

# Study Guide: The Boy Jesus in the Temple

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### Overview

This lesson explores the story of Jesus at age 12, as told uniquely by Luke in the New Testament. It highlights Jesus' early wisdom, His obedience to God's will, and how His example guides believers in seeking God's purpose in their lives.

### Key Scripture:

Luke 2:41-52

### Lesson Breakdown

#### 1. Jesus Went Missing (Luke 2:41-45)

- Mary and Joseph traveled annually to Jerusalem for Passover as required by the Law of Moses.
- After the festival, Jesus stayed behind in the temple without His parents realizing.
- Mary and Joseph searched anxiously for Him for three days.

#### Reflection Questions:

- How might Mary and Joseph have felt during those days?
- What role do family and community play during special celebrations in your life?

#### 2. Jesus Was Found (Luke 2:46-50)

- Jesus was found in the temple, sitting with teachers, astonishing them with His understanding.
- When asked why He stayed behind, Jesus replied, "...I must be about my Father's business."
- This shows His early awareness of His divine mission.

#### Reflection Questions:

- What does Jesus' response teach us about prioritizing God's purpose?
- How can we encourage children and youth to seek spiritual wisdom today?

### 3. Jesus Went Home (Luke 2:51-52)

- Jesus returned home with His parents and was obedient to them.
- He continued to grow in wisdom and in favor with God and people.

#### Reflection Questions:

- Why is obedience important, even for someone with a divine mission?
- How can we support spiritual and personal growth in ourselves and others?

#### Important Themes

- Obedience: Jesus demonstrated respect and obedience to His earthly parents.
- Growth: Jesus grew physically, intellectually, spiritually, and socially.
- Divine Purpose: Even at a young age, Jesus understood His mission was aligned with God's will.
- Lost and Found: The theme of being "lost" but ultimately found in God's plan is central.

#### Application Ideas

- Reflect on your own spiritual journey. How are you "about your Father's business"?
- Encourage young people in your community to explore and grow in their faith.
- Support family and church efforts to teach spiritual wisdom and obedience.
- Consider moments when God's plan might be surprising or misunderstood -- remain patient and trusting.

#### Additional Scripture to Explore

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - Teaching God's commandments to children
- Matthew 28:20 - Jesus' promise to be with His followers always

#### Closing Thought

Seek to grow in wisdom and favor both with God and with others, just as Jesus did. Trust God's timing and purpose in your life, even when the path is not always clear.