

THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Luke 2:41-51

Prepare to hear the Word:

- Locate Nazareth and Jerusalem on a map.
- Talk about the Temple and the requirement that Jews visit the Temple each year. Jesus Mary and Joseph were Jews.
- Travelling arrangements – the men in one group and the women in another and since Jesus was twelve years old he could have been in either.

You will need:

- Bone felt story mat and brown felt road
- 8 Puppets - Mary and Joseph, Jesus, priests, friends and relatives
- Jerusalem

When children are seated in a semi-circle ready to listen to the story, place the gold box/bag, containing the materials you will need, carefully beside you.

Lay the road across the circle in front of you. Place the boy, Jesus, Mary and Joseph on the side of the road near you.

Jesus grew up with Mary and Joseph in a town called Nazareth.

Place Jerusalem at the far end of the road.

Move the family down the middle of the road to Jerusalem.

When Jesus was twelve years old, his family and relatives went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover.

Walk Jesus to stand behind Jerusalem.

Move Mary and Joseph along the road back towards you.

When the feast was ended, they started to return to Nazareth.

On their way home, Mary and Joseph did not realise at first that Jesus was not with them.

Hold your hand over Mary and say:

Mary was travelling with the other women and thought that Jesus was with Joseph.

Hold your hand over Joseph and say:

Joseph was travelling with some of his friends and thought that Jesus was with Mary.

Turn Mary and Joseph to face each other.

They then realised that Jesus was not with them.

Move Mary and Joseph back to Jerusalem.

Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus.

**They could not find Jesus for three days.
They looked everywhere.**

Move Jesus from the back of Jerusalem to the front and say:

Then at last Mary and Joseph found Jesus he was talking to the priests in the temple.

They asked him why he had made them worry so much.

Hold your hand over Jesus and say:

“Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

Move Jesus, Mary and Joseph along the road back towards Nazareth and say:

They returned to Nazareth, Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus meant. Mary kept thinking about what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Sit quietly for a moment and begin to wonder together.

I Wonder:

- I wonder why Mary and Joseph didn’t know that Jesus was missing until they were half way home?
- I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt when they were looking for Jesus?
- I wonder how your parents would feel if they could not find you?
- I wonder why Jesus spent this time in the Temple?

The Boy Jesus in the Temple Luke 2:41-51

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for Passover. And when Jesus was twelve years old, they all went there as usual for the celebration. After Passover his parents left, but they did not know that Jesus had stayed on in the city. They thought he was travelling with some other people, and they went a whole day before they started looking for him. When they could not find him with their relatives and friends, they went back to Jerusalem and started looking for him there.

Three days later they found Jesus sitting in the temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was surprised at how much he knew and at the answers he gave.

When his parents found him, they were amazed. His mother said, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been very worried, and we have been searching for you!"

Jesus answered, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he meant. Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents and obeyed them. His mother kept on thinking about all that had happened.

Prepare to hear the Word: Teachers

This is a reflection by Luke, on the person and mission of Jesus rather than an historical account.

In this narrative Luke makes the following points:

- Jesus was familiar with the rituals of Judaism, in this case Passover.
- The gentle developing wisdom of Jesus and his knowledge of Torah.
- Jesus refers to God as “Father”.

The age of twelve was about the time when Jewish boys were expected to assume the responsibilities of adults.

Luke is reinforcing that Jesus experienced the normal human development – physical, emotional and intellectual development.

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