

# I Am Growing

## Allelu!

*Growing and Celebrating with Jesus*

### Lesson 27, ages 3-4

#### Lesson 27 Goal

- Your child will learn that Baby Jesus grew and that God is helping all little children grow.

#### Key Points

- Baby Jesus grew each day and became a child like me, and then a man.
- God is helping me grow, too.



#### Parent Reflection

Just like all human beings do, Jesus grew. Scripture tells us, “The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of the Lord was upon him” (Luke 2:40) and “Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor” (Luke 2:52).

We do not have much information about Jesus’ first thirty years, except for the Infancy Narrative and the story of his visit to the Temple at age twelve, but we can assume that Jesus’ life was both good and ordinary. The *Catechism* states, “The hidden life at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life” (CCC, 533). Knowing that Jesus must have participated in many of the same ordinary childhood experiences that we do today, allows us, even young children, a way to know and understand Jesus better in our daily lives.

#### Reflection Question

In what everyday ways have I grown in holiness? What areas of my life need continued growth?

## Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

### Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
  - crayons or colored pencils
  - for role-playing: baby items, such as bottle, rattle, blanket, shoes, socks, diaper, and adult “professional” items, such as briefcase, doctor bag, badge, scientific tools
  - Lesson 27 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)
- (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

## Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

### Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“Dear Jesus, show us the way to your Heavenly Father. We praise you and we love you. Amen.”*

## Discovering

**Jesus Grew.** Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus as a child.

Ask your child, “How are you like Jesus?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

## Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

**1. How Am I Like Jesus?** Turn to the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center

pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child a crayon or colored pencil. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

**2. Life Stages Dramatic Play.** Have your child use the role-playing items to demonstrate different activities that he or she did as a baby, now as a preschooler, and what he or she might do as an adult. Discuss how God had a plan for Jesus and was with him as he grew. God is with each one of us as we grow and can do anything with God in our lives.

**3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Philomena.** Show your child the picture of Saint Philomena on the Family Activity page and read about her. Then read more about Saint Philomena to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, “Sometimes it is hard for a child to make decisions. Who do you know that can help you understand what God wants for you?”

Have your child write and draw about Saint Philomena using the Lesson 27 Activity Master.

## Sending

**Pray with your child.** Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

*“Dear God, thank you for helping us grow and learn to do new things. Help us to be healthy and strong. Amen.”*

## Saint Philomena

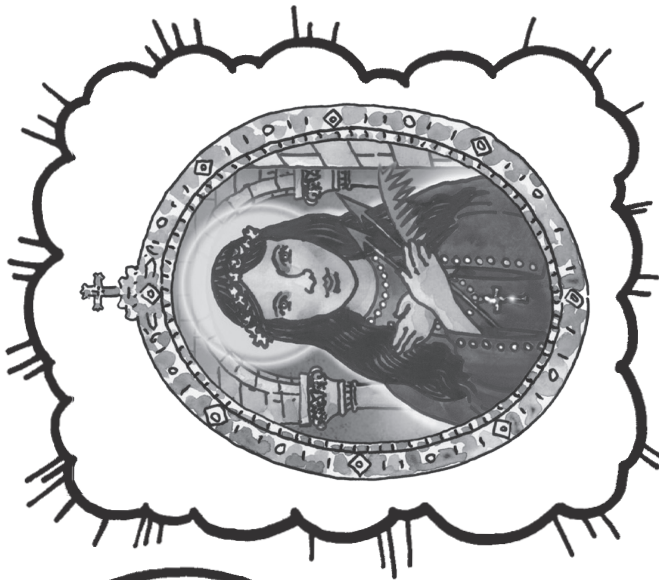
### Hope Waits

Philomena was a beautiful young princess who loved Jesus. An emperor, who is like a king, wanted to marry her, but Philomena did not want to marry him. She wanted to stay unmarried and devote her life to Jesus. This was hard for the emperor to understand. It made him angry. It made him try to scare Philomena so that she would agree to marry him. But Philomena would not change her mind.

Philomena died at a young age. Her friends

tried to tell the story of her life by drawing pictures and writing words on stone tiles. These tiles were not found for over a thousand years. After they were found, people who saw and touched them began to experience miracles. Philomena was helping them to get better after they were sick. She had waited all those years to share her story. And she wanted to help people know that she was happy in Heaven.

**DRAW**



**Saint  
Philomena,  
pray for us!**