

Lost and Found!

Luke 2:41-49; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 75-83

Do you ever feel that adults think you are too young? Do you wish that they would let you do something really important? Could you do a good job on something important? If you said Yes to any of these questions, today's story is for you.

Jesus was excited! He was going to Jerusalem for His first Passover. Every year Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem for the Passover. But Jesus had always stayed home. So this was to be His first visit to

Jerusalem since He was a baby. Jesus did not know it, but His parents were nervous about this trip. They remembered how King Herod wanted to kill Him when He was a baby.

It was fun to visit with His laughing cousins and friends. Everyone jamming the dusty road was in a festive mood. At times Jesus walked among the women and children. Sometimes He walked at the rear with the men.

Soon the group from Nazareth came closer to the city. Then everyone began to sing a very old, much-loved song: "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem!"

When the dusty travelers saw the city, they gave a great shout of joy. Jesus strained His eyes for His first glimpse of the temple. Then He saw it, a mass of snowy white marble and gleaming gold.

The family soon found a place to stay. Then Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to the evening sacrifice service. Jesus grew quiet and thoughtful. For the first time He saw the lamb on the altar. As He experienced the Passover, Jesus began to realize that the sacrifices pointed to Him. He would someday serve as the Lamb of God, dying for the sins of the world.

When the great festival was over, the crowds packed up and started home. The group from Nazareth spread out along the road. Mary



The Message

We can serve God
wherever we are.

Memory Verse

“Serve the Lord your
God with all your heart
and with all your soul”
(Deuteronomy 10:12, NIV).

walked and visited with the women up front. Joseph and the other men followed behind. The children ran back and forth between the two groups.

That evening, when it was time to set up camp, Mary called to Joseph, “Have you seen Jesus?” Together they called and searched. But Jesus was nowhere to be found. No one had seen Him all day. The last place anyone remembered seeing Him was in Jerusalem.

It was already too dark to travel. There was nothing they could do, except pray. Next morning, Joseph and Mary awoke before daylight streaked the sky. Quickly they turned back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus.

All day they searched the city marketplaces and streets. When night fell, they still had not found Jesus. They remembered wicked King Herod. Was Jesus in danger? The next day they searched again. Finally, they went to the temple and searched among all the pillars and porches. At last they heard the sweet sound of Jesus’ voice.

Jesus had been busy thinking about how He was to serve as the Lamb of God. He had stayed at the temple, trying to learn all He could. Joseph and Mary found Him sitting at the feet of the teachers, listening and asking questions. The teachers were amazed by all that He knew.

“Son!” Mary exclaimed as she ran up to Him, “why have you done this to us? We have been terribly worried! We searched all over trying to find You!”



Jesus looked at His parents in surprise. “Why have you been looking for Me?” He asked. “Didn’t you know that I had to be in My Father’s house?” Jesus showed that He knew who His real Father was. He felt at ease in God’s house.

Jesus saw how concerned Mary and Joseph were. He loved them, and He obediently returned to Nazareth with them. God wanted Him to continue serving at home and in the carpenter shop for a few more years.

Like Jesus, we can serve at home, school, and church. We can serve God wherever we are.



S A B B A T H

SHARE With your family, walk along a quiet path. Stop and read your lesson story together. Make believe that you see Jerusalem in the distance. Say together "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem!"

READ Read Deuteronomy 10:12 together. Teach the verse to your family.

SING Sing "Be Like Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 115).

M O N D A Y

DO Bring some simple materials such as paper, cloth, etc., to family worship today. Talk about how you can use each object to serve the Lord.

READ Read Galatians 5:13 together.

PRAY Tell how you served at school today. Thank God for helping you.

DO Say your memory verse together.

T U E S D A Y

READ With your family, read Luke 2:51. What does this text tell about how Jesus served? How can you serve in the same way?

PRAY Ask God to help you follow Jesus' example.

SHARE Talk about the things your parents ask you to do.

S U N D A Y

DO Look for a picture of the temple. How is it different from your church?

SHARE For family worship, build a model of the temple, using what you can find at home. Make one room where Jesus talked with the teachers of the law. Invite your family to sit in that place with you. Then read Luke 2:41-52 together.

DO Say the memory verse together.

PRAY Ask God to bless the members of your church.

In Jewish families, turning 12 means you are no longer a child and you can take part in the holy services like Passover.



W E D N E S D A Y

DO Collect some things around the house, such as a piece of wood, a hammer, a bowl, a jug, a broom. During worship act out and tell your family what Jesus might have done with each object.

SING Sing "I Want to Be" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 124) and "A Happy Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 136).

DO After family worship, be like Jesus. Do something to help someone in your family.



THURSDAY

READ During family worship read Deuteronomy 10:12 together. What is our service to be like? Which words in this verse suggest that we serve out of love?

DO Ask an adult to tell you what they did to serve when they were children. Whom can you serve with a glass of water or juice? Do it today.

DO Say your memory verse together.

FRIDAY

DO For family worship tell your family three things about your Bible lesson story.

READ Read Luke 2:40 together. Jesus was a “preteen” in this story. Pretend that you are a talk-show host. Ask a preteen or an adult what activities, privileges they enjoy. Ask what the preteen does to serve God.

DO With your family, plan an activity to serve God tomorrow. Say your memory verse together. Sing a song about serving, then thank God for opportunities to serve.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Mary and Joseph have been separated from Jesus in the crowd leaving Jerusalem. Help them find him.

