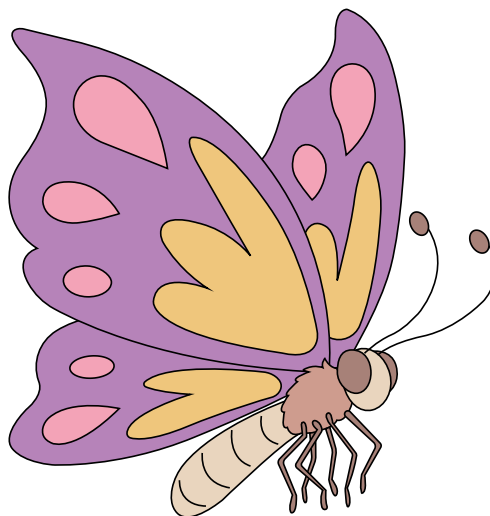
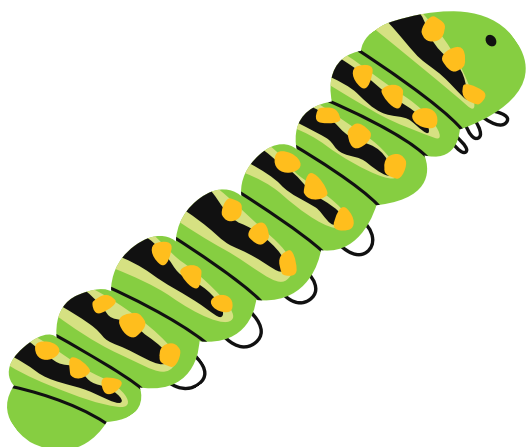
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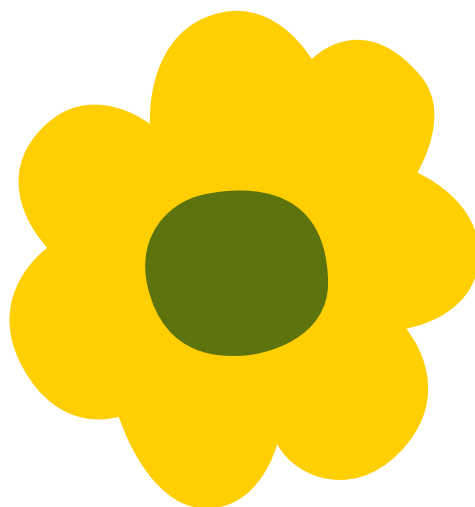
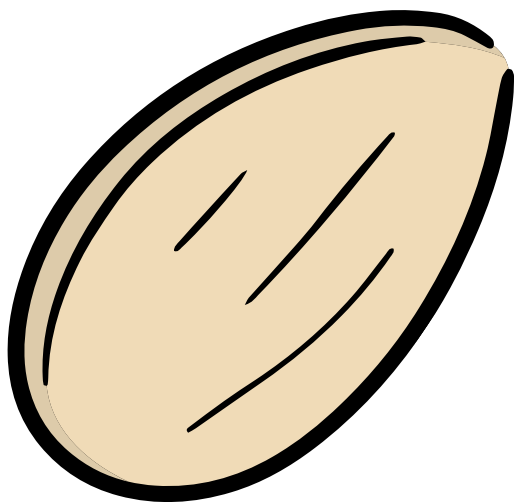
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