

For My Family

Sharing the Bible Story

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

In Jesus' time Jewish families traveled every spring to the Temple in the city of Jerusalem. The Temple was the main place where Jewish people worshiped God. While they were in Jerusalem, they would celebrate a special meal. At the meal they thanked God for his love and for taking care of them.

When Jesus was twelve years old, the Holy Family walked many miles from their home in Nazareth to Jerusalem. Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the Holy Family. Many of their relatives and neighbors made the trip with them.

When the time came for them to go back home to Nazareth, Mary and Joseph discovered that Jesus was not with them. They quickly went back to the Temple where they saw Jesus with the teachers. Jesus was asking them questions and listening to them. Mary and Joseph were very happy when they found him.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph joined their family and neighbors for the trip back to Nazareth. The Bible tells us that as he grew up in Nazareth Jesus was loved by God and all the people.

BASED ON LUKE 2:41-52

Nurturing Our Children

The love, trust and care you and your family show your child serve as the beginning and basis for your child's relationship with God and with other people outside your family. When you express your love to your children, they learn to love and express their love for you and others. When you consistently show your child that you respect them, they learn the importance of respecting you, others and themselves.

Living Our Faith Together

Here are a few activities to do with your child:

- Retell this week's Bible story, "The Boy Jesus in the Temple." Tell your child that Jesus was born into and grew up in a family. Explain that we call the family of Jesus the Holy Family. Emphasize that the Bible story shows how much Mary and Joseph loved and cared for Jesus.
- Work with your child to create a scrapbook that records special faith events in the life of your family. Include photographs and other items related to family Baptisms, Confirmations, First Communions, weddings and holiday celebrations.

Praying as a Family

Incorporate a prayer for your family in mealtime or bedtime prayer this week. For example:

God the Father you made us a family.
Send God the Holy Spirit to help us,
show our love to each other,
work and play together,
help and care for each other.
We pray and praise you
in the name of your Son, Jesus.
Thank you, God, for our family. Amen.

13 Jesus Belonged to a Family



Reflecting on Our Faith

In what ways are we helping our child grow not only in age but also in wisdom and in favor before God and others?