

Jesus at the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 2:40-52

MAIN POINT: Jesus came to earth to do His Father's plan.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Leader BIBLE STUDY

The Book of Luke records just two narratives about Jesus' childhood: His dedication (Luke 2:21-40) and His time at the temple when He was 12 years old (Luke 2:41-52). Both stories set the stage for Jesus' ministry on earth as an adult.

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews. They had dedicated the baby Jesus according to the law of Moses, and they traveled to Jerusalem each year to celebrate Passover. God had commanded the men to appear before Him three times a year to observe certain festivals. (See Deut. 16:16.) Once a year, those who followed God's law would travel to Jerusalem—often in large groups—to celebrate Passover.

In Bible times, a Jewish boy became a man at 13. His father would train him to take on all the responsibilities of adulthood, social and spiritual. Joseph was a carpenter, and he likely trained Jesus in his trade. When Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem, Joseph might have taken Jesus around the city to teach Him the significance of the temple and explain the purpose of the Passover feast.

Jesus' parents started the journey back home after the feast. They assumed Jesus was among their traveling companions, but He wasn't. Jesus had stayed behind at the temple. Mary and Joseph traveled for a day before they noticed Jesus was missing. They went back to Jerusalem and found Him at the temple.

When Mary asked why He had done this, Jesus answered Mary's question with a question: "Didn't you know that I had to be in My Father's house?" Mary and Joseph did not understand. But Jesus is God's Son, and it was necessary that He honor His true Father. In all this, Jesus did not sin.

The Bible does not give many details about Jesus' childhood, but we do know that as Jesus got older, He grew

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in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people. Jesus carried out God's plan to reconcile the world to Himself. (2 Cor. 5:19)

***Christ Connection:** Even as a child, Jesus wanted to do His Father's plan. As Jesus grew up, He became strong and wise. God blessed Jesus as He got ready to follow His Father's plan: to die on the cross and rescue people from sin.*

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Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Does anyone remember our big picture question?

SLIDE - *How is Jesus different?*

The Bible stories we have heard about so far have shown us some of the ways Jesus is different. Who knows the answer to our big picture question? *[Allow kids to respond.]* That's right.

SLIDE - *Jesus is fully God and fully man.*

Giant timeline (1 minute)

LEADER • Let's do a quick review...

SLIDE - First, we learned about Jesus' family on earth. **Jesus' earthly family included Abraham, David, and others.**

SLIDE - Then we heard that **God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother.** Even though Joseph helped Mary take care of Jesus, Jesus' true Father is God. Jesus is fully God and fully man.

SLIDE - The next story was about Jesus' birth. Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior. Every baby is special, but Jesus was unlike any other baby. ***How is Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.***

SLIDE - Today's Bible story is called "Jesus at the Temple." Let's see what else we can learn about Jesus.

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Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 2:40-52.

Show the Bible story **VIDEO** “Jesus at the Temple.”

LEADER • Remember that Passover was a very important festival to the Jewish people. Each year, Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover and remember how God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt hundreds of years before.

In the year our story took place, Jesus was 12 years old. In Jewish culture, that meant He was not quite old enough to be considered a man but still a bit too old to be considered a child. It’s possible that this is why Mary and Joseph lost track of Him. When the festival ended, they began to travel home. Mary and Joseph thought Jesus was with the other people traveling with them. Mary and Joseph traveled for a whole day before realizing that Jesus was not traveling in the crowds with them.

It’s very scary for a parent to suddenly realize that he or she is unsure where a son or daughter is. I can only imagine the fear is even greater when the child is God’s Son! Do you think Mary and Joseph may have felt like failures for losing track of God’s promised Savior? *[Allow responses.]*

The two of them hurried back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus. The Bible tells us that they found Jesus after three days! A lot can go wrong in three days, and they were worried sick. Where did they finally find Jesus? *[Allow responses.]* They found Jesus in the temple, asking and answering questions with the religious teachers! The teachers were astonished at how much Jesus knew and understood about God and the law. Mary and Joseph were worried, but Jesus hadn’t done anything wrong. He said He had to be in His Father’s house. Mary and Joseph didn’t understand, but Jesus was talking about God.

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Christ connection

LEADER • Even as a boy, Jesus understood His mission and His identity as God’s Son. **Jesus came to earth to do His Father’s plan**, and nothing would keep Him from obeying perfectly. Mary and Joseph did not completely understand what Jesus meant, but as Jesus grew up, He became strong and wise. God blessed Jesus as He got ready to follow His Father’s plan: to die on the cross and rescue people from sin.

When we trust in Jesus, God sees us as righteous like Jesus. God forgives our sin and gives us the Holy what was happening, but Jesus did. Jesus never sinned. He obeyed God and died the death that sinners deserve. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage **SLIDE**.

Lead the boys and girls to read together 1 Timothy 1:15.

LEADER • Jesus came to earth to do His Father’s plan, and He showed that He knew this even as a boy. Our key passage reminds us that God’s plan was for Jesus to die for our sin, and Jesus was preparing to do so all along.

Then **SING** “This Saying.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Father, we know that Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience and died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. Thank You for that amazing gift. Help us to live for You and to follow Your plan. Remind us each day that because of Jesus’ sacrifice and the Holy Spirit’s help, we can live for You and glorify You above all else. Amen.

**Dismiss to
small groups...**