



# Young Jesus in the Temple

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

Luke 2:39-52

God in a human body: It is one of the hardest things to understand in the entire Bible. Luke gives us the only glimpse of Jesus as a child, growing up fully God and fully human. As we take a look at Jesus as a boy of 12, we see the best example of how we can live our lives to honor God and make Him known to others.



## Day #1: Limited

Do you know what a speed limit is? It is a law that tells drivers how fast they are allowed to drive their cars. Most cars are built to drive at least 120 miles per hour, but if the speed limit is 35 miles per hour, the driver must not go any faster than that. The car is **able** to go faster, but the driver chooses to **contain** or **limit its power**. Jesus did a similar thing when He came to earth. He was the all-powerful God who chose to come into this world as a helpless baby.

✝ The Bible calls Jesus "the Word."

*In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.* - John 1:1-2

This means Jesus is the truth, wisdom, and power of God. Jesus is God and He was with God in the beginning. John 1 tells us that Jesus created everything and nothing was created without Him. He gave life to everything that has life.

Then something amazing happened. The Creator of the Universe willingly chose to pour Himself into a human body.

*The Word became a human being. He made His home with us.* - John 1:14a

Jesus put on flesh and bones so He could come to earth and live with people. He came to teach people about God (Matthew 11:27), and to become the sacrifice that takes away sin (John 1:29). Jesus deserves to be praised and worshipped by every man, woman, and child. But He came down to be one of us in order to serve us. This incarnation is what we celebrate at Christmas.

After He was born to Mary, Jesus started to grow, just like every other child. Jesus was still God, but He had chosen to put physical limits on Himself by entering the human race. Even though Jesus became a human being, surrounded by a sinful world, He never sinned. He never sinned as a child or as a man (Hebrews 4:15).

\* The next time you are out riding in a car or on your school bus, look for speed limit signs along the road. Let them remind you of the Creator of the universe who chose to put limits on Himself to rescue you from your sin and bring you back to God.

## Day #2: Where's Jesus?

God instructed His people to celebrate a special feast every year. It was the Passover Feast - a time to remember when God delivered the Jews from being slaves in Egypt. Many Jews traveled to the city of Jerusalem, where God's holy temple was. When Jesus was 12 years old, just like every year, Mary and Joseph packed up their family and traveled 90 miles to Jerusalem. They traveled with a large group of friends and relatives.

✝ *After the Feast was over, His parents left to go back home. The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But they were not aware of it.* - Luke 2:43

They traveled an entire day before Mary and Joseph discovered Jesus was not with their group. Mary may have discovered her firstborn Son was missing by having a conversation like this:

*"Mama, I'm thirsty," said Jesus' little brother, Simon.*

*"Ask Jesus to give you some of His water," answered Mary.*

*"Where is Jesus?" asked the young boy.*

*"I haven't seen Him today. He must be with your father," said Mary.*

*"No, I just came from Papa. Jesus isn't with Him."*

Mary began to ask her friends and family members when they had last seen Jesus. Much to her surprise, no one had seen Jesus since they left the city. Mary was a busy mother with many children to care for. Jesus never sinned, so Mary seldom worried about Him being where He was supposed to be. Now He was missing. This was very unusual! Mary and Joseph quickly headed back to Jerusalem.

Jerusalem was one of the largest towns in its day. As Mary and Joseph came to the edge of town, they were very afraid. Where could Jesus be? Where would they look first?

\* There are times when everything seems to go wrong. Still, God is in control. When you can't understand what God is doing, pray for the faith to trust Him anyway (Luke 17:5). He ALWAYS does what is right, and He is worthy of our trust (Psalm 9:10).

NOTE for **PARENTS ONLY (Kids, DO NOT read)**: Be sure you have an egg in the refrigerator for tomorrow's FIT. Do not take it out of the refrigerator.


## Day #3: Finding Jesus

Parent, say: "I have hidden an egg somewhere in the house. This is a big house, and the egg is pretty small. Do you think you can find it?" Parent, allow the egg hunt for several

### Day #3 continued:

minutes before calling your child back to you. (We'll get back to the egg later.) Just like you looked for the egg, Mary and Joseph looked for Jesus.

Just imagine going to a large, busy town and trying to find one 12-year-old boy. Where do you think Mary and Joseph looked? They searched for hours, and the hours turned into days.


 *After three days they found Him in the temple courtyard. He was sitting with the teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions.* - Luke 2:46

Mary and Joseph were very relieved to see Jesus, but they were also frustrated and confused. They wondered why Jesus had done this.

*"But why did you need to search?" (Jesus) asked. "Didn't you know that I **must** be in my Father's house?"* - Luke 2:49 NLT

Jesus made it clear that He absolutely **had to** spend time with His heavenly Father. He went to the temple to pray, think about, and talk about God.

Parent, now, tell your child where the egg is "hidden": in the egg carton in the refrigerator. Eggs belong in the refrigerator. Where else did you look? Those places are not where an egg should be. The egg was where an egg should be.

 If it was time for supper, and you did not come when your mom called you, where would she look for you? In front of the TV? Outside practicing your soccer moves? Or would she expect to find you in a quiet place spending time with God?

For Jesus, being with God was a completely natural fit. He was right where He was supposed to be. God created you to be with Him, also. If you have placed your trust in Him, the natural place for you to be is spending time with Him.

## Day #4: Abiding


Is there someone special that you like to spend time with? This person understands you and likes you just the way you are. When you are apart from that person, something is missing from your life. Keep this person in mind today.

It is awesome for us to learn more about Jesus, and His time on earth. The Bible tells us to follow His example (1 Corinthians 11:1). We simply cannot do some things that Jesus did, because we are not God as He was! For example, we do not know more than our parents, and we should not make big decisions without them. And we cannot be perfect, because we all have a sin-nature, which Jesus did not.

But Jesus took on all the human limits that we have, and He is the best example we will ever see on how to live a life that brings glory to God. Jesus wanted to be near His heavenly Father. He said that it was **absolutely necessary** to be with Him (Luke 2:49). Jesus abided with, or remained with, His Father. This is something we will see time and


### Day #4 continued:

time again throughout the Bible.

 *Jesus would often go to some place where He could be alone and pray.* - Luke 5:16 CEV

*On one of those days, Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray. He spent the night praying to God.* - Luke 6:12


Abiding has much more to do with "being" than "doing." Jesus remained with God by being with Him in prayer.

 Jesus told His disciples to abide with Him, and He would also abide with them (John 15:4). If you are a follower, or disciple, of Jesus, abide in Him. Spend time with Him just as you would spend time with your best friend - talking, listening, and laughing.


If this is a difficult thing for you to do, pray for God to make it the desire of your heart (John 6:44). He will answer your prayer! (1 John 5:14-15)

## Day #5: Thoughtful Questions

Jesus was found in the temple, talking to the greatest Jewish teachers of the time. Jesus certainly knew more than these great teachers! These men only knew the tiniest part about God, but Jesus was God's Word, God's truth, God Himself! Yet Jesus did not point His finger and argue with them.

 *He was sitting with the teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Him was amazed at how much He understood. They also were amazed at His answers.* - Luke 2:46b-47

Jesus was not asking questions in order to learn from them, but to teach the teachers! Everyone was amazed at how much He knew. Jesus, Himself, had the answers to the questions He asked. He asked questions to make the teachers think, and to make them realize that they didn't know the answers themselves. Asking questions was a great way to teach these older men while still showing respect to them.

 Sometimes we are placed under the authority of people who do not follow God. This may be a government official, or even a teacher at school. Even though you are young, you may have more spiritual wisdom than those who are in authority over you, because the greatest wisdom comes from knowing God and His word.

*Thinking about Your teachings gives me better understanding than my teachers, and obeying Your laws makes me wiser than those who have lived a long time.* - Psalm 119:99-100 CEV

If you are ever in a situation where someone older than you is speaking against what the Bible teaches, follow Jesus' example. Ask questions in a respectful way. Practice this at home with a parent or Christian friend. For example, what question could you ask a teacher who says, "The world was formed by a big explosion"? (How can an explosion make things come together? Or, What caused the explosion?) Remember to be kind and humble when you speak.