

## **08 – The boy Jesus** **Luke 2: 40-52**

### **Step 1: Link (a child getting lost )**

Last time we met two people, Simeon and Anna. Were Simeon and Anna young or old? (... *old*) Simeon said he was ready to die. Why was Simeon ready to die? (... *he saw Jesus with his own eyes, as God had promised him*)

In the story today, Jesus and His parents take a trip. They probably went by walking. On the way home, Jesus is lost! His parents can't find Him anywhere. Did you ever lose one of your children? (. . .) What did you feel? (. . .)

### **Step 2: Background (coming of age at 12)**

There are two things we need to know to understand today's story. First of all is Passover. Passover was the biggest holiday in the Jewish calendar. Passover was a very holy time when the people remembered that God freed them from being slaves. Each family killed a lamb before God. The lamb's blood covered the family's sins. Then the family roasted the lamb and ate it at a special Passover meal. Passover.

The second thing that we need to know is that, at this time a boy became an adult when he was 12 years old. In Japan, how old is a person when they become an adult? (... *20*) In Japan a person is 20 when they become an adult, but in Bible times, a person was an adult when they were only 12. At 12, boys were taught how to do the same work that their father did. Boys did not choose their work, they did the same work as their father.

OK, let's read the Word!

### **Step 3: Key Questions**

- **Why was Jesus missing?** (*v.43: He stayed behind in Jerusalem*)
- **What strange question did Jesus ask Mary?** (*v.49: Didn't you know I must be in my Father's house?*)

### **Step 4: Read Luke 2:40-52**

### **Step 5: Answer the questions**

**Step 6: Talk about it**

Jesus was missing because He stayed in Jerusalem. How many days was He missing? (. . . *three days*) Three days is a long time! When Mary and Joseph found Him, what did Mary say to Him? (. . . *v.48 we have been very worried ...*) Of course they were worried!

How old was Jesus in this story? (. . . *12*) Jesus was 12 years old, so in that culture he was an adult. But He was only 12 years old! Of course his parents were worried when they couldn't find Him.

Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? (. . . *v.46 in the Temple*) What was Jesus doing in the Temple? (. . . *v.46 listening to the teachers and asking them questions*) So Jesus, the Son of God, was learning, just like every 12 year old boy learns. Jesus was God, but Jesus was also a man.

What was Jesus' answer to His mother? (. . . *v.49 Why were you looking for Me? Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house?*) Jesus was 12 years old; it was time for Him to learn His father's work. Was Joseph a priest? (. . . *no*) Then why was Jesus in the Temple? (. . . *His father was God!*)

Jesus knew Who His father was. Jesus thought that He would start His ministry at 12 years old. But that was not God's plan. God's plan was that Jesus would grow up as an ordinary person, and learn ordinary work.

Look at verse 51. What happened at the end of this story? (. . . *He went back to Nazareth with his parents and obeyed them*)

How did Jesus grow? (. . . *v. 52 He became wise and strong. Both God and the people were pleased with Him.*)

**Do you have any questions or comments?**

Teacher's Notes: If you students ask whether Jesus sinned in this incident, here is the best short answer I received, from D. Pitz:

Because none of Jesus' family was with him while he was spending time at the temple, it's obvious that they were used to leaving him alone knowing he can be trusted. Also, they must have been very preoccupied with other things since they didn't notice he was missing until they got back. So it was only Mary and Joseph's fault that they did not look for him before they left Jerusalem. As we all know, Jesus was only doing his Father's business.