

Lesson 1— The Life of Jesus: Jesus in the Temple

Scripture Reference: Luke 2

Today's Big Idea: Jesus teaches us the importance of being with God.

Lesson Time:

Ask: What are some moments in Jesus' life that you can think of? Maybe you have a favorite story about Jesus or maybe you can remember something really important that He taught.

Say: This year, we are going to be exploring the Life of Jesus! Jesus lived an amazing life! Even His birth was incredible. Today, we're going to hear two important stories from Jesus' childhood. Before we hear them, I have a question for you. Have you ever been lost? Invite children to share any stories they have. How did you feel when you were lost? How did your parents feel when they were looking for you? How did they feel when they found you?

In today's story, Jesus gets lost. Isn't that surprising? Would you expect Jesus to be the kind of kid who gets lost? As we'll see, because of who He was, He had a very specific reason for being where He was.

Watch: Jesus in the Temple

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho_3gvlWzbw

Ask: What did you observe about Jesus in our video?

Read: Invite students to find Luke 2 in their bibles. Walk them through how to look a book up in the table of contents and give them time to find the large "2", that signifies the chapter. Use this as a teaching opportunity for them to begin learning how to locate Bible passages. In the first story, Jesus and His parents meet two important people at the temple. Their names are Simeon and Anna. Each of them has something important to say about who Jesus is. Let's listen to what they share about Jesus.

Read Luke 2:25-32 out loud to the students. Simeon said that Jesus is the promised savior that God has sent to His people. Let's hear what Anna said when she met Jesus.

Read Luke 2:38. Anna spoke about how Jesus would redeem, or save, the people of Israel. What do you think Jesus' parents felt when they heard these words from Simeon and Anna? Let's think about the second story in the video, the one where Jesus' parents lose Him. When they found Him where was He and what was He doing? *He was in the temple courts talking with the Jewish teachers.* What did He say to His parents?

Read Luke 2:49. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "He had to be in His Father's house?" This story teaches us again that Jesus is the son of God!

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We are a community of Jesus followers who love God, love one another and make disciples.

Play: Finding Jesus

You will need: Jesus cut-out.

Visit here to get cut-out image to print out:

<https://mywonderstudio.com/0-5/2013/2/25/tiny-bible-treasures-zacchaeus-meets-jesus-flannelgraphs.html>

How to Play: Have the children sit in a circle, either at the tables or on the rugs. At the beginning of each round have them put their heads down and close their eyes while you hide Jesus somewhere in the classroom. As long as a little piece of the Jesus cut-out is visible the spot is good. When he's hidden have them lift up their heads and open their eyes but remain seated. Their task is to look around the room until they see Jesus. When they see Him have them say, "I found Jesus." They should not say where He is until everyone has found Him. Play several rounds as long as the children are enjoying themselves. You can let them take turns being the hider too.

Ask: What did today's story teach us about Jesus' relationship with God the Father? *That He loves the Father, He wants to be with the Father, He is the Father's Son.* Do you think that Jesus can teach us how to have a good relationship with God?

What are some of the ways that you spend time with God? Do you have a favorite thing to do that helps you to know that God loves you and is near you? Do you think that everyone must spend time with God in the same way? Why or why not?

Create: I'm going to hand out some sheets of paper with the title, "My favorite way to spend time with God." On that piece of paper, I want you to draw a picture of your favorite way to spend time with Him. After everyone has completed their picture we'll take a moment to go around the circle to share what we've drawn.

Close in Prayer