

YOUNG JESUS VISITS THE TEMPLE

Every year, Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. The year that Jesus was 12, they all went together. When the feast days were over, they started back towards home. Jesus' parents did not know it, but Jesus stayed in Jerusalem, as they left. They did not know that He was not with them until a whole day of traveling had passed. Then, they looked for Him with the rest who traveled with them, but He was not there.

Jesus' parents went back to Jerusalem, to find Him. They looked and looked. Then, after three days, they found Him! He was in the temple, with the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. He was so wise that people who heard Him were amazed.

When His parents found Jesus, His mother asked Him, "Son, why did you do this to us? We looked everywhere for You! We were worried."

Jesus answered, "Why did you look for Me? Didn't you know that I must do my Father's work?" But they did not understand what He was saying.

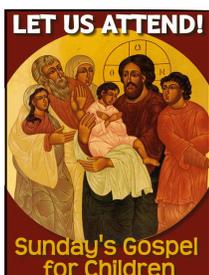
Jesus went back to Nazareth with His parents, then, and obeyed them. His mother kept thinking about it all, and kept it in her heart. And Jesus kept growing. He got wiser, taller, and closer to God and other people.



Image of modern day Jerusalem courtesy of freeimages.com

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How old was Jesus when He went with His family to celebrate the Feast of the Passover?
2. When it was time to leave the feast, where did Jesus go?
3. What was He doing there?
4. How did Jesus' parents feel when they couldn't find Him?
5. The Gospel story tells us that Jesus obeyed His parents. Ask Him to help you obey your parents.



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Pre-12



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YOUNG JESUS OBEYS HIS PARENTS

After they saw the baby Jesus, the shepherds went back, praising God for all that they had seen. And then, when Jesus was eight days old, His parents named Him Jesus, just like the angel had told them to do.

As time went by, Jesus grew and grew. His spirit was strong. He was very wise, and full of God's grace.

Every year, His parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. The year that Jesus was 12, they all went together. When the feast days were over, they started back towards home. Jesus' parents did not know it, but Jesus stayed in Jerusalem, as they left. They did not know that He was not with them until a whole day of traveling had passed. Then, they looked for Him with the rest who traveled with them, but He was not there.

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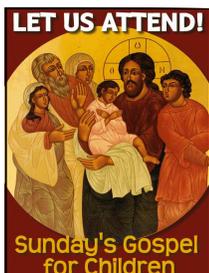
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How old was Jesus when His parents named Him? Why was He called "Jesus"? Do you know what it means?
2. Where did Jesus' family go for Passover? How old was Jesus when the trip in this story happened?
3. When did Jesus' parents learn that He was not with them? What did they do? How do you think they felt?
4. Where did they find Jesus? What was He doing? What did Jesus say that He was doing there? What did He do next?
5. The Gospel story tells us that even our Lord Jesus Christ, who is God Himself, obeyed His parents. What does that mean to us? What should we do?
6. It is not always easy to obey. Pray, and ask God to help you to obey your parents and teachers, so you can grow wiser, taller, and closer to God and others, too, just like our Lord Jesus Christ.



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YOUNG JESUS SPENDS TIME IN THE TEMPLE

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. 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; but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. 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. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. 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." And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

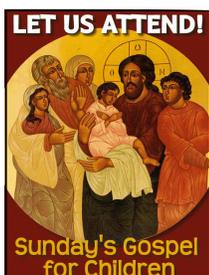
Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How old was Jesus when Joseph and Mary named him? Where did they get the idea?
2. What does Scripture say that Jesus was like, as He grew? Give an example of what you think that means.
3. Where did Jesus go when He was 12? Why did He go there?
4. When did Mary and Joseph realize that Jesus was not returning with them? Why didn't they know sooner?
5. How long did Jesus' parents look for Him? Where did they find Him?
6. What was Joseph doing there? How did those around Him respond to what He was doing?
7. Were Joseph and Mary happy with Jesus? Why or why not?
8. How did Jesus respond to His parents immediately? In the time that followed?
9. What can you learn from our Lord about how to respond both to your parents and to God?



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Characters: Narrator, Mother, Jesus

Narrator: Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

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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. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him,

Mother: Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.

Narrator: And He said to them,

Jesus: Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?

Narrator: But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

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

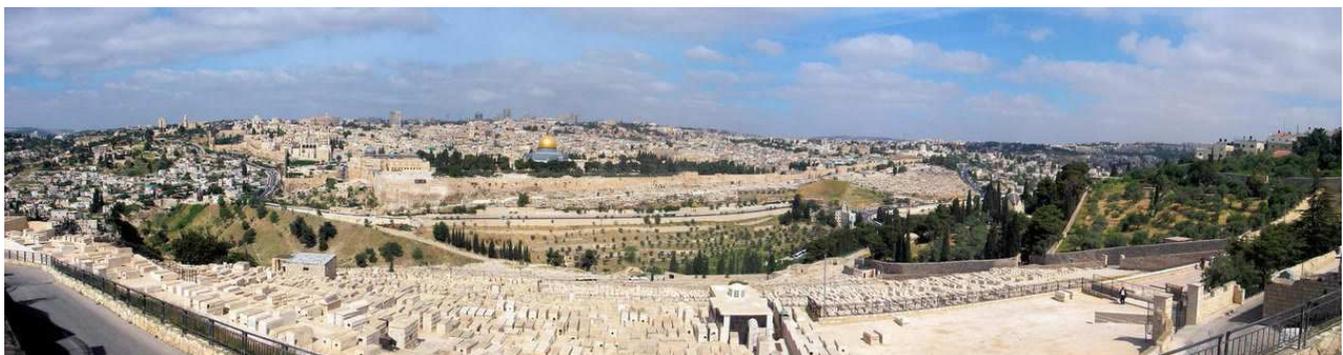
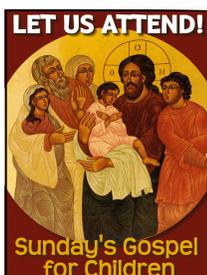


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YOUNG JESUS LEARNS BY ASKING QUESTIONS

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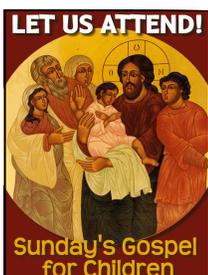
Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Have you ever thought about what life was like for Jesus when He was your age?
2. Where did Jesus and His family go when He was 12 years old?
3. What did Jesus do His family left? With whom did He talk?
4. What kinds of questions do you think Jesus asked?
5. What question would you ask if you had the same opportunity?
6. Jesus returned with His parents and obeyed them. What is the hardest thing to obey that your parents ask you to do?



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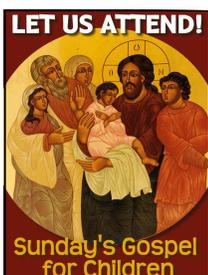
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. When Jesus was 12 years old, who did He want to hang out with?
2. Which adults in your life do you like to listen to?
3. With whom do you feel most comfortable when you have questions about spiritual matters?
4. Do you ever feel that you know more about spiritual topics than some adults?
5. What can we learn from the young Jesus about the way in which He related to the adults in His life?



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