



Church of God Sunday School

JESUS IS FOUND IN THE TEMPLE

Luke 2:41-52

On the third day, Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus in the temple, "sitting in the midst of the doctors." These men were doctors of the Law, men who studied and taught people the Law of Moses.

Not only was Jesus in the midst of these doctors, but He was asking them questions. These questions must have shown the doctors that Jesus had much wisdom for being only twelve years old. The doctors "were astonished at his understanding and answers." They were amazed!

When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus, they must have been so relieved! Mary said to Jesus, "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." They had been so worried!

Jesus answered, "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Was Jesus talking about his earthly father (Joseph) or His heavenly Father (God)? Joseph was a carpenter, but carpentry was not the "Father's business" that Jesus was sent to do. God had a much greater purpose for Him.

Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus was talking about. What business did Jesus have in the temple? But Mary "kept all these sayings in her heart." She thought deeply about them. One day she would understand that Jesus, the very Son of God, had not come to be an earthly king, but to reign in the hearts of men and women, boys and girls.

After this, Jesus returned home to Nazareth with his parents. He was an obedient Son, honoring His parents. God's Word tells us that Jesus was without any sin (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 7:26; 1 John 3:5).

Jesus is our perfect Example. If He could be obedient to His parents, you can too. God will give you the power to live without sinning if you will ask Him to live in your heart.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"*  
—Luke 2:49  
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Have you ever wondered what Jesus was like as a child? Did He ever have problems? Did He always obey His parents? The Bible tells us many stories about Jesus as a grown man, but there is only one story in the Bible about Jesus when He was a boy.

Every year Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, went to Jerusalem "after the custom of the feast." When Jesus was twelve years old, he and his parents began the long journey to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. (The Passover was a festival when the Israelites remembered their deliverance from slavery in Egypt many years before.)

After Mary and Joseph "had fulfilled the days," they began their long journey home, not realizing that Jesus was not with them. How could they not know that he was missing? People usually traveled to Jerusalem in large groups because of the dangers of bandits. These groups were called caravans.

A caravan usually included neighbors and relatives. It would have been easy for Mary and Joseph to have thought Jesus was with his friends. At the end of the first day, they could not find Jesus anywhere. Can you imagine how frightened they must have been?

Mary and Joseph began to ask their friends and relatives if they had seen Jesus, but they had not seen Him either. So, Mary and Joseph turned around and hurried back to Jerusalem, where they began to carefully search for Jesus.

Who Was in the Temple?

(Circle the people who were in the temple in today's lesson)



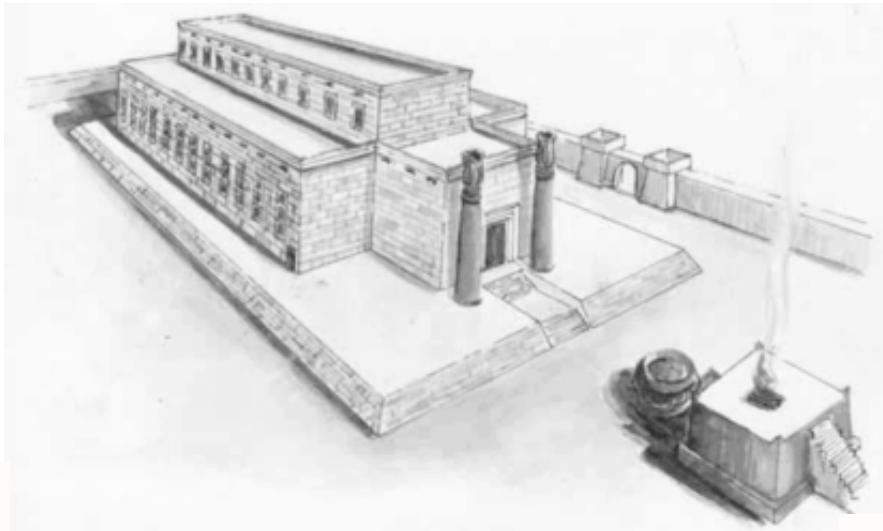
Joseph



Doctors of the Law



Jesus



Soldier



Idol Worshipers

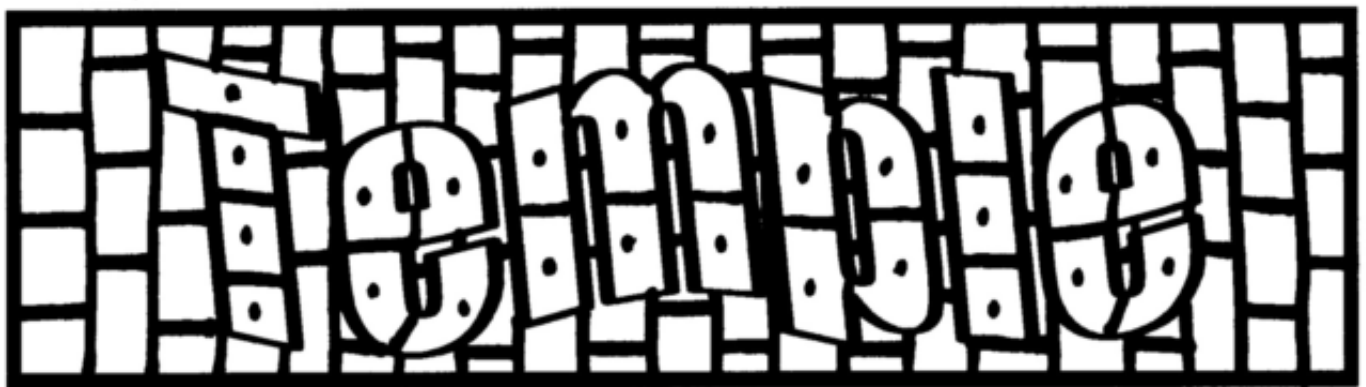


Mary



Where Did Mary & Joseph Find Jesus?

(Color the Shapes That Have a Dot to Find the Answer)



In the _____



The Doctors Are Astonished