



Jesus in the Temple

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Jesus grew up in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. Every year Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. There they prayed to God and ate special food at the Passover Feast. When Jesus was 12 years old, He became old enough to go to the celebration in Jerusalem.

The feast lasted seven days. Then everyone started back home. Many people walked along the road. Many of the children walked together. Mary and Joseph did not see Jesus all day, but they did not worry. They thought He was with His friends.

When they stopped to rest that night, Mary and Joseph looked for Jesus. No one had seen Him all day. Now Mary and Joseph were worried. Mary and Joseph

rushed back. They looked and looked for Jesus in Jerusalem. At last they looked for Jesus in the temple. There He was! Jesus was sitting with the teachers in the temple. He was listening to them. He was asking them questions. The teachers were surprised at the good answers Jesus gave to their questions.

Mary asked Jesus, "Why did You stay here? Your father and I have looked all over Jerusalem for You. We were so worried." Jesus answered, "Didn't you know where I would be? Didn't you know that I would be in My Father's house?" Then Jesus went home with Mary and Joseph. He obeyed them. And He kept growing taller and stronger and wiser.

Jesus leads us to worship.

Parents: Find a wall in your house to measure your child and mark the height on the wall. Describe how small your child used to be. Explain that as Jesus got bigger, the heavenly Father had a special purpose for Him. God also has a special purpose for your child. Read Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

