



THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Luke 2:41-52

Memory Verse

"Let us go to the House of the Lord." Psalm 121

Context/Background

Luke tells us almost all of what we know about Jesus' life before his public ministry. After Jesus' presentation in the temple (when he was 40 days old), the family returns to Nazareth. The next 12 years are summarised in this verse "The child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him." (Luke 2:40)

All male Jews had to attend the three major festivals in Jerusalem every year: the Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of the Tabernacles. If this wasn't possible because of distance, they were expected to attend at least the Passover. Often people from the same village or town would travel together for safety. It is possible that Jesus had been to Jerusalem for Passover before. But this time was special. At the age of 12, every male Jew was presented by his father at the local synagogue and became a 'son of the law'. He took on responsibility for observing the law that God had given the Jewish nation. In obedience to the Law, Jesus now went to Jerusalem for Passover. *(From Come and See Jesus: Year B Pentecost 6 to Christmas (C))*

Summary

Jesus, a Jewish boy, was coming to the point where he was expected to take on adult responsibilities and have a good enough grasp of God's law to be held accountable for obeying it. His parents visited Jerusalem each year to celebrate Passover, in accordance with Jewish tradition. When this visit ended, Jesus' parents and their travelling companions embarked on the journey back home to Galilee. When they realized that Jesus had failed to join them, they returned to Jerusalem to find him. After a three-day search, they found Jesus in the Temple, discussing scripture with religious leaders. Although they expressed concern, Jesus seemed surprised, asking his earthly parents why they wouldn't simply assume that he would be in his heavenly father's house.

Relevance/Application Themes: Love, humility, learning, purpose, quality

Younger students:

- Jesus knew it was important to love God and hear his Word. This was how he kept on growing in strength, wisdom and grace (Luke 2:40).
- Even though spending time with God was his top priority, Jesus also obeyed his parents and showed them respect.
- We can also grow in strength, wisdom and grace by following Jesus' example.

Older students:

- Jesus showed his love and respect for his Father in heaven by going to the temple to worship him. He loved to hear and talk about his Father's word. Because God is our dear Father, we should be glad to listen to him and talk to him.
- Jesus is our Saviour, who fulfilled his Father's will perfectly – loving his Father above all things, gladly hearing his Father's word and honouring and obeying his earthly parents. Jesus died on the cross to fulfil God's plan – he did this for us and for our salvation. "[Jesus] humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross." Philippians 2:8
- You can trust and rely on Jesus and believe that his perfect obedience is for you; so that you can also keep growing in strength, wisdom and grace.

Christian Studies Framework

Christian Living, Key Idea 1 – CL 2.1, CL 3.1, CL 5.1
Key Idea 2 – CL 3.2, CL 4.2, CL 5.2

Catechism Connections

The First Commandment.
You shall have no other gods.
What does this mean?
We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

The Third Commandment
You shall keep the day of rest holy.
What does this mean?
We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment
Honor your father and your mother, that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.
What does this mean?
We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise our parents or superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honour, serve, obey, love and esteem them.

Discussion/Wondering Questions:**Early Years**

- Have you ever been lost?
- Why did Jesus' family go to Jerusalem?
- What was Jesus doing in the Temple?
- How can we know what God wants us to do?

Primary

- Imagine yourself in Mary and Joseph's shoes. How would you feel when you realised Jesus was missing?
- How did Jesus show respect and love for his heavenly father?
- How did Jesus show respect and love for his parents?
- In the temple, Jesus was learning about his Father in heaven and obeying him. What kind of questions do you think he asked? Where would the teachers have learnt the answers from?
- What kind of questions do you have about God and about serving him? Where do you look for answers? Who can help and teach you?

Secondary

- Do you think Jesus was being disrespectful to his earthly parents? Why do you think that?
 - Do you think Jesus was learning from the religious leaders, or teaching them?
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- Can you think of a situation when you might have to prioritize God's will over the will of people in authority over you?

Images or objects to spark discussion

- A representation of the boy Jesus speaking with the religious leaders of that time
- Picture of the Temple in Jerusalem
- Picture of scripture scrolls in use at that time.
- A map of Israel showing the distance between Nazareth and Jerusalem



Telling the Story

Bibles: The Beginner's Bible
The Big Rescue Bible
The NIV Bible

Creative Storytelling:

Ask students to role play:

- Jesus' family approaching Jerusalem.
- After Passover, the family community leaving.
- Mary and Joseph realizing Jesus is not there.
- Mary and Joseph search for Jesus, finally finding him the Temple.
- Jesus discussing scripture with the religious leaders.
- Dialogue between Mary and Jesus.
- Jesus obediently returning home with Mary and Joseph.

Tracts and Other Resources

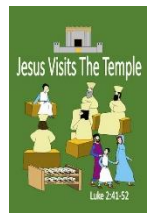
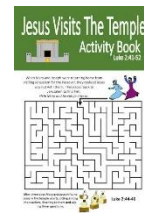
Lutheran Tract Mission

Cartoon Story Tract:

<https://www.ltm.org.au/tract/view/70379-jesus-visits-the-temple>

Activity Booklet

<https://www.ltm.org.au/tract/view/70380-jesus-visits-the-temple-activity-book>



Audio Stories/Podcasts

Kids Corner Bible Stories/The Boy Jesus at the Temple

<https://kidscorner.net/bible-stories/the-boy-jesus-at-the-temple>

Bible.is - <https://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/audio-bible-resources/bible-is>

Audio recordings of the Bible in many different languages and several English translations. All four gospels also available in film versions, searchable by book and chapter. Excellent resource for NESB learners.

Videos:

Early Years / Junior Primary

[Jesus in the Temple \(Luke 2\) – Saddleback Kids](#) – includes Jesus' birth and dedication at the temple

[The Boy Jesus in the Temple | Bible Story | LifeKids](#)

[Young Jesus: Luke 2 - Animated Bible Story for Kids \(Sharefaithkids.com\)](#)

Middle – Upper Primary

[The boy Jesus in the Temple -- Luke 2:41-52](#)

[Mary and Joseph Find Jesus in the Temple | Bible Story | LifeKids](#)

[LUMO-Gospel of Luke Chapter 2:41-52](#)

[Jesus is Lost Luke 2 41-52 Saddleback Kids](#)

Secondary/Staff

[DISCOVER JESUS - The Child Jesus in the Temple \(Luke 2:21-52\) ESV](#)

Includes presentation at the temple, direct reading from Bible.

[Teaching With The Chosen: Young Jesus in the Temple, Luke 2:42-50](#)

Creative retelling – it would be interesting for older students to compare this with the Biblical account.

Invocation

Let us begin our worship

In the name of the Father: who sent Jesus;

In the name of the Son: who died for us;

In the name of the Holy Spirit: who leads us to believe and helps us live as God's children.

Amen.

Prayers

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for sending Jesus to save us. Thank you for his example, even as a young boy, who did your will above all. Thank you also for his example in respecting and loving his earthly parents. Please help us to follow his example. Please help us to know your will and help us to grow in strength, wisdom and grace.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for obeying your Father and dying on the cross for our sins. Help us to be obedient too. Help us to love you and to listen to your words from the Bible. Amen.

Thank you, Father, for sending Jesus to be our Saviour, and for sending us the Holy Spirit to teach us about him through the Bible. Help us to eagerly hear your word and to learn it, so that we may know you better and follow Jesus more closely. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Mealtime Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus, and be our guest

And let this food to us be blessed.

Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us

With his power be ever beside us

May the Lord look with favour upon us

And give us his peace.

(May be sung – see All Together Now 94)

OR

_____, Child of God, may you continue to grow in wisdom and love for the Lord.

Music

[W.I.S.D.O.M. - Lyrics and Actions - Carrickfergus Baptist Church](#)

[2 Peter 3:18 \(Glory, Glory, Glory\) – The Rizers](#)

[Luke 2:52 - Jesus Grew | JumpStart3 | Scripture Memory Song | Worship Jesus, Strong and Kind / Jesus Loves Me](#) CityAlight - (feat. Philippine Survivor Network Choir)

[God's Love is – John Burland](#)

Trust and Obey (Lutheran Hymnal & Supplement 877) or [09 Trust and Obey Living for the Brand Cowboy Church](#)

Activities

Early Years:

- Colouring: Prepare black and white outline illustrations for the children to colour: Jesus discussing scriptures with religious leaders
<https://sermons4kids.com/jesus-in-temple-colorpg.htm>
- Play a game of Hide and Seek or go on a Treasure Hunt (where the treasure is a picture of Jesus) and then share the story of Jesus' parents looking for him.

Primary:

- Create a spot in your room to record each child's height. Measure them once a term and mark how they've grown. Put up a sign or have students illustrate the height chart with the memory verse.
- Role play: Children to act out the story as described above in **Telling the Story**
- Play a game of Simon Says, then make the connection to obeying the right voice/God's will for our lives.

Upper Primary/Secondary:

- As a group, create an outline of a human on a large piece of paper (or trace around someone using chalk on a wall or pavers outside). Reflect on what helps us grow in strength, wisdom and grace (physically, emotionally and spiritually). Write, draw or collage your thoughts inside the outline. Consider adding prayers and Bible verses about growing in God's love to the outline, possibly on leaves or flower shapes as symbols of growing.
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