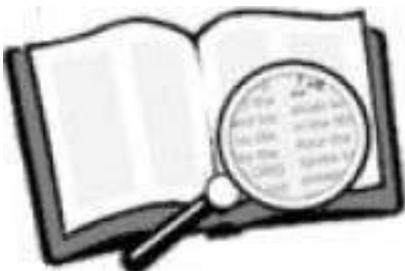


Jesus in the Temple

When Jesus was 12 years old, he went with his parents, Joseph and Mary, to the Temple for the Passover festival. After the celebration was over, they started home, but Jesus stayed behind at the Temple among the religious teachers. His parents didn't notice this. When they discovered he was missing, they went back to look for him. They finally found him three days later in the Temple. He was among the teachers discussing important religious questions. Jesus was happy to be there, because the Temple is his Father's House.



"I rejoiced with those who said to me: 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'"

Psalm 122:1

Why did Jesus
stay at the
Temple?



What could we find in the Temple?



Lesson 6

Jesus in the Temple

Biblical Text: Luke 2:41-52

Key Verse: Psalm 122:1

Purpose: The children will learn about Jesus' visit to the Temple when he was 12.

Please note!

Plan suitable activities for your group of children. The following activities can be adapted depending on the group's size, age, ability, the amount of time available, etc.

I. Lesson

After the children finish the coloring page, tell the story of Jesus at the Temple from Luke 2:41-52. Use the following questions to introduce the story

- Q. Which of you have ever been with your parents on a trip?
A. Let them answer the question.
- Q. Have you ever left your parents without telling them where you were going?
A. Let them answer the question.
- Q. How did your parents react when you returned after being gone? Did they scold you?
A. Let them answer the question.
- Q. Is it OK to leave your parents without telling them where you're going? What are the risks?
A. Let them answer your question.

The Story:

Today's story is about when Jesus went with his parents to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. He was twelve years old. After the celebration was over, Jesus didn't go home with his family. He stayed at the Temple. His parents didn't know that he was at the Temple. After some time passed, they noticed he was missing. So, just as any other parents would do, they began to look for him. For three days they looked for him. When they couldn't find him, they went back to the Temple. There they found him. Jesus wasn't lost. He stayed in the Temple on purpose. Joseph and Mary found him among the religious teachers discussing important religious questions. All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. His parents didn't know what to think. His mother, just as any mother, said to him. "Son, why have you done this to us?" "Your father and I have been very worried, searching for you everywhere!" Jesus asked, "But why did you need to search?" "You should have known that I would be in my Father's house." He said this because he is God's Son. It seemed that Mary had forgotten this. Then Jesus returned to Nazareth with his parents and was obedient to them. Jesus always obeyed his mother and father, because he was a good child. So Jesus grew both physically and in wisdom, and he was loved by God and by all who knew him.

II. Activities

1. Key Verse

a. Read out loud the Bible verse:

"I rejoiced with those who said to me: "Let us go to the House of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

b. Explain the Bible verse:

When the psalmist says "I rejoiced" he means that he can hardly wait to go to the House of the Lord. The House of the Lord today is the place where the Christians go to praise the Lord, be thankful and have a great time together. Are you glad when your parents say; "Let's go to church?"

c. Help the children memorize the Bible verse using different methods: game, contests, etc.

Suggestion: Make a paper house on which the children can stick the key verse.

2. Review questions for the children:

- Why did Jesus stay at the Temple?
- Why were his parents worried?
- What did his parents tell him when they found him?
- What did Jesus say to his parents?
- What is the House of the Lord?
- Who loves to go to the House of the Lord?

III. Conclusion

Was Jesus a disobedient child? No, he was not. He did not stay at the Temple to worry Joseph and Mary. He stayed there because the Temple was the House of the Lord and he was the Son of God. He didn't do anything wrong. He just wanted to spend more time with his Father. But Joseph and Mary seemed to forget who he was and they didn't remember from the very start where they should have found him.

The Bible says that Jesus was obedient to his parents. You must also be obedient to your parents. God's children grow up physically and in wisdom. They are loved by God, and they are loved by all the people too.

Are you a child of God?