

and in worshipping him.

Approach to the Lesson—How does a tree grow? Upwards, broad, sends roots deep down. Boys and girls grow in three ways. Body, mind, spirit or soul. As the trees must have strong roots, so you must try to keep your body strong. You must reach out after knowledge. You must let your life grow toward God.

Our lesson tells us about a boy growing. When Jesus was a child he grew in strength and

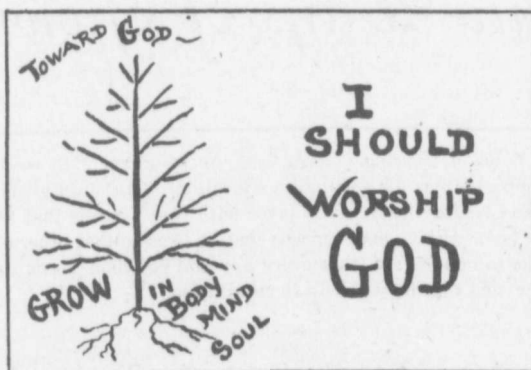
size and in all good qualities. He loved his studies and wanted to grow in knowledge, as we shall see.

Lesson—What cities have the children visited? What was the most wonderful sight they saw? We are going to hear about the boy Jesus' visit to a great city when he was twelve years old. It was the time of the Passover (see Lesson Explained). Show on a map the road that the people would travel from Nazareth to Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph took Jesus with them. How eagerly all the young people looked forward to the visit to the great city! Describe the journey, —the running and jumping of the young people, in which no doubt Jesus joined for he, too, was "just a boy." When at last they reached Jerusalem, what sights they saw! The crowds, the buying and selling of animals and doves for the sacrifices!

Jesus in the Temple Worshipping God—But what attracted Jesus most of all was God's house, the great, beautiful temple on the hill. When they climbed the hill and entered the gates, this is what he saw. (Show picture of

the temple and describe.) He saw the crowds, the priests offering the burnt offerings. He heard the temple music. He saw the people putting their money into the treasury. Jesus listened to the reading of the scriptures

and to all that the rabbi and teacher said. There were many questions he wanted to ask, but there was no time during the services. However, after the Passover was over and the people were returning to their homes, Jesus stayed behind in



the temple amongst the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Tell of the homeward journey, and the return of Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem (vs. 43-45) and the finding of Jesus in the temple, vs. 46-50. Show picture, Jesus in the Temple.

Jesus' Obedience—V. 51 shows Jesus' perfect obedience to his earthly parents, as his later life shows his perfect obedience to his heavenly Father. Tell v. 52.

Golden Text—Repeat Golden Text and explain. Repeat also "The Lord (point upward) will give strength unto his people."

Growth—Speak of the growth of plants, of baby animals, of baby brother. We are told in 2 Peter 1:5 (print each of these on the branches of the tree) how God wants our minds and hearts and souls to grow. God can help us to grow in all these ways. Do you want to know where to learn to grow in your soul? The very place where Jesus went—the house of God, our church.

What the Lesson Teaches Me—I SHOULD WORSHIP GOD.

FROM THE PLATFORM

Get the scholars to repeat together v. 52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Remind them that this is the only account which we have of the boyhood of Jesus. Ask for another word which might be used instead of "increased."