

Jesus Goes to the Temple

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew and grew, just like you do. He did not stay a little baby or a little boy. When he was twelve years old, He traveled with Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem. This was a special trip. Jesus and His family were on their way to a celebration, a special feast that was held once a year in Jerusalem. Many, many people traveled to Jerusalem. Family and friends all traveled together.

After several days in the city, it was time to return home. Mary and Joseph joined their family and friends as they started the long walk home. Mary and Joseph both thought Jesus was somewhere in the group of people with them. But when they looked, they could not find Him.

“Jesus! Jesus, where are you?” The voices of Mary and Joseph could be heard above all the talk and laughter of the large group of people on their way home from Jerusalem.

“Jesus! JESUS!” Over and over they called as they searched through the crowd. Where could He be?

“I thought He was walking with His friends,” said Mary in a worried voice. “Oh, Joseph, where can Jesus be? We’ve looked everywhere!”

“He must not have started home when we did,” said Joseph. “We will have to go back to Jerusalem and look for Him. Come, Mary; we must find Jesus!”

Joseph and Mary walked back to the city. First they looked on this side of the road, then on that side. Each person they met was asked the same question: “Have you seen Jesus? He’s twelve years old and about this tall.” But no one had seen Him. No one knew where Jesus was. For three days, Mary and Joseph looked and asked. But Jesus could not be found anywhere.

“He must be here in the city somewhere,” Joseph said. “Is there any place we haven’t looked? We’ve been everywhere except . . . Wait! Why didn’t I think of it before? Let’s go to the temple!”

They hurried to the temple, through the big doors . . . and into the room where God’s special ministers came to teach the Word of God. And there, right in front of the group of men, was Jesus!

Finally Mary said to Him, “Why have you done this, Son? Joseph and I were so worried when we could not find You.”

Jesus looked at her for a moment before He answered, “Don’t you know that I must do My Father’s work.”

No one in the room understood what Jesus was saying.

Jesus obediently left the temple with Mary and Joseph. The three of them began the long walk home to Nazareth. The Bible says Jesus pleased God and obeyed Mary and Joseph. You can please God at church and at home too.

Bible Verse to Learn

“... for I do always those things that please him” (John 8:29).

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