

Babies Grow

Have an assortment of baby clothes and dolls available for children to play with as they arrive. Let the children tell you what they know about being babies and growing bigger.

Baby Jesus grew strong and wise.
—Luke 2:40

Scripture Discovery

Print each word in ascending size from smallest to largest. Hide them in the gospel of Luke for the children to find. Arrange words in order for all to see then read aloud. Have children repeat words after you. Then act out the scripture by squatting down very small, and as the words are said, extend arms, stretching to very tall.

Scripture Story

The scripture story (page 5) comes from Luke 2:22–40. The first part is about Jesus' blessing as a baby. The last couple of verses talk about Jesus growing as a child, something about which we have very little information. Tell this might-have-been story using props the children can safely play with. For the blessing story, use a doll wrapped in a baby blanket for Jesus. Let the children act out the parts of Mary, Joseph, Simeon, and Anna as you tell the story.

Blessing Babies

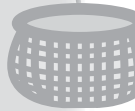
The Community of Christ church shares together in the sacrament of baby blessing. Compare Jesus' blessing to this sacrament.

Explain how the elders hold the baby while the parents stand nearby. One of the elders offers a special prayer of blessing for the baby and the family. Let the children use a doll to play-act blessing babies.

"Sharing Generously"

Tune: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"

God needs me a disciple to be,
Sharing generously.
In faith we give because we care,
Sharing generously.
With a nickle here, and a quarter there,
See our money helping others,
bringing love to one another.
God needs me a disciple to be,
Sharing generously.



Disciples' Generous Response

Let children place their money in the offering basket as they sing, clap, and dance to the music of the song "Sharing Generously."



Baby Jesus Grew Like Me

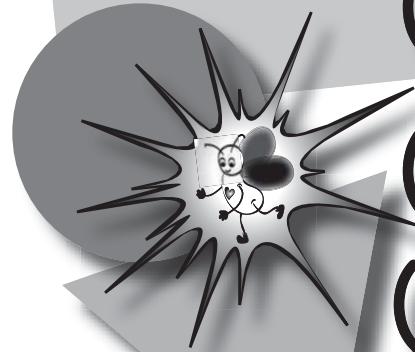
Make a baby Jesus using a craft stick shaped like a spoon. A chenille stem can be wrapped around the neck for the arms. Use a marker to add a face and hair. Provide a soft cloth blanket to wrap around the baby.

Jesus Loves Us

by Janice Townsend

Jesus Loves us when we're small. (*squat, hands touch floor*)
Jesus loves us when we're tall, (*stand, reach hands up high*)
Short and small, (*squat down low*)
Big and tall. (*stand and reach high*)
Our friend Jesus loves us all. (*hug arms over chest*)

Grow in the Spirit



MATERIALS

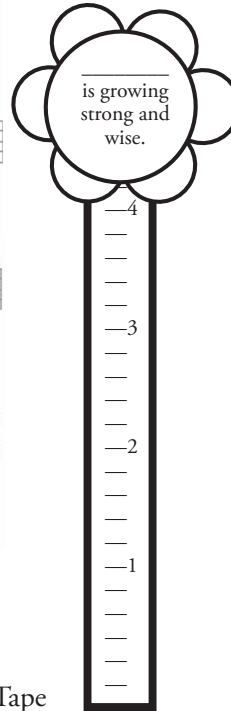
- BABIES GROW**
baby clothes
dolls
- SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY**
Bible
scripture cards
- SCRIPTURE STORY**
dolls/stuffed animals
- BLESSING BABIES**
doll wrapped in blanket
- DISCIPLES' GENEROUS RESPONSE**
offering basket
- BABY JESUS GREW LIKE ME**
craft sticks
chenille stems
marker
soft fabric squares
- GROWTH CHART**
copies of growth-chart patterns
crayons
tape
marker
- FAMILY CONNECTIONS**
take-home pages

We're Not Too Small

Rena Matthews

English Folk Tune
Arr. Rena Matthews

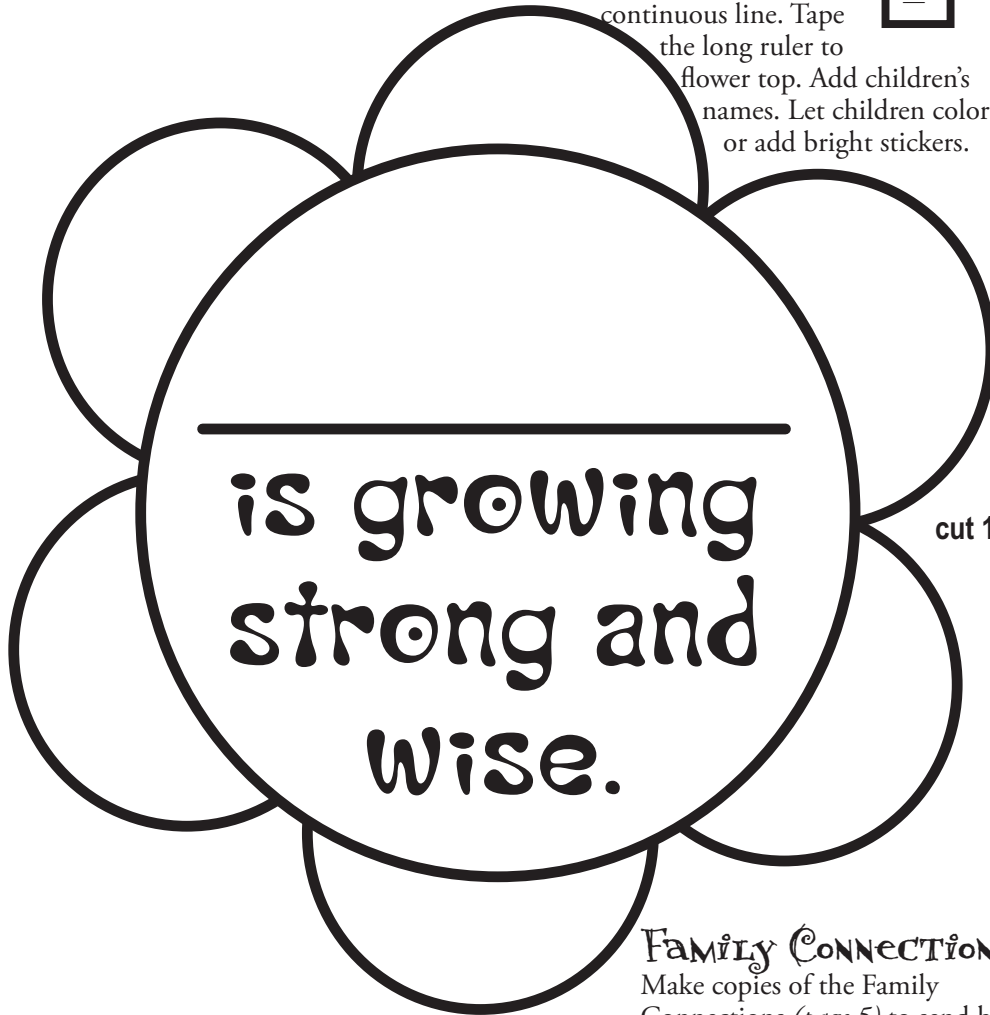
1. We're not too small. We're not so tall. We're
2. I have a gift in - side of me. What
grow - ing eve - ry day. And when we bow our
tal - ent can it be? A tal - ent is God's
heads to God, we're big e - nough to pray.
spe - cial gift to each of us, you see.



GROWTH CHART

Copy and cut the flower growth-chart patterns—one flower and four rulers for each child. Tape the ruler pieces together to form one

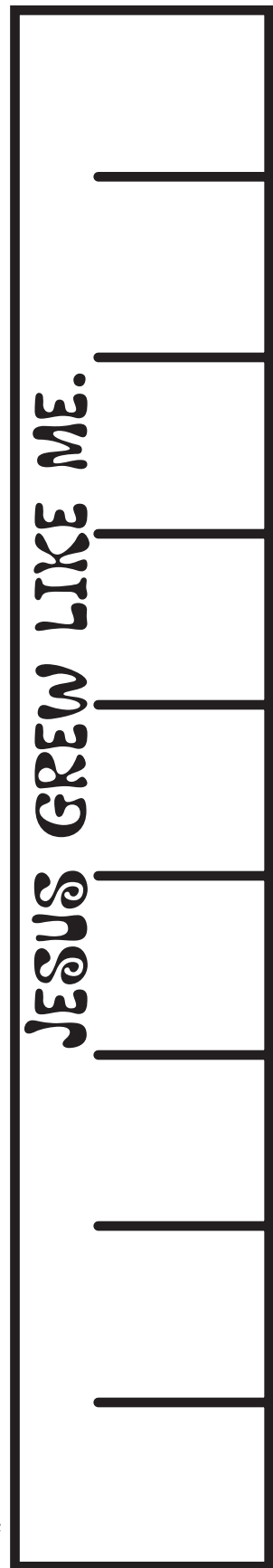
continuous line. Tape the long ruler to the flower top. Add children's names. Let children color or add bright stickers.



cut 1

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Make copies of the Family Connections (page 5) to send home with each child. Mail a copy to children who missed today's class.



cut 4

Many Ways to Grow by Marge Nelson

Mary could hear the sound of pounding coming from the carpenter shop. She decided to take some fresh water to her husband and son while they were working. She always enjoyed watching them build things together.

"Time for a break," she called as she entered the shop.

"Mother!" Jesus said, running to give her a hug. "Come and see what we made."

Mary set the water jar down and went to look at the table. It was still upside down on the work bench, but she could see it was almost finished. "We start on the cradle next!" said Jesus in his excited voice. "It will be ready just in time for when the new baby comes."

Mary was quiet for a few minutes. "What are you thinking about, Mother?" Jesus asked.

"I was just remembering a time not so long ago when another baby was born."

"Me, right?" Jesus said smiling. "I love to hear you tell stories. My favorite is the story of the blessing. Tell it to me again, will you?"

Mary sighed. It seemed like he never got tired of hearing the stories over and over. She began to tell about the trip she and Joseph made to the temple in Jerusalem when Jesus was six weeks old. She told about seeing the temple on top of the hill from far off.

"I remember!" exclaimed Jesus. "Well, not that time, but when I was old enough to remember and you took me to Jerusalem for the Passover. It was just the way you described it."

Mary told him about Simeon and the prophet Anna who were at the temple when they arrived. She told Jesus how excited they were and how they thanked God for being able to be there at that time. She didn't tell Jesus the exact words they said, but talked more about how wonderful it felt.

"And tell me how things looked," Jesus begged. "Tell me about the temple." Jesus could never get enough information about this wonderful place. He knew that it was where the Jewish people went to worship God in a very special way.

Both parents looked at each other and smiled. They knew Jesus was ready for another story about God working with people and leading and guiding their lives.

Family CONNECTIONS



Baby Jesus grew strong and wise.
—Luke 2:40



- **Hang my growth chart in a place where we can keep track of how big I grow. Measure how big I am today!**
- **Show me my baby pictures so I can remember how tiny I was and how big I have grown.**
- **When Jesus was a baby he was blessed. If I was blessed as a baby tell me my blessing story.**
- **Let's read today's story together.**