

LESSON 16: JESUS GROWS IN AGE AND WISDOM

As a boy growing up in Nazareth, Jesus led an ordinary life. Even though He was God, He was truly human, and He grew up and learned things just as we do. Only Mary and Joseph knew that Jesus was God's own son; it was hidden from the rest of the world.

"And Jesus grew in wisdom, age and grace before God and men" (Luke 2:52)

When the time came, Jesus left His quiet life in Nazareth. God sent a prophet, John the Baptist, to prepare the way for Jesus. Jesus Himself came to John to be baptized in the waters of the Jordan River. As Jesus came out of the water, the Holy Spirit came down upon Him in the form of a dove, and the voice of His Father called from Heaven: "This is My Beloved Son with Whom I am well pleased". Now Jesus was ready to begin His public life in His mission as the Savior of the World.

At our Baptism, the Holy Spirit came inside our souls and filled it with grace. God silently told you on that day, "You are My beloved child, and I love you".

Just as with Jesus, our Baptism has prepared us for a mission. Our mission on earth is to love God with all our hearts and to love each other.

Words to know:

John the Baptist: a cousin of Jesus. John was the last of the prophets. He helped prepare the people for the coming of Jesus.

Questions and Answers

1	<i>What was the name of the town where Jesus grew up?</i> Jesus grew up in Nazareth.
2	<i>What festival did Jesus and His parents go to Jerusalem every year to celebrate?</i> Jesus and His parents went to celebrate the Passover as was the custom.
3	<i>When Mary and Joseph found Jesus at the temple after 3 days how did Jesus respond to his mother?</i> "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"
4	<i>How many years did Jesus stay with Mary and Joseph?</i> He stayed with them for 30 years and lived a life of humility and was obedient to them.
5.	<i>Who was the last prophet that God sent to prepare the way for Jesus?</i> God sent the prophet, John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. He was also Jesus' cousin.
6.	<i>Who baptized Jesus in the River Jordan and what happened?</i> John the Baptist baptized Jesus and the heavens opened, and a voice was heard "this is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased".
7	<i>How old was Jesus when He began his public ministry?</i> He was 30 years old.