

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus at the Temple

Luke 2:40-52

- **Display a map:**

Display a Bible times map and point out the cities of Nazareth and Jerusalem as you tell the story.

- **Use sound effects:**

Incorporate sound effects as you tell the story. Pat your hands on your lap as Mary and Joseph travel home. Then pat quickly as they hurry back to Jerusalem. Gasp in surprise when Jesus' parents saw Him.

Every year, Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for **the Passover feast**. Passover was the biggest holiday for the Jewish people. Many people would travel to Jerusalem to celebrate and remember when God saved His people from slavery in Egypt.

When Jesus was 12 years old, Jesus and His family went to Jerusalem together. When it was time to go home, Mary and Joseph began traveling to Nazareth with a large group of people. They did not notice that Jesus was not with them; they thought He was among the group of travelers. But Jesus was not with the group. **He had stayed behind in Jerusalem.**

Mary, Joseph, and the other travelers had been walking for a whole day when they began to look for Jesus. They looked among their relatives and friends, **but they could not find Him.**

So Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus. They searched everywhere for Him, but they could not find Him. The city was so big, and Jesus was just a boy.

Finally, they found Him. Jesus was **in the temple complex, sitting among the teachers. Jesus was listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Jesus could hardly believe how much Jesus understood.**

When Jesus' parents saw Him, they were surprised. Mary said, "Son, why have You done this? Your father and I were worried. We've been looking everywhere for You."

"Why were you looking for Me?" Jesus asked them.

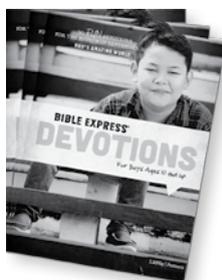
“Didn’t you know that I had to be in My Father’s house?”

But Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus was talking about.

Then Jesus went back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. Jesus was always obedient to them. Mary remembered all of these things.

Jesus grew taller and wiser. God was pleased with Him, and so was everyone who knew Him.

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.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that people were amazed at Jesus’ understanding of God’s Word. Jesus can help us love and understand God’s Word with a whole heart. (Ps. 119:34) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.



Didn't you know I had to be

H O N Z

G B S G F S R

G P V R F

Luke 2:49

Where Was Jesus?

For each blank, go forward or backward one letter in the alphabet to fill in the missing words.

C = D S = R

At the Temple Quiz

Circle if each statement is true or false. Find the Scripture passages in the Bible to check your answers.

1. Jesus and His parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. (Luke 2:41)

TRUE FALSE

2. Jesus went with His parents when he was 18 years old. (Luke 2:42)

TRUE FALSE

3. Mary and Joseph began traveling home with Jesus. (Luke 2:43)

TRUE FALSE

4. Mary and Joseph found Jesus at the temple. (Luke 2:46)

TRUE FALSE

5. Jesus sinned by disobeying Mary and Joseph. (Luke 2:51-52)

TRUE FALSE

Answers: 1. true; 2. false, 12 years old; 3. false; He stayed behind; 4. true; 5. false, Jesus never sinned.

Find Jesus

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Examine the picture of Jesus to find Him in the crowds of the larger picture.



KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What makes Jesus different?
Jesus is fully God and fully man.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

- Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for Passover each year.
- When Jesus was 12, Mary and Joseph accidentally left Jerusalem without Jesus.
- When they noticed He was missing, they returned, and found Jesus in the temple.
- Jesus came to earth to do His Father's plan.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why do you think Jesus stayed behind?
- Whom was Jesus talking about when He said He had to be in His Father's house?
- How can we know God is our Father too?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Create a plan for what your kids should do if they get separated from you in a crowded place.

Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 19, Session 4

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.