

## Jesus Teaches at the Temple- Luke 2:41-52

### THE POINT

Focus:

Jesus is equipped supernaturally to teach with wisdom and authority.  
Jesus is the Son of God.

Application:

We trust Jesus' teaching because Jesus is fully God and empowered by the Holy Spirit

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### HEART CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

#### MATERIALS:

- Illustrations of the nativity, especially focusing on Jesus birth
- 2 popsicle sticks/child
- glue
- crayons
- 1/3 sheets of paper (cut length-wise) printed with the words of Luke 2:52
  - "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people." (NIRV)
  - "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." (NIV)

#### **Content:**

Gather in your story area and show the illustrations of Jesus as a baby. Share something along the lines of this:

**At Christmas, we celebrate the *incarnation*, when God came to earth as a tiny baby. That tiny baby, Jesus, grew up to be a man. We have just one story about Jesus growing up, and Luke tells us in the Bible that he grew wiser, stronger, and more pleasing to God the Father and to people.**

Explain that before we learn our story, we're going to make scrolls with a verse from the story, kind of like the scrolls that might have been used in the Temple in today's story.

Have the children color their scroll first, cut second (if not pre-cut), and glue to 2 popsicle sticks last!

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## STORY CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

### MATERIALS:

- None

### Instructions:

### Statue Stories:

Explain that this story today might start out feeling kind of familiar- Mary and Joseph are looking for Jesus, and they can't find him anywhere! As we listen, we'll have 5 "Stop Points" where you'll be asked to strike a pose like a statue of a person on the story- listen carefully to hear what's going on so that you can strike a pose!

For the leader: You don't need to have everyone share their pose every time, but you can make some encouraging comments in reaction to various class members as you go through the story.

*Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.*

*This is the only story in the Bible of Jesus as a child or adolescent.*

*At 12, he would have been considered in some ways as an adult, but in other regards (such as the fact that Mary and Joseph were looking after him), he was still treated as a child.*

Luke 2:41-52

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. 42 When Jesus was 12 years old, they went up to the feast as usual. 43 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. 44 They thought he was somewhere in their group. So they traveled on for a day. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 They did not find him. So they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

*Stop #1: (if the group is struggling, suggest that they might pretend to be travelers, or Mary or Joseph looking for Jesus in the crowd or rushing back to Jerusalem)*

46 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. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at how much he understood. They also were amazed at his answers.

*Stop #2*

48 When his parents saw him, they were amazed. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been worried about you. We have been looking for you everywhere."

*Stop #3:*

49 "Why were you looking for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he meant by that.

*Stop #4:*

51 Then he went back to Nazareth with them, and he obeyed them. But his mother kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. 52 Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.

*Stop #5*

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## WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt when they first saw Jesus sitting and teaching.

I wonder what the teachers were thinking when they saw Mary and Joseph with Jesus after they found him.

I wonder what Jesus felt as he went back to Nazareth with his parents.

What do you wonder?

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## SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

**Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.**