

For the Sabbath School.

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON V.—JULY 29.—LUKE II., 40-52.

(The Youth of Jesus.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."—Luke ii: 52.

EXPLANATORY.—PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT.—V. 40. And the child grew. Jesus, the divine child, was completely human, as he was completely divine; he grew in knowledge and wisdom as he grew in stature and strength, went, in short, through all the natural gradations of childish and youthful development.

The complete humanity of Christ brings the comfort, strength, and inspiration of a similarity of experience with our own, of a holy life amid the same difficulties and trials, the same temptations and battles, the same hindrances and perplexities. He passed through not only the experiences of manhood, but of childhood. Hence he is the children's Saviour and Help.

Strength and Activity. And waxed (grew) strong in spirit. The words *in spirit* are omitted in the Revised Version, according to the best authorities, but the meaning is much the same. The "waxed strong" refers to his whole nature,—both to the physical growth mentioned before and to the wisdom that follows. Jesus was a strong, active, sturdy boy. He was a success as a boy. He needed this perfect body, in order that he might endure the severe strain and burden of his public ministry. Every boy that cares for true success in life should take care of his body, the instrument of his soul.

Spiritual Development. Filled with wisdom. He grew strong by being filled (more literally, "becoming filled" or "filling himself") with wisdom. This refers to "his spiritual, intellectual, and religious development." Jesus was wise in every direction—in his common sense as applied to daily life, in mental studies and opinions, and in his moral decisions. And this wisdom was one great source of his strength. The bad habits which weaken boys—the idleness, gluttony, waste of nerve power in smoking, drinking, and other bad habits—are all the fruit of folly.

God's favor. And the grace (favor) of God was upon him. In Jesus we have the normal growth of man from a physical and moral point of view. It was accomplished for the first time on our earth. God therefore regarded this child with perfect satisfaction, because his creative idea was realized in him.

HIS SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLMASTERS.—We can understand the childhood and youth of Jesus better when we remember the surrounding influences amid which he grew. The natural scenery was rugged and mountainous, but full of beauty. He breathed the pure air. He lived in a village not in a city. He learned to work as well as play. The Roman dominion was irksome and galling. The people of God were subject to a foreign yoke. The taxes were heavy. When Jesus was ten years old there was a great insurrection (Acts v: 37) in Galilee. He who was to be King of the Jews heard

and felt all this, and was filled with patriotic impulses. The Jewish hopes of a Redeemer, of throwing off their bondage, of becoming the glorious nation promised in the prophets, were in the very air he breathed. The conversation at home and in the streets was full of them. His School Training. In the village schools Jesus learned to read and write, and to memorize, not only Scripture "but the countless precepts of the rabbis." It was school and Sunday school in one. His language was Aramaic, but he probably also understood Greek and the Bible Hebrew. His Home Training. From the first days of his existence a religious atmosphere surrounded the child of Jewish parents. And this atmosphere is the most important element in the training of a child. Taught of God. "Certainly for the best which Jesus sought and found in Scripture he required no human teacher." He was filled with the Spirit, and in his youthful meditations he was continually taught by God.

HIS FIRST VISIT TO A GREAT CITY.—Vs. 41-45. This incident is a solitary floweret out of the wonderful enclosed garden of thirty years.

Now his parents went (were accustomed to go) to Jerusalem every year. The law of Moses required that the adult males of the Jewish nation should appear before the Lord at the place of his altar, three times every year, at the great festivals (Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles). But devout women often went when family duties permitted, especially to the Passover. At the feast of the Passover. This festival commemorated the preservation of the Hebrews in Egypt from the destroying angel, when the Egyptian first-born were slain. It was so called because he *passed over* the houses. After three days they found him. Reckoned from the departure of the caravan from Jerusalem; one for the journey out, one for the return, and one for the search in the city. They found him in the temple. Not in the temple proper, but in one of the porches or chambers of the temple-area, and belonging to the temple. Sitting in the midst of the doctors. A chamber of the temple was set apart as a kind of open free school.

THE FIRST RECORDED WORDS OF JESUS. AN UTTERANCE CONCERNING HIS RELATION TO GOD.—49. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Why did you go about the city searching for me? Why did you not come directly here? Where else could I be than in this holy, blessed spot? Wist ye not. Knew ye not. That I must be about my Father's business? Where my Father's affairs are carried on, there you are sure to find me.

IN HIS HOME AT NAZARETH.—Vs. 51, 52. Eighteen years; till he was thirty years old. First. Obedience to his parents. Second. Common, every-day duties. "Whatever father or mother wanted done in the house, whatever he was bidden that he did like any other child. Third He learned a trade and became a carpenter. Fourth. Progress. 52. Increased. Rather *advanced*. Fifth. And in favor with God. He grew more and more to be such a young man as was pleasing to God, for he had more and more capacity to use God's grace and make it effective in his life.

INTERNATIONAL SCHEME OF SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSONS

ADOPTED BY THE SABBATH-SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

1894.		BIBLE LESSON		THIRD QUARTER.		PROVE THAT		COMMIT TO MEMORY		
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Jan 1	The Birth of Jesus	Luke	2: 1-6	Jesus is the Promised Messiah	Acts	17: 3	Luke	2: 11	Question.	
" 8	Presentation in the Temple	Luke	2: 25-38	God answers Prayer	Matt.	21: 22	Luke	2: 32	83	
" 15	Visit of the Wise Men	Matt.	2: 1-12	We should offer our best to God	2 Sam.	24: 24	Matt.	2: 11	84	
" 22	Flight into Egypt	Matt.	2: 13-23	God watches over His people	Ps.	121: 3	Ps.	121: 8	85	
" 29	The Youth of Jesus	Luke	40-52	Children should obey their parents	Eph.	6: 1	Luke	2: 52	86	
Apr 5	The Baptism of Jesus	Mark	1: 9-11	We should confess our sins to God	1 John	1: 9	Mark	1: 11	87	
" 12	Temptation of Jesus	Matt.	4: 1-11	We should search the Scriptures	John	5: 39	Heb.	4: 15	88	
" 19	First Disciples of Jesus	John	1: 35-40	We should tell others about Jesus	Mark	5: 19	John	1: 41	89	
" 26	First Miracle of Jesus	John	4: 46-54	Jesus is all powerful	Matt.	28: 18	John	2: 11	90	
Sept 2	Jesus Cleansing the Temple	John	8: 12-19	Christ rose from the dead	Mark	16: 7	John	2: 16	91	
" 9	Jesus and Nicodemus	John	3: 1-21	We need new hearts	Ps.	51: 10	John	3: 18	92-93	
" 16	Jesus at Jacob's Well	John	4: 5-42	Jesus knows all things	John	2: 24	John	4: 14	94	
" 23	Daniel's Abstinence	Dan.	1: 8-16	Intemperance excludes from heaven	1 Cor.	6: 10	Dan.	1: 8	95	
" 30	REVIEW			Christ's kingdom is everlasting	Ps.	145: 13	Mark	3: 15	REVIEW.	