GOD WITH US

God with Us

October 25th, 2026

Luke 2:41-52, Ephesians 6:1-3

The book of Luke gives us the most detail about Jesus' birth and early life. This makes sense because Luke was showing the Gentiles who Jesus is.
Luke 2:41-52 Where did they go?- Jerusalem Why did they go there?- The Feast of the Passover. Who went? Joseph, Mary, Jesus (12 years old), family
2:41- 42 They went to Jerusalem every year for the festival. The detail, "He became 12," is important. To us today, this is just a time reference, but in Jesus' day, the age of 12 is when Jesus was no longer a child. He was considered to be a young man. At the age of 12, Jesus is now responsible for following the old testament law/ commandments without His parents enforcing/ reminding Him.
2:43- 45 Jesus stayed behind, but His parents were unaware. Jesus reached the age where he could make decisions. Joseph and Mary assumed He was with the group and left. They didn't check until a day later. After searching for Him in the group, they went back the days' journey to the city to look for Him there.
2:46- 47 Jerusalem [roughly 206 acres, 63 football fields, roughly 27,000 people plus buildings]; they searched for 3 days. And found Him sitting in the temple. What was Jesus doing? He was listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Jesus was learning. Everyone who heard Jesus' questions was amazed at His understanding and answers. Jesus wasn't challenging the teachers; He was asking questions. What He understood and the answers He gave to their questions shocked people. A 12-year-old who just stepped into the role of a young adult already knows and understands so much.
2:48- 49 Mary asks Jesus, "Son, why have You treated us this way?" We have been anxiously looking for you. I can understand the frustration/ relief that Mary might have been feeling. But remember Jesus didn't run away; Jesus wasn't trying to hide. Mary and Joseph just assumed He was with the group and left the city. Jesus asks why they were looking for Him. "Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" I can almost hear that underlying: Why did you look other places first? Why didn't you come to the temple first?
2:50- 51 Mary and Joseph don't understand that when Jesus said My father's house he was referring to God. Jesus goes with Mary and Joseph back to Nazareth and continues to live under their authority. The 5th commandment in Exodus is to honor your Father and Mother. Jesus, even though He is of the age where He is to make His own choices and decisions about following the Law, chooses to remain in submission to Mary and Joseph. He obeys the Law.

What can We Learn: Jesus was a kid, just like you and I. Jesus went to the festival each year with His family. Jesus observed traditions. Jesus was found in the temple listening and asking questions. Jesus took the role of student/knew His place as a young man. Jesus was obedient to His Heavenly Father by being obedient to His Earthly Parents. He did not sin.

Small Group Questions

Lower Elementary

1. Why did Jesus and His family travel to Jerusalem?
2. How long were they there?
3. What happened when Mary and Joseph left the city?
4. How far away did they travel?
5. How long did they search?
6. Where was Jesus? What was He doing?
7. What did Jesus do after Mary and Joseph found Him?

Upper Elementary

1. Why did Jesus and His family travel to Jerusalem?
2. How long was the Feast? (Leviticus 23:5–8)
3. How many times had Jesus been to the Feast?
4. What did Jesus' parents assume?
5. How long did they search for Jesus?
6. Where did they find Jesus?
7. What was Jesus' reply to Mary?
8. What would you have said to Jesus when you found Him? Would you have been relieved or upset?
9. What does Jesus do after He was found? Do we obey our parents as Jesus did?

Activity 1: Coloring Page/ Activity

Activity 2: Story Pictionary

Call students up one by one and give them a part of the story to draw on the board. The student drawing isn't allowed to give any hints or clues about what they are drawing. (Encourage students to have their Bibles open to the passage so they can use it as their clue)

Activity 3: Sword Drills

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WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER.

1. Ephesians 6:1-3: Who are we to obey? If we obey, what is the promise of this commandment?
2. Luke 2:41-42 : What did Mary and Joseph do every year? How old was Jesus when He went with them?
3. When a Jewish boy reached 12, he was preparing to join the religious community. Studying God's word.
4. Luke 2:43 When Mary and Joseph went home, where was Jesus? Did Mary and Joseph know?
5. Luke 2:44 When Mary and Joseph could not find Jesus, what did they do?
6. Luke 2:45 When they could not find Jesus, where did they go back to?
7. Luke 2:46a After 3 days, where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? Why did they not look there first?
8. Luke 2:46b-47 What was Jesus doing in the Temple? Everyone who heard Jesus was what?
9. Luke 2:48 When Mary and Joseph found Jesus, what did they feel and what did they say?
10. Luke 2:49 How did Jesus answer them? Who was Jesus's true Father?
11. Luke 2:50-51a Mary and Joseph did not understand; who was Jesus subject and obedient to?
12. Luke 2:51b What did Mary treasure in her heart?
13. Luke 2:52 What 4 things did Jesus grow in?

MEMORY VERSE: John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only *Son* from the Father, full of grace and truth.