

TEACHER'S NOTES

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Chapter 12	Jesus Grows Up
Lesson 1	The Early Childhood of Jesus

AIMS

1. Children will be able to talk about the presentation in the temple.
2. They will learn the story of the Flight into Egypt and will be able to explain why it was necessary.

STEP 1

Tell the children that today they will find out what happened to Jesus after the wise men had left and returned safely to their own faraway lands.

STEP 2

Read the Presentation in the Temple from the children's Bible (Luke 2:22-40) that is in the children's pack.

Explain to the children that Jewish law instructing parents to offer their firstborn son to God: to give him over to God's service. Mary and Joseph obeyed this law, even though Jesus was God himself. Jesus and Mary were very humble and happily brought Jesus to the temple, His Father's house. An old and holy old man named Simeon had waited patiently and faithfully for the Saviour all of his life. God rewarded his faithfulness by letting him know that Jesus was the Saviour. Simeon called Jesus "a light" to all people.

STEP 3

Next read the story of the flight into Egypt in the children's pack from the Bible (Matthew, 2:13-23).

Pointed out that once again an angel was sent from God the help Joseph protect the Christ child. St Joseph immediately obeyed the angel and "flew" to Egypt. Explain that "flew" and "flight" means to travel in great haste; it doesn't mean they flew in an aeroplane.

Have the children study the map of the holy land in the children's pack. Point to Egypt and trace the journey that Joseph and Mary had to make. Discuss the difficulties of this journey. It was much like their journey to Bethlehem only much longer, and they were afraid for their precious child. They must have prayed very hard that the Christ child would be preserved from the evil intentions of Herod.

STEP 4

Once again, an angel visited St Joseph in a dream and told him that Herod had died and it would be safe to return to his homeland. St Joseph took his wife and foster child and made the long journey back to Israel. They settled in the town of Nazareth. That is the town where Jesus lived as a little boy and where he grew up and became a man. In the coming chapters the early life of Jesus will be explained in greater detail.

STEP 5

Go over with the children the sequence of events in the Christmas story. This is graphically illustrated in the children's pack. Asked the children to name these events: the Annunciation, the visitation, the journey to Bethlehem, the Nativity, the visit of the shepherds and the visit of the wise men, the Presentation in the Temple and the Flight into Egypt

Have the children draw Jesus, Mary and Joseph on the flight to Egypt. Encourage them to include some other harsh conditions they probably encountered, such as the fierce desert sun, sand and riding on camels.

STEP 6

Have the children colour the picture of the Presentation in their packs. This will be page 4 in their Joyful Mysteries rosary booklet.

CONCLUDE

1. Pray the fourth joyful mystery of the Rosary - the Presentation in the Temple.
1. Sing "Come, though long expected Jesus," *Adoremus hymnal*, # 310.

PREVIEW

In our next lesson, we will learn about St Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and how he cared for Jesus and Mary.