

JESUS IN THE TEMPLE, AGE 12

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

Materials Needed:

Visuals of Jerusalem and Herod's Temple in the time of Jesus
One picture
Map of NT Palestine

Memory Verse: *Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.*

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When Jesus went to the Passover at age 12, he stayed behind in the temple when his parents left, and when they found him talking with the teachers and chided him, he was surprised that they wouldn't know he had to be about his father's business. Nevertheless, he returned with them in submission for another 18 years until he was announced publicly.

To Realize—In his youth, Jesus knew who he was and what he was about, and even though his parents didn't understand, he still submitted to their authority for another 18 years before he was announced publicly.

To Respond by—choosing to be about God's business in their youth and submitting to their parents' authority even when their parents don't understand.

Setting up the Story:

I want to tell you of a man whose father loved him very much. In fact, when this man was born, his father took several pictures of the events surrounding his birth. And when this man grew up, he became very well-known. But there was something interesting: although this man's father had taken several pictures from when the man was born, the father had only taken ONE picture of the man from his growing up years. And it was the ONE picture that the father loved most about his son. (Hold up picture, but don't show what is on it.) Today's lesson is going to tell us what is on the picture. Open your Bibles to Luke 2:41.

Scripture **Telling the story:**

- I. Jesus Goes to the Passover
 - A. Parents went every year
 - B. At Age 12, Jesus goes
 1. almost a "man" (13)
 2. responsible
 - C. What they would have seen in Jerusalem

As you tell the story:

Jewish feast. 70 miles away but took longer to get there because of going around Samaria.
Sang songs on the way.

Traveled in caravan. There was Temple in Jerusalem.

Describe sights and sounds of crowded Jerusalem during time of

- II. Jesus Stays In Jerusalem
 - A. Feast lasted a week
 - B. Parents suppose he's in caravan when they leave
 - C. Go a full day's journey
 - D. Return to Jerusalem

Passover.
 What would happen if your dad thought you were with your mom and your mom thought you were with your dad?

- III. Joseph and Mary Find Jesus
 - A. After 3 days
 - B. Looked everywhere
 - C. Jesus is in temple
 - 1. listening
 - 2. asking questions
 - 3. with teachers

You know the story: what was Jesus doing?
 Actually there were two things: look in vs. 46.

- IV. Jesus Returns in Submission
 - A. He knows who he is
 - B. His parents don't understand
 - C. Jerusalem is place of opportunity

Wait a minute! This was not a carpenter's shop! What did Jesus know about himself? And where was the best place for others to recognize that he is the Savior-king. Why? (Jerusalem, place of learning; kings from there)

- D. Nazareth is same old thing

Now, how many of you have ever said, or ever heard someone else say, "My parents just don't understand"? (write phrase on board) What would be some times when a middle schooler might feel or think that? (get various responses.) This is certainly the time in Jesus' life when he could say his parents DON'T understand!
 If you were Jesus, what would you WANT to do?

- E. For another 18 years
- F. Grows
 - 1. wisdom
 - 2. stature
 - 3. favor with God
 - 4. favor with

This is Jesus' big opportunity to become known!
 "Come on back to Nazareth, Jesus." There's nothing but boring carpentry going on there. Jesus doesn't say, "But you don't understand!" He doesn't say, "You aren't my real father, Joseph, and I don't have to do what you tell me!" He doesn't say, "This is my big chance!" Look in vs. 51—
 What DID Jesus do? We get one

men

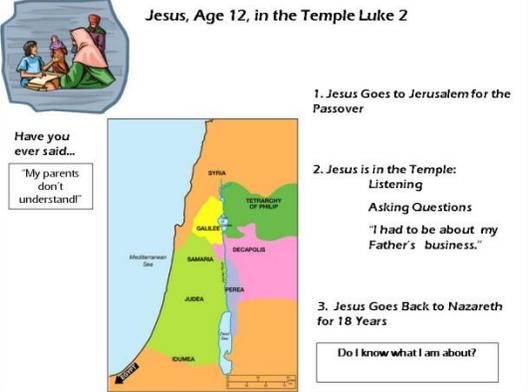
picture of Jesus from his childhood that God, his true Father gives for us to see. What is that picture of? Jesus submitting Himself to do the things of God and obey the authority that was put over him even when they didn't understand.

Concluding the Story: If God had one photo to take of you right now, would He find you about His business? Would he find in you an obedient spirit that says, "God, not what I want, but what you want"? Would He find that spirit in you even when your parents didn't understand and it felt they were being unreasonable? Why is this picture so important? Why is this the Most Important thing to grab hold of at this stage in your life? Read verse 52 again. (Grew in wisdom...) This is the key to growing in a way that is not only pleasing to God, but makes others stand up and notice there is something different in your life.

(Maybe have time to think of a couple students who stand out as following God with an obedient spirit. What kind of reputation do they have? Are they well-thought of? Is it just personality type or based on accomplishments?)

Boardwork and student notes:

Jesus, Age 12, in the Temple Luke 2



Have you ever said...
"My parents don't understand!"

1. Jesus Goes to Jerusalem for the Passover
2. Jesus is in the Temple:
Listening
Asking Questions
"I had to be about my Father's business."
3. Jesus Goes Back to Nazareth for 18 Years

Do I know what I am about?