

Reality – Bible Lesson for May 10, 2020 – 4th – 5th Grades

New Testament Section One: The Life of Jesus Lesson 2: Young Jesus at the Temple

- 1. Lesson: Young Jesus at the Temple**
- 2. Scripture:** Luke 2:39-52
- 3. Memory Verse:** "The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father." – John 1:14a
- 4. Mission Story:** Next week
- 5. Bible Skills:** Grab and Find
- 6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson - Bible Skills:** all the Old Testament Books of the Bible cards; Books of the Bible cards from the New Testament – the Gospels and Acts

Books of the Bible cards:

<https://ministry-to-children.com/books-of-the-bible-games-cards/>

or

<https://www.sundayschoolsources.com/books-bible-flashcards.htm>

Videos you can use to reinforce the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2vH6h8JR4k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trePi2pBtdM>

1. Prayer and Welcome Activity: Pray with your children – then introduce the following discussion:

Say: A story is told about a grandfather and a family of four that was shopping in a mall. Suddenly, in the midst of all that they were doing, someone noticed that the youngest son wasn't with them. The family split up and took an assigned area of the mall to search for the child. As each one completed the search of their area, they returned to the place where they had agreed to meet. But no one had found the missing child. Then the boy's grandfather appeared, holding his little grandson by the hand. The grandfather had found him at the candy store that they had just left, with his hands pressed against the glass, looking at all the candy. The little boy looked perfectly fine. He didn't even know he was lost. After all, he was right where his family had left him.

Have you ever gotten lost? (pause for responses to all questions) How did it make you feel? How did the adult that was with you feel when they found you?

Our story today is about a time when Jesus was a young boy and his parents left Him behind. But when they finally found Him, they realized that He was right where He knew He should be.

2. Bible Story: (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

We don't know a lot about Jesus' childhood, but what we do know tells us so much about Him as the Son of God. Our story today shows that, even when He was only 12 years old, Jesus knew He had to "be in His Father's house." He knew that He had a very special mission and call upon His life, and He wanted to obey the will of His Father.

Jesus grew up in Nazareth of Galilee, about 65 miles north of Jerusalem. Luke records that Jesus became strong and He was very wise and blessed by God's grace. **(Luke 2:39-40)** Joseph and Mary were obedient to God's Word and they went to Jerusalem every year for the Passover feast. In **(Luke 2:41-42)** we read, "Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. When Jesus was 12 years old, they went up to the feast as usual." According to the Jewish law, every male was required to participate in three pilgrim festivals. These festivals included the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles **(Exodus 23:14-17 and Deuteronomy 16:16)**. Many Rabbis also encouraged the women to go. Attending all three festivals in Jerusalem was difficult since the Jewish people were scattered all over the Roman world and beyond - so many decided to attend only once a year and Passover was the festival that was most attended.

When it was time to go to the temple, in Jerusalem, all the people from a village or several villages would form a caravan (or group of people traveling together) for the journey. The Nazareth caravan was so long that it took a whole day to move through it. At this time in Biblical history, the women in the caravan would have gone first and the men would have followed them, often staying behind to take care of last minute details and to be in the best position to defend the caravan if there was ambush from robbers. The small children usually traveled with their mothers and the older children would travel with either their mother or their father.

After the Passover Festival, when the caravan was returning home, Mary and Joseph realized Jesus was not with them. Mary could have easily thought Jesus was with Joseph and Joseph may have thought He was with His mother. After traveling for a day, they both noticed that Jesus was missing and began to look for Him among their relatives and friends. When they couldn't find Him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for Him. **(Luke 2:43-45)**

After three days, Joseph and Mary finally found Jesus in the Temple. **(Luke 2:46)** At the time of the Passover, the greatest rabbis of the land would come together to teach and discuss great truths among themselves. Perhaps they discussed the coming Messiah with Jesus, the promised Messiah, sitting right there in front of them! It was not His youth that was so surprising to them, but it was the divine wisdom and knowledge He had. The Bible says, "Everyone who heard him was amazed at how much he understood. They also were amazed at his answers." **(Luke 2:47)** Mary had been

especially anxious while searching for Jesus and, when He was found, she told Him, "Son, why have You treated us like this? Your father and I have been worried about You. We have been looking for You everywhere." (**Luke 2:48**). Jesus' response is the first Biblical reference to His knowledge that He is the Son of God. "Why were you looking for Me?" He asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in My Father's house?" But they did not understand what He meant by that. (**Luke 2:49-50**) Jesus had chosen this important stage in His life, on the edge of manhood, to tell His parents in an unforgettable way that He now knew who His real Father is and what it will mean for His mission on earth. Jesus was not lost; He was in His Father's house. Jesus, at the age of twelve, was devoting Himself to do His Father's will, putting everything else aside.

Jesus left the temple with His earthly parents and the Bible says, "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people." (**Luke 2:51-52**) The Bible does not tell us any of the other things that happened in Jesus' life for the next 18 years. But we know that He was growing and learning and experiencing what we experience. He understands our joys and our struggles. He is fully man and fully God. He was not only a twelve-year-old boy – He is also the living God.

Even as a child, Jesus knew that He had to follow the path that His Father had for Him – and when He was in Jerusalem, the most important place He could be was in His Father's house. His Father's house is our Father's house too.

You and I may sometimes lose Jesus. We get so busy in our daily lives that we never stop to give Jesus a single thought. Then, one day, we realize that He is missing from our lives. And when that happens, we need to retrace our steps and go back to the place where we lost Him. And we will find Him, right there waiting for us.

3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

(There are no right or wrong answers for these questions)

- We learn from this story that Jesus was no ordinary child. Which part of the story do you think shows this the best?
- How do you think the Jewish teachers felt when Jesus was talking to them?
- Do you think Jesus already knew His purpose and who He was?
- What do you think Jesus was like as a boy?
- How do you think we can become more like Jesus?

4. Prayer/Journaling:

Jesus knew that He must be in His Father's House. Knowing why you believe what you believe and how to share your beliefs is important. As you read your Bible, you will discover how Jesus taught people about the one true God. As you become more confident in what you believe, you will learn why you believe it. Then you will be able to tell others about Jesus as you live out what you believe.

Let's think about some things you say every day. Are all of your words positive? Do you ever say something that is hurtful or negative? On a piece of paper, I want you to write at least 5 positive words and 5 negative words. (pause to let them do this) The rest of the day, today, I challenge you to use more positive words than negative ones. Every time you start to say something negative to someone, stop and change it to a positive phrase instead.

Let's remember Ephesians 4:29 – "Don't let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen." You can honor God with your words and your words are powerful. They can lead others to follow God or turn away from him. Your words show people the change God has made in your life.

Pray: God, please help me to choose words that always honor You. Help me to lead a life that is pleasing to You and obedient to Your Word. [Let's take time now to pray for our families, our church, our world, and for each other. Spend time praying for anyone that needs special prayers today. (Take prayer requests)]

5.Mission Story: Next week

6.Bible Skills: Grab and Find -

Say: I'm going to ask you some questions about the Books of the Bible that you have studied so far at church: Do you remember what is in the Books of Law, the first 5 books of the Bible? (The Ten Commandments and other instructions from God.) Do you remember what is in the next 12 books of the Bible, the history books? (The history of God's Chosen People, the Israelites.) Why does the Bible have the Books of Poetry? (The Books of Poetry are given to us as examples of ways to tell God we care about Him.) What are the books of the Prophets? (The lives and messages of prophets who lived at different times in Israel's history) What about the Gospels? (They are the Good News – the life of Jesus and His ministry.) And Acts? (It is New Testament history – it joins what Jesus began and His teachings to what He continued to do and teach through the disciples and the establishment of His church.)

Grab a medium or large sized bowl and put in some Bible Book Cards. (From the listed resources) You should add the Books of Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy); Books of History (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther); Books of Poetry (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon); Books of the Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi) Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John); and Book of New Testament History (Acts)

Have your child pull out a card. Give him/her 15 (or more) seconds to find the book in the Bible. If they are successful, they get a point. If they are not, they get no point and

the turn goes to the next child or they try again. Whoever has the most points when you have gone through all the cards (or when you have reached a certain time limit) wins the game

7.Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse one more time – “The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father.” – John 1:14a

Play: Well Said

Play the game with more than one child or adults play on each team. The challenge is for each team to outdo the other in saying the memory verse in a creative way. One adult will lead one team, and another adult will lead the other team. (Or have two of the kids lead.) Teams alternate saying the verse and its reference.

Example: The leader of team 1 will have his/her kids say the verse while hopping on one foot. The leader of team 2 will respond by having the kids say the verse while clapping after each word. Team 1 then says the verse while turning around in circles. Team 2 says the verse while doing the twist, and so on. There really is no winner, but the kids will have a lot of fun, and they will unknowingly memorize the verse.

8. Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don't forget to pray for missionaries.

EXTRA GAME:

Hangman:

Play 'hangman' using words from the story. Suggestions are...Nazareth, Jerusalem, Passover, festival, temple, caravan, rabbi, etc.