



WINGKIT™

CHURCH STUDY GUIDE

DISCOVER THE SAVIOR WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.

the YOUNG MESSIAH

Church Study Guide

Introduction: Inspired by Scripture and rooted in history, *The Young Messiah* imagines a year in the boyhood of Jesus. Enter the exploration of what it might have looked like and join the discussion. Grow together toward a deeper understanding of Jesus and His power at work in our lives.



Movie Overview: Remaining true to the character of Jesus revealed in the Bible, *The Young Messiah* is an inspirational story for the whole family about the childhood of the Savior. When the mystery of Jesus' divinity begins to unfold in His childhood, He turns to His parents for guidance. But Mary and Joseph, in an effort to protect their child, are afraid to reveal all they know. How do you explain the ways of the world to the Creator of the world? How do you teach the Teacher? How do you help the Savior who came to save you? Follow the young Messiah as He and His family take the dangerous journey from Egypt to Nazareth and on to Jerusalem, where His true identity and profound destiny are fulfilled.

✦ **Family Focus:** Walking through *The Young Messiah* discussion with kids? Watch for this icon to note questions that are especially helpful for younger viewers.

All Scripture is quoted from the Tree of Life Version unless otherwise noted.

1. Jesus and His Friends and Foes

Following God in a Hostile World

In Egypt, Jesus is beaten up by the bully, Eleazer, who then trips and dies. The villagers blame Jesus. Even after Jesus quietly raises Eleazer from the dead, the bully's family blames Jesus and orders Jesus' family to leave the country.

Watch: Not Wanted Here



Read:

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. But you are not of the world, since I have chosen you out of the world; therefore the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also."
—John 15:18–20

"But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for the ones who mistreat you."
—Luke 6:27–28

"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have shalom. In the world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world!" —John 16:33

Discuss:

- ✦ What do you think it would be like to be Jesus' parent? Cousin? Uncle? How did Jesus affect the life of His family? What do you think living in Egypt was like for them?
- ✦ If you had God's power, how do you think you would use it?
- ✦ Have you ever faced a bully? Have you been persecuted for what you believe? How did you handle it?

- Think of a person who is hard for you to love. (You don't have to name names.) What is one way you can bless them and show God's love toward them?
- All the people in this scene feel some kind of fear. Who do you identify with most? What Bible verses can help you face your fear?
- ✦ When or where do you feel out of place? Read the Bible verses listed above. What do they tell us about how to follow Jesus while we live on this earth?
- Some Christian traditions teach that Jesus was able to and did perform miracles as a child. How does this scene compare with Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding of Cana in John 2:1–11?

Remember:

- Jesus understands what it's like to live within a family and to face enemies. He gives us strength to love even people who hate us.
- God is working to take care of us and give us hope even when we face problems.
- God's love never fails—no matter what person lets us down or mistreats us.

Pray: God, thanks for being more powerful than everything and everyone around us. You understand every problem we face, and you know what it's like to live as and among us humans. Fill us with Your love and help us to show it to everyone around us: our friends, our families, even our enemies.



2. Jesus and His Teachers

Knowing and Understanding God

Back in Nazareth, Joseph presents Jesus and James to the rabbi to continue their education. The head rabbi remembers when Mary spoke about an angel, “disrupting the whole village” before Jesus’ birth. He questions Jesus to test his knowledge of Scripture, but Jesus impresses the rabbis with his wisdom and insight.

Watch: Meeting the Rabbi



Clip 2 — Meeting the Rabbi

Read:

*“You will seek Me and find Me, when you will search for Me with all your heart.”
—Jeremiah 29:13*

“Happy is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her trade-value is better than silver, and her yield better than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels and nothing you desire compares to her.” —Proverbs 3:13–15

“Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” —Ephesians 3:17–19, New Living Translation

Discuss:

- What is the rabbi’s initial attitude about Jesus? How does that change through their conversation? How would you describe Jesus’ attitude as he answers the rabbi?
- How do you think the rabbi might have felt when a boy as young as Jesus knew so much about God throughout history?

- How do Jesus' insights about God being the carpenter working to fulfill His promises reveal God's bigger story throughout history?
- How does this interaction affect Jesus? Joseph? James?
- ✦ If you knew as much as Jesus did, would you still want to go to school to be taught by the rabbis? Why or why not?
- ✦ Where do you get your information about God? How often is the Bible the place you turn to in order to understand Him better?
- ✦ Who has helped you know God more deeply? Describe a time when someone has helped you know and grow closer to God.

Remember:

- God uses other people to teach us as we humbly seek to learn and gain wisdom. Wisdom brings insight into God's ways.
- The Bible provides answers about who God is and how He works. It reminds us that God is working even when our circumstances make that hard to see.
- Understanding God's bigger story throughout history helps us understand our own stories and how we relate to Him.

Pray: God, there are many things about You that we don't know or understand. But we thank You for revealing yourself to us through the Bible, history and other people. Please give us humility and open hearts and minds as You teach us not only about You, but to abide in You and grow in our relationships with You.



3. Jesus and His Parents

Discovering God's Strength in our Weakness

Mary is worried about taking Jesus to Jerusalem for Passover. Joseph reassures her, but her deeper fears come out. She wonders why God chose her and if she's up for the task of raising God's Son. Joseph understands, yet expresses his gratitude to God for giving them the awesome task.

Watch: Being Jesus' Parents



Read:

"Then Yeshua said to His disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." —Matthew 16:24–25

"But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Messiah may dwell in me." —2 Corinthians 12:9

"Cast all your worries on Him, for He cares for you." —1 Peter 5:7

Discuss:

- How are Mary and Joseph's concerns like any parents? How are they different? How do you think you would handle being Jesus' earthly mother or father?
- What particular challenges do you think both Mary and Joseph faced? How does the movie portrayal match or differ from your vision of who they were?
- Who do you have trouble entrusting to God? Why?
- ✦ How are your parents like Mary and Joseph?

- Describe a time you questioned whether you were up to a task you felt called to? How were you able to see God work and meet your need?
- Think of a time you have followed God in the past. How is following God an ongoing process rather than simply a one-time choice?
- ❖ How does it make you feel to know God promises that His strength is perfect in our weakness? When have you seen His strength in you?

Remember:

- We can trust God's love and care for our parents, kids and loved ones.
- When we are weak, God is strong.
- Every day is a new opportunity to choose to follow God.

Pray: God, thank you that we are not on our own in this life. Thank You that even when we feel afraid and full of doubt, your love and grace surround us. Help us to follow You everyday, and open our eyes to the ways that Your incredible power is shown to the world in and through our weakness.



4. Jesus and His Identity

Who We Are in Christ

Mary tells her story to Jesus. She explains the circumstances before His birth and reveals that He is God's Son. Many of his questions are answered, and he thoughtfully takes it all in.

Watch: The Story



Read:

"But whoever did receive Him, those trusting in His name, to these He gave the right to become children of God." —John 1:12

"Therefore, if you have been raised up with Messiah, keep seeking the things above—where Messiah is, sitting at the right hand of God. Focus your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Messiah in God. When Messiah, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him, in glory!" —Colossians 3:1–4

*"Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying."
—Hebrews 2:14–15, NLT*

"Amen, amen I tell you, he who puts his trust in Me, the works that I do he will do; and greater than these he will do, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it." —John 14:12–14

Discuss:

- ❖ How would you handle it if your mother told you that you were God's only Son?

- ❖ How much do you think Jesus understood about who He was when He was growing up?
- ❖ How does your family shape you in how you think and what you do?
- ❖ How do you think Jesus' life and experience as a human on earth help him to understand us? What struggles do you face that He probably faced too?
- What does it truly mean for us to be children of God, made part of His family?
- When we give our lives to Jesus, how does He change us? How has He changed you?
- Just like Jesus did, we all must grow one step at a time to understand our identity in Him. What is a recent lesson you have learned about relating to God and living as His son or daughter?
- Read John 14:12–14. In what ways can and do we accomplish even greater things than Jesus did?

Remember:

- Jesus understands all of our human struggles and weaknesses.
- Our true identity comes from God through forgiveness and life in Jesus.
- God's Spirit enables us to do all God calls us to do and be, even more than we may think we are capable of.

Pray: Father, thank you for sending Your Son to be one of us. Thank you for understanding and knowing us intimately. Work in our hearts and lives. Shape us and teach and use us. May we always glorify you.

Final Notes:

DISCOVER THE SAVIOR WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.

the YOUNG MESSIAH

"A spectacular movie for the whole family."

—Kathie Lee Gifford, *The Today Show*

"A remarkable movie."

—Bob Waliszewski, *Focus on the Family/Plugged In*

"Succeeds beautifully in imagining the mystery."

—Steve McEveety, CEO, Mpower Pictures, Producer of "The Passion of the Christ"



Movie clips that illustrate and inspire

© 2016 WingClips, LLC. © 2016 Universal Pictures Home Entertainment. All rights reserved.