

12-YEAR-OLD JESUS GOES TO HIS HEAVENLY FATHER'S TEMPLE

Introduction

Jesus' family lived in Nazareth. Nazareth was a small town. It was about 140 kilometers north of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel – and Creator God's temple was in Jerusalem.

Luke 2:41-52

41Every year, Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for a big, important festival. [Many, many people in Israel went to the festival every year.]

42When Jesus was twelve years old, Jesus and his parents went to the festival in Jerusalem. 43After the festival finished, Jesus' parents went home to Nazareth. But Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. But his parents did not know it.

Jesus' parents did not know that Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. 44His parents thought: Jesus is with our relatives – Jesus is with our friends. So Jesus' parents traveled for one day.

Then Jesus' parents looked for Jesus. They asked their relatives: Did you see Jesus? They asked their friends: Did you see Jesus? 45But Jesus' parents did not find Jesus. So, they went back to Jerusalem.

46After three days, Jesus' parents found Jesus in the temple. Jesus was sitting with the teachers of the Bible. He was listening to the teachers [talk about God and the Bible]. He was asking the teachers questions.

47Some people heard Jesus talking to the teachers – and the people were amazed. The people were amazed at Jesus' answers. They were amazed because Jesus understood many things [about God and the Bible].

48When Jesus' parents saw Jesus, they were amazed. Jesus mother said to him, "Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I were very worried – we were worried and looking for you."

49Jesus asked them, "Why did you look for me? Don't you know? Don't you know that I must be in my Father's house." 50But Jesus' parents did not understand what Jesus said.

51Then Jesus went to Nazareth with his parents – and he obeyed his parents. And Jesus' mother thought about all these things in her heart. She thought: These things are very special.

52Then, Jesus grew four ways: [1] He became wiser; [2] his body grew bigger; [3] God loved him; and [4] people loved him.

CONTENT QUESTIONS**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Where did Jesus' family live? (introduction)
- Where was the temple? (introduction)
- How far was it from Nazareth to Jerusalem? (introduction)
- How old was Jesus? (verse 42)
- Where did Jesus and his parents [Joseph & Mary] go? (verse 42)
- After the festival, where did Jesus' parents go? (verse 43)
- But what did Jesus do? (verse 43)
- Did Joseph & Mary know that Jesus stayed in Jerusalem? (verse 43)
- When did Joseph & Mary start looking for Jesus? (verse 44)
- How long did Joseph & Mary look for Jesus? (verse 46)

If you could not find your child for 3 days, how would you feel?

- Where was Jesus? And, what was Jesus doing? (verse 46)
- How did the people feel who heard Jesus? (verse 47)
- Why were they amazed? (verse 47)

Why, do you think, 12-year-old Jesus could ask good questions and give good answers?

- How did Jesus' parents feel? (2 things in verse 48)

Why do you think Jesus' parents were amazed?

- What did Mary, his mother, say to Jesus? (verse 48)
- What did Jesus answer his mother? (verse 49)
- Did Joseph & Mary understand Jesus' answer? (verse 50)

Do you understand Jesus' answer? What do you think Jesus meant?

Who is Jesus' Father?
What is his Father's house?

Why do you think Jesus wanted to be at the temple?

- Did Jesus have a good attitude toward his parents? (verse 51)
- How did Mary think about Jesus? (verse 51)
- How did Jesus grow? (verse 52) [mentally/morally, physically, spiritually, socially]

Are these good things to pray for our children?

What ways do you want your children to grow?

Why was Jesus special? What made him special?