



BIG IDEA

We can love God with
our actions.

BIBLE

The Boy Jesus at the Temple:
Luke 2:41-52; Isaiah 42:1-9

LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome to another week of *Measure Up!* Today, we'll take a ride back to the past when Jesus was a kid and take a look at his relationship with his parents. Buckle up! We can learn a lot from Jesus' actions towards his parents. How we act shows a lot about what we value and who we love.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "One Me" (Grow Kids VBS)
 - "Hey Me (Now and Forever)" (Elevation Church Kids)
 - "Won't Stop Now" (Worship Together Kids)
 - "Wanna Be Like Jesus" (Yancy)
 - "Wise Up" (Kidspring Children's Ministry)

ACTIVITY | Family Feud Fun

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Just like the TV show, have two teams of four or five contestants compete up front. You can use these [Family Feud templates](#) or create a board with answers and numbers that can be revealed by tearing off sheets of paper. Teams get points based on the number of responses their answer choice got (which you will indicate when you show them the answer on the board). At the end of a predetermined number of rounds, the team with the highest point total wins.
 - ✖ **PRETEEN HACK:** Use one of these [digital options](#) to take your Family Feud game to the next level.
 - ✖ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Instead of doing this activity competitively, have kids all call out as many answers as they want to. See which of their contributions are on the board, but remember to thank every kid that participates!

- Today in Measure Up, we are going to look at a story about Jesus and his family. So let's kick things off with a little bit of family fun ourselves!
- [Reveal the first question to one player from each team.]
 - **What do you think was the most popular answer to this question?** Remember, it might not be your personal answer choice but it's the answer that most people would give. *[The player who picks the highest scoring answer gets to decide if their team will go first or second.]*
- Okay, let's begin round one.
- [Reveal the next question to the team going first.]
 - **What do you think was the most popular answer to this question?**
 - You are not allowed to talk to your teammates – just give us your best guess. If your answer is on the board, your team wins the number of points the answer was worth. If it's not, you get a strike.
 - The next player on your team gets to guess now. If your team gets three strikes, it becomes the other team's turn. If that happens, the other team can discuss together to come up with one answer. If it's on the board, they get all your points!

ACTIVITY | Grown-Up Trap

- **Have you ever gotten lost at an amusement park or even a grocery store?** It must have been scary, but you know what? The grown-up you were with was just as scared not knowing where you were. Let's play this game to show what that must have felt like!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a *maze* out of whatever you want. Blindfold two to three adult volunteers, depending on your maze size. Place the volunteers in the middle of the maze, and direct all to escape from it while blindfolded. Encourage audience applause! The first person to escape the maze is declared the great Grown-Up Trap winner!
- Today, we're going to hear a story about a time when Mary and Joseph searched everywhere for their son because Jesus had gotten lost. Or had he? We'll find out!

POLL | Advice from Adults

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids do the *roller coaster cheer* for each piece of advice they've heard before.
 - ❖ **PRETEEN HACK:** An alternative for preteens is simply to tape a line on the floor to divide the room, one side representing "yes" and the other side "no." Have preteens move to the side of the line that represents whether or not they've heard the advice you call out.
- **Has an adult ever given you this piece of advice?**
 - Wait 30 minutes after eating before jumping in the pool.
 - Don't talk with your mouth full.
 - Look both ways before crossing the street.
 - Finish your homework before playing on the computer or watching TV.
 - Don't talk to strangers.
 - Eat all your dinner before you have dessert.
- Grown-ups tell us a lot of things, but it's because they're looking out for us!
- The one piece of advice I always found helpful, especially when I was at an amusement park or on a field trip, was, "Stay with your group!"
- In today's Bible story, we'll see that Jesus didn't listen to this advice . . . but he had a really good reason. Let's find out more!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Luke 2:41–52 (The Boy Jesus at the Temple)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a video like [this one](#) without the sound as your backdrop as you begin to tell the Bible story from Luke 2:41–52. Dress up as a ride operator (polo shirt with khaki pants or shorts and name badge). You will need kid volunteers to play Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. Have them act out the things you say in the story. Make sure you point to each character when you mention them as their cue to act it out. Have volunteers wear nametags or small accessories that differentiate the characters so that the kids can tell who everyone is.
- Hey friends! Welcome back to our live show experience at the Measure Up theme park. Today's show is called "The Boy Jesus at the Temple." **Everyone say, "Ooh!"**
- Excellent! You are a wonderful audience — we're going to have a great show today. Measure Up is an interactive story experience, so wave your hands if you'd like to be a part of the show! [Select volunteers.]
- Let's begin!
- Every year, Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. It was like a big family reunion. As I said, they went to the party every year, including the year when Jesus turned twelve. **Stand up if you are close to turning twelve!**
- After the Passover party ended, Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, left to travel home. Now, remember cars weren't invented yet, so they had to walk.
 - Mary and Joseph walked for an entire day before they realized someone wasn't with them. **Can you guess who they couldn't find?** You got it – their son, Jesus! They couldn't find him anywhere!
 - So Mary and Joseph had to turn around and walk ALL the way back to Jerusalem to find Jesus. **Everyone say, "Uh oh."**
- It took Mary and Joseph THREE whole days to find Jesus. **Everyone say, "Yikes!"**
 - **Can you guess where he was?** Jesus was in the temple, listening to teachers talk about God. The teachers were really impressed with Jesus, especially with how well he understood their teachings. He asked them great questions, too.
- You can imagine his parents' surprise and relief when they finally found him. **Everyone breathe a big sigh of relief.** Mary said to Jesus, "Why did you stay behind? We've been so worried about you!"
 - Jesus said something a little unusual to his parents, and they didn't understand what he meant. He said, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" **Everyone say, "Huh?"**
 - Jesus was talking about his father in heaven, God! Jesus wanted to be where he could be close to God.
 - Jesus went home with his parents, and he was respectful and obedient to them. Jesus showed that he loved his parents, but Jesus showed that he loved God most of all.
- Jesus showed everyone around him that day you can never be too young or too old to show how much you love God.
- **Please help me give a round of applause to our volunteers!**

BIG IDEA | We can love God with our actions.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea on one winning ticket. Hide the winning ticket inside a carnival punch-out game. Use one [like this](#) or make your own with cups and tissue paper [like this](#). Volunteers take turns punching holes until the winning ticket is found! Once it is found, read aloud! After the Big Idea is revealed for week two, give kids pins for their lanyards as a reminder. If you have access to a [pin maker](#), you can create pins that say each week's Big Idea (using the graphics provided in their Programming folder) or purchase an assortment of fun pins and encourage pin trading (like at [Disney](#)).

✖ **PRETEEN HACK:** Instead of giving out pins, consider giving out items that are more closely related to the Big Idea. This week, you could hand out a heart-shaped item (like these [mini bubbles](#)) or these [clapboard keychains](#) to remind them that love needs to be put into action.

- And the winning ticket says . . . **We can love God with our actions.**
- Whenever you look at this pin on your lanyard, remember our actions say a lot about what we value or who we love.

VIDEO | Measure Up, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

IMAGE | Learning to Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the following images (or others like it), describing each. After that, have kids draw a picture of themselves surrounded by the trusted adults in their own lives.
 - Show an [image of Jesus teaching people](#), even those much older than him.
 - Show an [image of Jesus with his parents](#), making the Festival of the Passover trip each year.
 - Show an [image of kids and parents](#) at church
 - Show an [image of kids with a babysitter](#) or other trusted adult.
- As we grow up, parents and other trusted adults can show us what it looks like to love God — like our team of leaders here at church, who are always ready to help you learn and grow!
- Even though Jesus was God's son and he seemed to have been able to do fine on his own for three days, he still obeyed his parents.
- God gives us parents, family members, and teachers to help us grow, and our job is to listen to them. That is one way **we can love God with our actions.**

OBJECT LESSON | Hearts in Action

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using a deflated balloon, draw a heart. The heart will be easier to see when it is inflated. Brainstorm together some ways we can love God with our actions. After each suggestion from a kid, blow up the balloon once and keep it clamped between your fingers. Keep having kids share until the balloon is fully inflated. This can be done by just the leader or have each of the kids participate with their own balloons. After the balloon is completely inflated, let go of the balloon and let it fly around the room.

✖ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Some kids might have latex allergies or may not be able to inflate balloons on their own. Guide kids in cutting balloon shapes and have them put heart stickers on them.
- [Hold up fully inflated balloon.]
 - We can love God in our hearts, but our actions are what make it visible to others around us. When others see how much we love God, it can encourage them to love God, too, or learn more about God.
- [Let go of balloon.]
 - Empty actions aren't what God wants either. What's in our hearts has to match what we say and do. **We can love God with our actions.** When our actions and our hearts match up!

SCRIPTURE | Isaiah 42:1–9

- Imagine God is speaking directly to you as you listen to me read. You are the servant who God loves.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As you read the passage, pause after each verse, allowing the kids to identify and call out the action word from that verse.

❖ **PRETEEN HACK:** For older kids, print out the passage and have them highlight all of the action words.

- God loves us with actions! Look at all these things God has done in the past and continues to do!
- God is doing a new thing through us – through you! You are who God made you to be.
- Doing something new isn't always easy. Sometimes it's downright scary!
- **Can you remember your first day of school ever? How about your first day on a new team or in a new dance class? How about getting a pet for the first time?**
 - I'm sure it was very exciting because you were finally given a chance to try something you've always wanted to try. You get to buy new shoes, a new jersey, or a new leotard, and you're finally old enough to try this new thing!
 - But there's a part of you that's scared and worried. What if you don't make friends? What if your new teacher or coach isn't nice? What if you don't do a good job of taking care of your pet?
 - In the end, it's worth the worry, fear, or feeling scared because you got to try a new thing. You grow not only in age but as a person. You made friends and learned so much!
- God working to create something new in us can feel scary and make us feel unsure, but God's love for us is put into action through Jesus! And **we can love God** back **with our actions!**

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

RESPONSE | Love God? Love Others!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the following scenarios aloud, allowing time for discussion for each as a group or in small groups depending on your size.
- **For each of the following scenarios, tell me what you would feel like doing at first. Then, what would be a better thing to do to show that you love that person and God?**
 - Two of your best friends are mad and aren't speaking to each other. One of your friends is talking badly about the other.
 - You've been assigned a group to stay with on a field trip. None of these kids in your group are in your current friend circle.
 - Your parents have asked you not to watch a certain movie because they do not think it is appropriate for your age. You are at a friend's house, and the friend wants to watch that exact movie.
 - A group of students you are sitting near are being loud and disruptive in class. Your teacher mistakes you as part of the group, and you get in trouble along with the others.
 - You overhear students saying not nice things about the way you are dressed.
 - You find out that your brother took \$20 from your father's wallet.
- Sometimes it's easy to say we love God, but hard to show it when it comes to how we get along with others. But if you think about it, how can we say we love a God we can't see when we struggle with loving the people we can see?
- Loving God with our actions involves loving others with our actions, too.

RESPONSE | Toss the Toy

- **What are some of your favorite games to play at an amusement park? What types of toys have you won playing these games?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a bean bag toss game and use a small plush toy [like this](#). Label the containers with words that describe love in action like "cherish," "respect," "care for," "protect," "build up," or "put first." You can do this as an upfront game or allow kids to take turns trying to make it into the action cans. Award candy or a small prize to kids who make it in an action can.

- **How do people know you love them? Or how do you know when someone loves you?** It's by what they do!
- **If someone tells you they love you but behaves in a way that makes it seem like they don't, which do you believe – their words or their actions?** Their actions, of course. Our actions, just like in this game, are worth more.
- **We can love God with our actions** in addition to our thoughts and our words.

MEMORY VERSE | Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

- **"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."**
Matthew 6:33 (NIV)
- **We can love God with our actions** right now by doing some fun, crazy actions while reciting this month's memory verse!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write actions on Popsicle sticks. Assign a couple of teams, and have someone from each team draw a stick with their team's action to do while reciting *like, stick out your tongue, hold your nose, stand on one leg, spin around, run in place, do jumping jacks, pat head & rub belly, touch your toes*.

✖ **PRETEEN HACK:** Teach preteens who have their own devices to use [this digital tool](#) to help them memorize verses during the week.

- **(Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Matthew6-33.)**

PRAYER

- Dear God, I know that my actions say so much about what matters most to me, and I want to show that it's you! Help me to love you with both the things I say and the things I do. Thank you for putting people in my life that help me grow my love for you. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Jesus' parents couldn't find him. What did Jesus' mother say to him when she found him?**
- **How did Jesus respond to his mother and father when they asked why he stayed behind at the temple?**
- **How did people listening to the boy Jesus feel about his teachings?**
- **Read Isaiah 42:5. How do these things that God has done show us that God loves us?**
- **In what ways is it easy to love with our actions? In what ways can it be challenging?**
- **What are some actions that show that we love God?**
- **What action can you take this week to apply something someone has taught you about God?**

ACTIVITY | Fingerprint Ferris Wheel

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** After printing the Ferris wheel printable, have them put a fingerprint person on each empty seat. Have kids decorate each print to resemble someone they know. These people can be any combination of people who have shown them God's love through their actions and people they can show God's love to.
- **Isn't it special to be able to see all the people we care about?** When we think of them, we can think of special ways we can show God's love with our actions.