

STORY

Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple - Luke 2:40-52

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father in heaven, send Your Spirit among us to show to us, Your Son Jesus as a young man, eager to do Your will, to hear Your Word, and to obey not only You but also His earthly parents. Let them see Jesus' love for them as He carried out also this part of Your plan to save sinners. May His love for us draw us to Him in repentance and faith, trusting in Him for salvation and inspiring us to live according to Your will. In His name we pray, Amen

VOCABULARY

Feast of the Passover - God commanded this week-long annual feast. As part of the events of Israel's exodus from Egypt, the Passover pictures how a lamb (Christ) would save believers from eternal death. (cf. Ex 23:14-17, Dt. 16, v16)

"was subject" - Jesus placed himself under the authority of His earthly parents in obedience to the 4th commandment to keep also this commandment for us.

OUTER AIM

The boy Jesus came to do His heavenly Father's business.

INNER AIM

Jesus willingly treasured God's Word perfectly for us.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 2, pp. 54-62)

This is the only event from Jesus' childhood recorded for us in the Canonical Scriptures. The Holy Spirit purposely shows us that even as a young child Jesus knew He was here to carry out God's plan that He would be the Savior of the world. In this account Jesus followed His Father's plans in a number of ways: a) Jesus kept the third commandment through His desire to study the Word of God and also as He kept the Old Testament Feast of the Passover even as a young boy. b) Jesus kept the 4th commandment as He respectfully answered His mother, Mary, and also "was subject" or perfectly obedient to His parents. In this and other ways Jesus grew in favor with God as our perfect substitute.

Below are notes on each verse of the account:

Luke 2:41

- ▶ According to the Law of Moses, every adult Jewish man was obligated to attend three annual feasts in Jerusalem: The Feast of the Passover, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles.

- ▶ Often the entire Jewish family would make the journey, as was the case in this episode.

v. 42

- ▶ Customarily, male children began their formal education in the Scriptures at the age of five years.
- ▶ From five to ten years of age, their religious education focused only on the Scriptures.
- ▶ Then from the ages of ten to fifteen, instruction began to include the "traditions of the elders" or commentary notes on the Bible.
- ▶ At twelve years the boy was considered responsible for his religious instruction in a way similar to our modern custom of Confirmation.

v. 43

- ▶ The feast of the Passover lasted for an entire week before families would return to their homes.

- ▶ In one of those incidents that sometimes happens at some point in many families, the parents assumed that when they were leaving, their entire family was with them.
 - ▶ But Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem without his parents immediately realizing it.
- v. 44
- ▶ Traveling on foot with all the other people returning from the feast, Mary and Joseph began looking for Jesus near the end of the day.
 - ▶ They searched the likely places among relatives and friends.
- v. 45
- ▶ It took them another day to return to Jerusalem as they continued their unsuccessful search for Jesus.
- v. 46
- ▶ Three days included two days of traveling and another day searching in Jerusalem.
 - ▶ The temple (including sanctuary and mall) was a large group of buildings including an area customarily used for education and discussions with the priests and other religious teachers.
 - ▶ There, as a diligent student of the Word, Jesus listened to the teachers and asked them questions to learn more and more.
- v. 47
- ▶ Jesus greatly astounded the people who were listening in on the discussions.
 - ▶ His insight or understanding and answers to questions put to Him astounded them.
- v. 48
- ▶ When Joseph and Mary found the boy Jesus, they were overwhelmed by the situation.
 - ▶ Mary rebuked Jesus for causing both His father and mother such painful anxiety from having to search for Him for so long.
- v. 49
- ▶ But Jesus hadn't done anything they shouldn't have expected Him to do.
 - ▶ He hadn't disobeyed them (for that would have been a sin and disqualified Him as our Savior).
 - ▶ Jesus reminded them that it was necessary that He be doing the things His (heavenly) Father had asked Him to do.
- v. 50
- ▶ But His earthly parents didn't understand what He meant by those words.
- v. 51
- ▶ Nevertheless, Jesus obediently returned with His parents to Nazareth and was subject to them, as a perfect child would be to His parents.
 - ▶ But Mary remembered the event and, along with the other unusual events of Jesus life, as she saw Jesus' life and mission unfold.
- v. 52
- ▶ Jesus grew up physically but also intellectually, gaining knowledge and learning how to correctly apply it.
 - ▶ As Jesus did all things perfectly while growing up (hard for us sinners to imagine), both God and those people around Jesus were favorably impressed with Him.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Father in heaven, even as a little child, Jesus did Your will and worked for our salvation. Help us to live thankful lives, eager to hear Your word, and to obey not only You but those whom you have placed over us for our care. And when we fall, bring us back to You in repentance and faith, trusting in Your forgiveness and the Salvation that Jesus, Your Son through His perfect obedience, gained for us. We pray, trusting in Jesus, Amen.

PRESENTATION

You might begin by asking the students what kind of child they think Jesus was. Direct their thoughts to His attitude to God and church and also His obedience to parents. Help the students to realize that Jesus grew up as a child like us but unlike us was perfectly without sin throughout. Even as a child, Jesus knew that his mission in life was to save the world from their sins.

Explore the concept of “tempted in all points like as we are,” yet without sin (Heb. 2:17-18 and 4:15).

Or possibly use the festivals of the New Testament Church: 1) which are the main festivals (three), 2) whether God commands them or not and 3) why do we celebrate them and also Sunday?

Jesus went to church as a young man.

Briefly review previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible.

Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account.) Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

APPLICATIONS

The teacher may have to choose among a number of possible applications from this story:

1. Jesus teaches children how important God's Word is for their life as well. For God's Word tells them about Jesus their Savior. This leads to other applications: a.) We will want to hear and learn from God's Word regularly, whether at home, or church, or in church school. b.) We will want to live God's Word in our lives by believing it, repenting of our sins and looking to Jesus for forgiveness, and following God's will for our lives.
2. When we have the opportunity or privilege to hear God's Word, we will want to listen carefully to learn from God. We don't want to become guilty of despising God's Word by fooling around, not paying attention, disrupting other people who are listening, by daydreaming, or dozing. Luke 11:28
3. It is good to remember that our salvation was earned not only by Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection back to life, but also by His perfect life of obedience. This story shows Jesus keeping the 1st, 3rd, and 4th commandments of God. Because Jesus grew up just as we, yet without sin, we know that His death also pays for the sins of our childhood and youth, because Jesus perfectly kept the Law also in this time of His life.
4. W.D.J.D.? What did Jesus do? Jesus spent His entire earthly life doing His Father's will which was saving us from our sin. His perfect life gives us many examples to help us see how we can express our thankfulness to Him by doing God's will in our lives.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Luke 11:28 - (Jesus said) "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Middle any of the above and...

Psalms 84:10 - For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Hebrews 7:26 - For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners.

Upper any of the above and...

Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

John 5:24 - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

HYMN CHOICES

"O God, Thou Faithful God," (TLH 395 1-3)

"One Thing's Needful; Lord, This Treasure" (TLH 366 1 & others)

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus" (TLH 53 1-2,4)

Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:40-52

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

Every year Jesus' mother and father traveled from their town, Nazareth, to a city called Jerusalem. They went to the Passover Feast at the temple, which was their church. When Jesus was 12-years-old, He went with His parents to Jerusalem for the feast. They went because God wanted them to go. Jesus was a different child than us - Jesus never sinned.

After the feast was over, Jesus' mother and father started the journey back to Nazareth with all the other people returning there. Jesus, however, stayed behind in Jerusalem by Himself. His mother and father did not know Jesus had stayed in Jerusalem. They thought He was safe with other friends and family.

Mary and Joseph walked for a whole day. When they could not find Jesus, they went back to Jerusalem to look for their boy.

Mary and Joseph looked and looked for their Son. After three days they found Jesus. He was in the temple. The teachers were all around Him. Jesus was listening to the teachers. He was asking the teachers questions too. Everyone who heard Him could hardly believe how much Jesus knew about God's Word.

When Jesus' mother and father saw Him, they were very surprised. His mother said to Him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Look, your father and I have been very worried while we looked for you."

Jesus told His mother and father that He did not know why they were looking for Him. He was doing God, His Father's work. He knew He must be learning more of God's Word. But Jesus' mother and father really did not understand what Jesus said to them.

Then Jesus went back to Nazareth with His parents and obeyed them always. Mary, His mother, remembered all these things that happened. Jesus kept growing wiser and stronger. God and men admired Jesus very much.

Jesus listened and learned God's Word.

God wants us to listen and to learn His Word .

Passage

Luke 11:28 "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it."

Hymn TLH 16 v. 1

Blessed Jesus, at Thy word
We are gathered all to hear Thee;
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear Thee,
By Thy teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love Thee solely.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank You for giving us Your Word.
Help us to joyfully learn it. Amen.



Classroom Activity - Have the children look at the picture below and help them do the following activity.

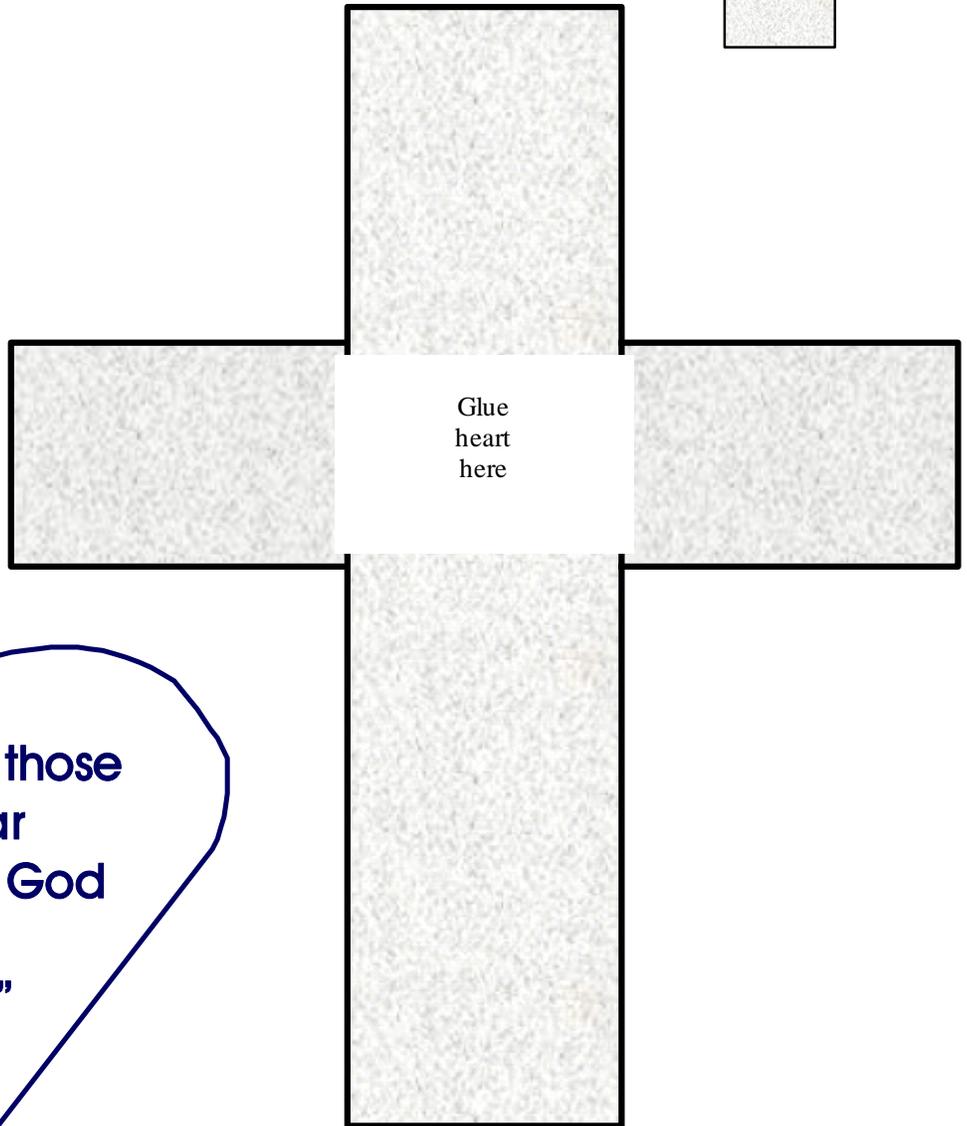


1. Circle the teachers with blue.
2. Circle Jesus with red.

Classroom Art Activity - Refrigerator Magnet

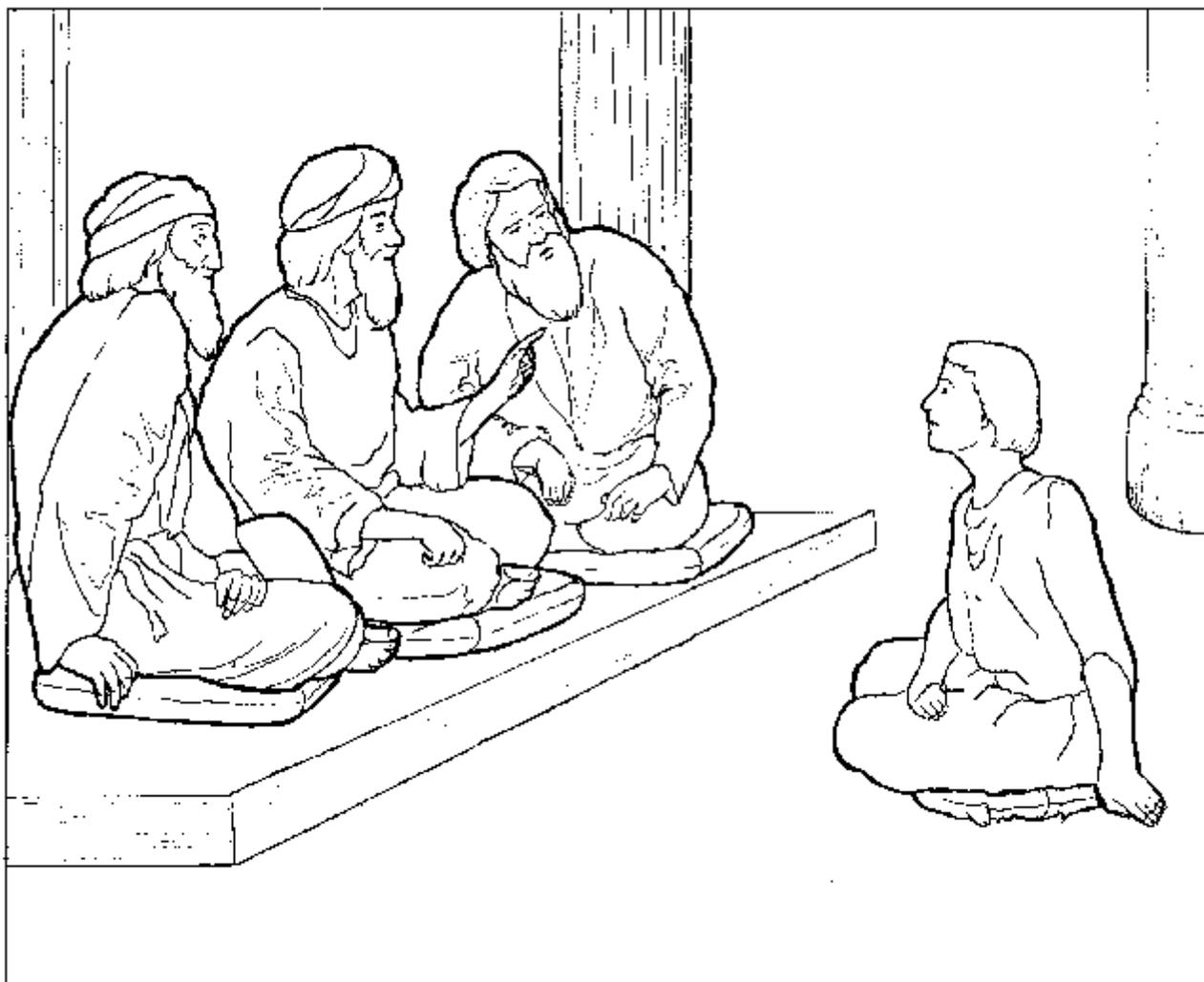
or Bookmark

- Have the children color the picture. Then cut out the cross and make it into a refrigerator magnet by gluing a magnet to the back or make it into a bookmark by making a hole in the top and threading ribbon through the hole.



Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:40-52



The Story

The Bible tells us that, as a child, Jesus grew strong in His body and in His spirit. He became very wise and God's grace was upon Him. There is only one story in the Bible about what Jesus did as a child.

Every year Jesus' mother and father would travel from their town, Nazareth, to a city called Jerusalem. They went to the Passover Feast. When Jesus was 12-years-old, He went with His parents to Jerusalem for the feast. They went because God wanted them to go.

After the feast was over, Jesus' mother and father started the journey back to Nazareth with all the other people returning there. Jesus, however, stayed behind in Jerusalem by Himself. His mother and father did not know Jesus had stayed in Jerusalem. They thought He was safe with other friends and family.

Mary and Joseph walked for a whole day. When they could not find Jesus, they went back to Jerusalem to look for their boy.

Mary and Joseph looked and looked for their Son. After three

days they found Jesus. He was in the temple. The teachers were all around Him. Jesus was listening to the teachers. He was asking the teachers questions too. Everyone who heard Him could hardly believe how much Jesus knew.

When Jesus' mother and father saw Him, they were very surprised. His mother said to Him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Look, your father and I have been very worried while we looked for you."

Jesus told His mother and father that He did not know why they were looking for Him. He thought they knew He must be doing God's work. He thought they knew He must be learning God's Word. But Jesus' mother and father really did not understand what Jesus said to them.

Then Jesus went back to Nazareth with His parents and obeyed them always. Mary, His mother, remembered all these things that happened. Jesus kept growing wiser and stronger. God and men admired Jesus very much.

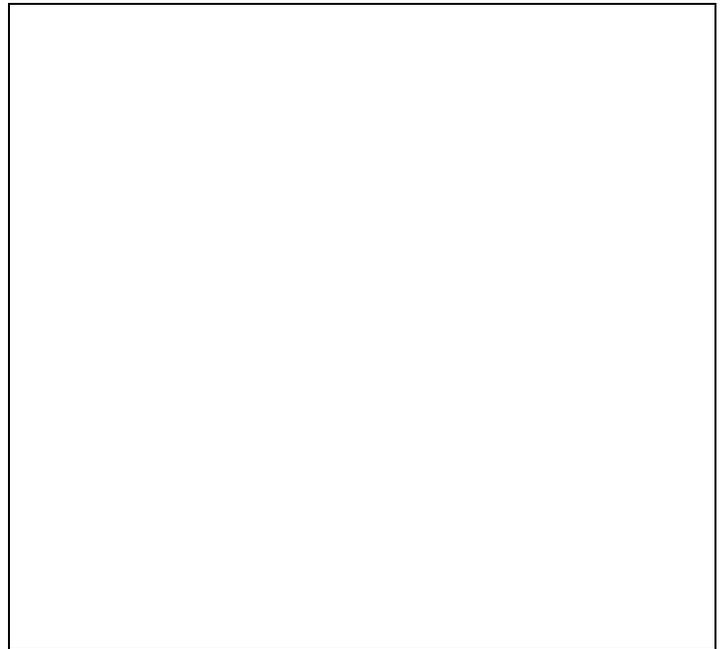
Passages

Luke 11:28 “Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.”

Review - Look at the picture on the front page

1. Circle the teachers.
2. Draw a line under Jesus.
3. Use your purple crayon to color the people who were surprised at how much Jesus knew.
4. Use your green crayon to color the One who was gladly listening to the Word of God.

Activity - Draw a picture of a place where you could hear and learn God’s Word.



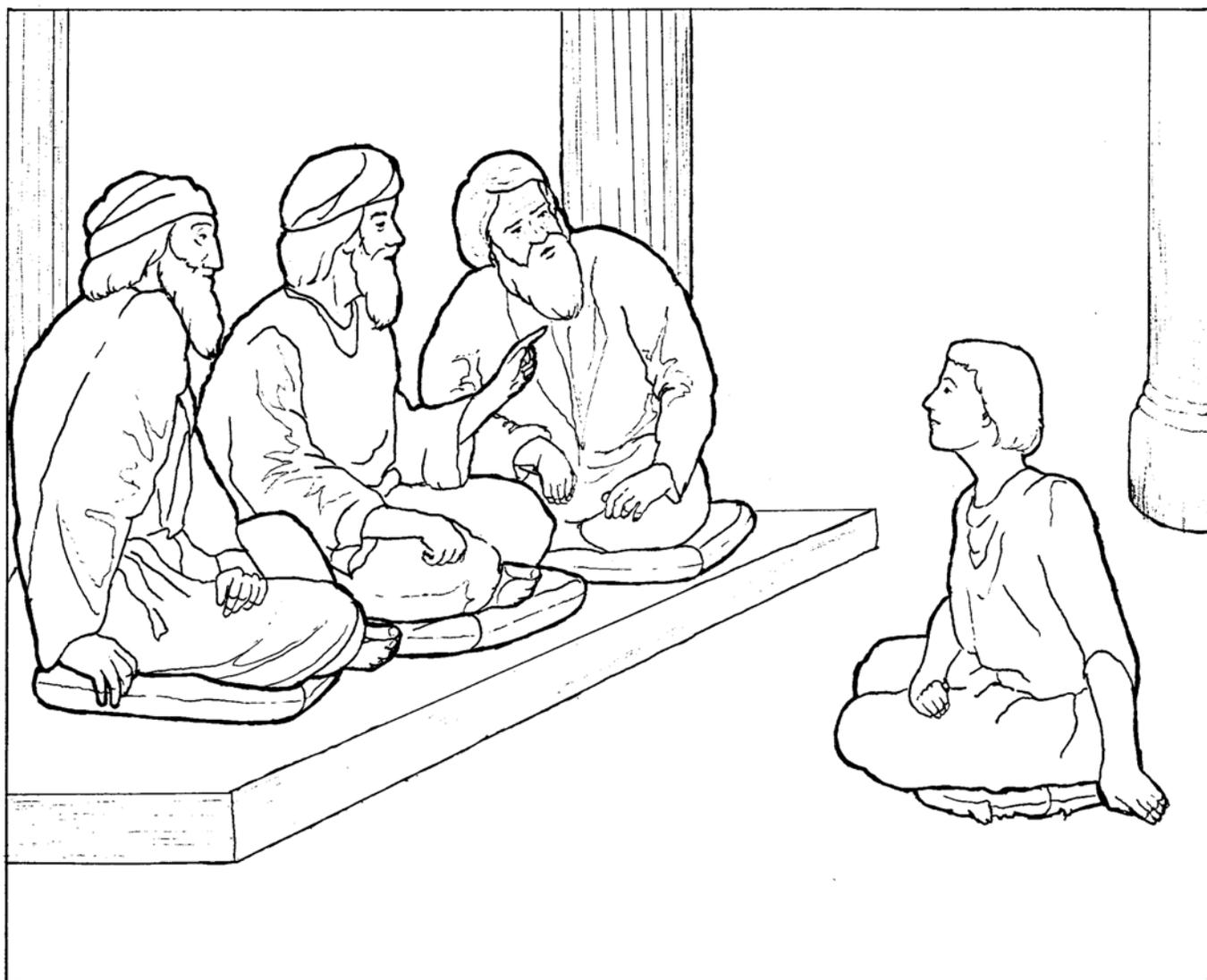
Talking to Jesus

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for giving us Your Word. Help us to joyfully learn it. Amen.

Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:40-52



The Story

The Bible tells us that as a child Jesus grew strong in His body and spirit. He became very wise and God's grace was upon Him. Today we will read the only story in the Bible about Jesus as a child.

Every year Jesus' mother and father would travel from their town Nazareth to a city called Jerusalem. They went to the Passover feast. When Jesus was twelve years old He went with His parents, Mary and Joseph, to Jerusalem for the feast. They went because God wanted them to go.

After the feast was over, Mary and Joseph started traveling back to Nazareth with all the other people from that city. Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His mother and father did not know Jesus had stayed in Jerusalem. They thought He was traveling with other friends and family.

Mary and Joseph traveled for a whole day before looking for their Boy. When they could not find Jesus, they went back to Jerusalem to look for Him.

They looked and looked for Jesus. After three days, they found Him. He

was in the temple. The teachers were all around Him. Jesus was listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Him could hardly believe how much Jesus knew.

When Jesus' mother and father saw Him they were very surprised. His mother said to Jesus, "Son, why have you done this to us? Look, your father and I have been very worried while we looked for you."

Jesus told His mother and father He did not know why they were looking for Him. He thought they knew He would be doing God's work. He thought they knew He must be learning God's Word. But Jesus' mother and father did not understand what Jesus said to them.

Jesus went back to Nazareth with His parents and obeyed them always. Mary kept all the things she had seen and been told in her heart. Jesus kept growing wiser and stronger, and God and men admired Jesus very much.

The boy Jesus came to do His heavenly Father's business.

Activity One - Choose from the following words to finish the sentences below. Then put the words in the correct places in the crossword puzzle.

Nazareth, Son, three, Temple, Passover, Jerusalem

ACROSS

1. Jesus was talking with the teachers in the ____.
3. Joseph and Mary looked for Jesus for a long time in the city of ____.
4. Joseph, Mary and Jesus lived in ____ .

1			2				
3							
4							
5							

DOWN

1. Joseph and Mary looked for Jesus ____ days.
2. Jesus and His parents went to the feast of the ____.
4. Jesus is God's ____.

Jesus willingly treasured God's Word perfectly for us.

Activity Two - Use the 3rd Commandment to help answer the questions.

3rd Commandment - Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

How did Jesus show He loved God's Word?
 How can you show you love God's Word?

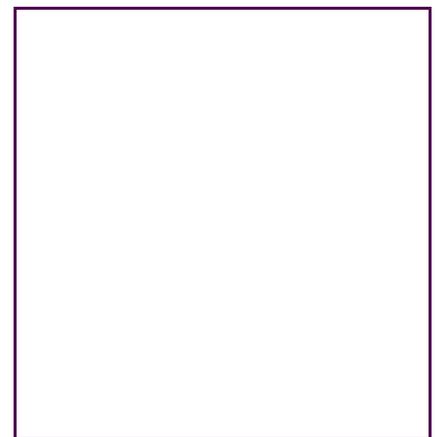
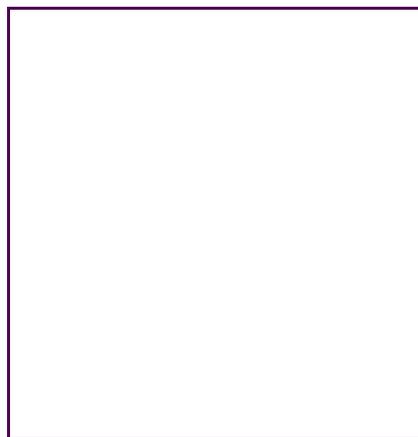
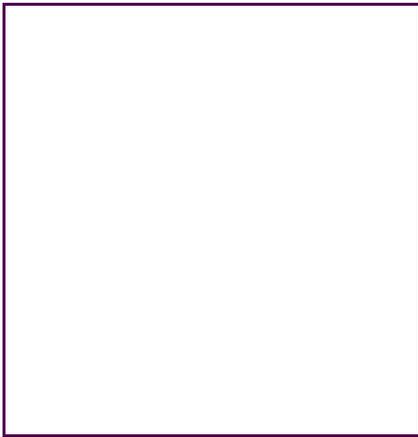
Passages

Psalm 122:1 - I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Luke 11:28 - (Jesus said) "Blessed are those who hear the word of God
and keep it!"

Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Draw pictures of three places where you can learn God's Word.



Hymn - TLH 297 v. 1, 3, 4, 6

The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That man might thus be justified.

It brings the Savior's righteousness
Our souls to robe in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release
And gives the troubled conscience peace.

It is the pow'r of God to save
From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith, which firmly clings
To all the treasures which it brings.

May we in faith its tidings learn
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess
And praise the Lord our Righteousness!

Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for giving us Your Word. Help us to love Your Word and gladly learn it
like You did when You were a child. Help us when we let other things become
more important than You and Your Word. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:40-52

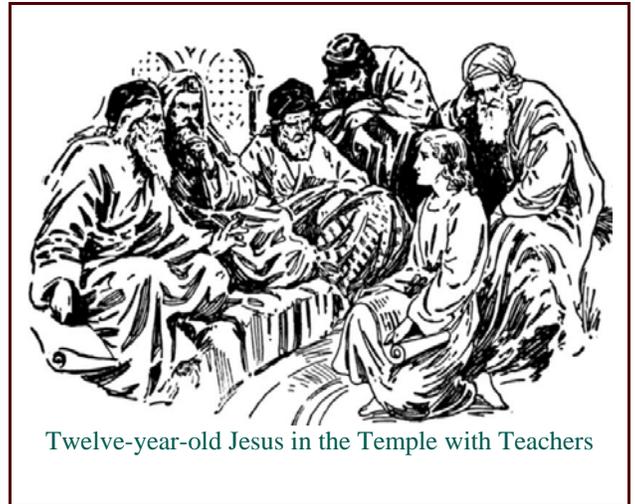
What do you think the boy Jesus is doing?

Do you think He is happy to be there? Why or why not?

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Make our hearts willing to hear Your Word. Let us joyfully use the opportunities we are given to learn Your Word. Help us to treasure it and remain Your children throughout our lives. Help us to always obey You and our earthly superiors. Amen.



Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple with Teachers

Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple - Luke 2: 40-52

And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. {41} His parents went to Jerusalem according to the custom of the [Passover] feast.

{43} When they had finished the days, as they returned, the boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; {44} but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. {45} So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him.

{46} Now so it was that after three

days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. {47} And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

{48} So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." {49} And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" {50} But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

{51} Then He went down with



them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. {52} And Jesus

increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Outer Aim The Boy Jesus came to do His heavenly Father's business.

What the Story Tells Us - Tell whether the sentences are True or False. Correct the false statements.

1. _____ Jesus went to Nazareth with His parents for the feast of the Passover.
2. _____ After the feast, Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem.
3. _____ Jesus did not tire of listening to God's Word.
4. _____ After one day Joseph and Mary found Jesus.
5. _____ Jesus was learning God's Word from the teachers.
6. _____ Jesus was doing His heavenly Father's work.
7. _____ Jesus obeyed His parents.

What God's Word Tells Us - Circle the word in each statement that makes it correct.

1. God wants us to (despise, treasure, bury) His Word.
2. God's Word has (no errors, a lot of errors, just a few unimportant errors).
3. It is good for us to hear God's Word (when it is convenient, sometimes, continually).
4. We should hear and learn God's Word (eagerly, reluctantly, half-heartedly).

Your Turn - Use the commandments and passage below to answer the questions.

4th Commandment

Honor your father and mother that it may be well with you
and you may live long on the earth.

How did Jesus in this lesson obey this commandment?

3rd Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

How did Jesus in this lesson obey this commandment?

Psalms 84:10 - For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Explain how this passage applies to the story.

Passages

Psalms 122:1 - I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house
of the Lord."

Luke 11:28 - (Jesus said) "Blessed are those who hear the word of God
and keep it!"

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Hymn - TLH 297 v. 1, 3, 4, 6

The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That man might thus be justified.

It brings the Savior's righteousness
Our souls to robe in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release
And gives the troubled conscience peace.

It is the pow'r of God to save
From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith, which firmly clings
To all the treasures which it brings.

May we in faith its tidings learn
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess
And praise the Lord our Righteousness!

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

Even as a little child, Jesus did Your will and worked for our salvation. Help us to live thankful lives, eager to hear Your Word, and to obey not only You but those whom You have placed over us for our care. And when we fall, bring us back to You in repentance and faith, trusting in Your forgiveness and the salvation that Jesus, Your Son through His perfect obedience, gained for us. We pray, trusting in Jesus, Amen.

Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:40-52

How is Jesus doing His Father's business in this picture?

How should we regard God's Word?

Prayer

Dear Lord, make our hearts willing to hear Your Word. Let us joyfully use the opportunities we are given to learn Your Word. Help us to keep it and remain Your children throughout our lives. In Your Name we pray. Amen.



Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple with Teachers

Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple - Luke 2: 40-52

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{51} Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. {52} And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Outer Aim

The Boy Jesus came to do His heavenly Father's business.



Recalling Details - Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

1. Jesus and His parents traveled to _____ for the _____ of the _____.
2. The feast of the Passover lasted for _____. (Ex. 12:12,19)
3. When the feast was over, Jesus stayed in _____.
4. Joseph and Mary searched for Jesus for _____ days.
5. They found Him in the _____ doing _____.
6. When Jesus spoke of "My Father" He was referring to _____.
7. Jesus returned to _____ with His parents.

What God Tells Us

1. How does the Bible tell us that Jesus was paying attention to His teachers?
2. How can we follow the good example that Jesus set for us in the temple? (Check two)
 - () By being attentive to the sermon and singing the hymns with joy in church.
 - () By helping our neighbor when he is in need.
 - () By gladly hearing and learning God's Word at home.
3. Which commandment did Jesus fulfill by learning God's Word?
4. Which commandment did Jesus fulfill by obeying God?
5. Which commandment did Jesus fulfill by obeying His parents?
6. Jesus increased in wisdom. How can we increase in wisdom? (John 5: 39)

Inner Aim

Jesus willingly treasured God's Word perfectly for us.

Commandments and Passages

1st Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

How did Jesus fulfill this commandment in the story?

How can we follow His example?

3rd Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

In this story how did Jesus fulfill this commandment?

How can we follow His example?

Hebrews 4:15 **"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."**

Hebrews 7:26 **"For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners."**

How would you explain these passages to someone else and how they relate to this story.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, even as a little child, Jesus did Your will and worked for our salvation. Help us to live thankful lives, eager to hear Your Word, and to obey not only You but those whom You have placed over us for our care. And when we fall, bring us back to You in repentance and faith, trusting in Your forgiveness and the salvation that Jesus, Your Son through His perfect obedience, gained for us. We pray, trusting in Jesus, Amen.