

Mary and Joseph Look for Jesus

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:41-52

MEMORY VERSE: Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and Man. Luke 2:52

CHARACTERS: Mary, Joseph, young Jesus, temple priests

When Jesus was born in the stable in Bethlehem, he didn't stay a baby. He began to grow up just like you and me. He probably liked to run and climb trees and fish just like you boys.

The Bible says, "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and Man." (Luke 2:52) That means Jesus was smart. He went to school like you and learned to read and write and memorized Bible verses. Jesus also grew tall and strong and learned to work with His hands to build things from wood in Joseph's carpenter shop. Jesus also grew in favor with God. That means that He pleased God and never sinned. Jesus also grew in favor with men, which means people liked Him.

Jesus also grew up in a family just like you. He had a mother, Mary, and an earthly father, Joseph, and brothers and sisters too. Do you think Jesus had to obey His parents like you do? Yes, he did! Let me give you an example.

The Bible says that when Jesus was 12 years old his mother and father took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Feast. Jerusalem was a big, exciting city with crowds of people and sights and sounds Jesus had never seen before in his small village of Nazareth. Jesus especially loved worshiping in the beautiful Temple.

After the feast was over and it was time to return home, Jesus stayed behind in the Temple to talk with the teachers. Mary and Joseph thought that Jesus was with them and started on their way home. That evening they began looking for him among their family and friends. "Where is Jesus? Have you seen Him? Is He lost?"

Mary and Joseph were very worried and they hurried back to Jerusalem to look for Him. They looked everywhere all over the city and finally, after 3 days, they found Him in the Temple sitting with the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. When His parents saw Him they were very worried and upset. His mother said, "Jesus, what are you doing? Your father and I have been looking everywhere for you!"

Mary and Joseph Look for Jesus (cont.)

Jesus answered respectfully, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know I would be right here in my Father's house?" Jesus meant that He loved to be in the Temple learning more about God and the Bible. He wanted to stay there, but His parents told Him to come home with them. The Bible says that Jesus obeyed His parents and went home to Nazareth with them.

Jesus showed us how important it is to always obey our parents even when it's hard --- even when it's not what we want to do --- because that pleases God. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:1, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." If you love Jesus, you will want to be like Him.

Trust Jesus to help you do the right thing and obey your parents!