

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Week C—C1

Luke 2:41—52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favour before God and man.



1 | EXPLORE IT!

Just as they had done for many years prior, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus head to Jerusalem where they spent the feast of Passover. When it was time to head home, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents, thinking that Jesus went with the caravan, spent a day looking for Jesus. Eventually, their search returned them to Jerusalem where they found Jesus in the temple, sitting and discussing with the teachers, who were impressed with Jesus's responses and His understanding of God's teachings. The parents questioned Jesus on why He had stayed behind, and Jesus responded that He must be in His Father's house, leaving His parents puzzled. Regardless of his response, Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents. As He grew in age, Jesus grew even wiser while also remaining obedient to Joseph and Mary.

2 | CONNECT IT!

Jesus remained behind in the temple because He was aware of His mission and His relationship with God the Father. He knew that His purpose was to spread God's love and save us from sin. While we may not understand our relationship with God in the way that Jesus did, we should still strive to grow in closeness with God. We should constantly put out the effort to talk to God and learn about Him. We can listen to the Scriptures more attentively in Mass or talk to our priests, parents, or youth leaders to expand our understanding of God.

3 | REFLECT IT!

Do we prioritize hanging out with our friends over going to Mass? Do we value our relationships more than our relationships with God? Are materialistic gifts more meaningful to us than the gifts God has given us? In this week's Gospel, Jesus put His mission and His relationship with God the Father above everything else in His life. How can we follow the example Jesus set for us and do our best put God first? We can set aside time in our day to spend time talk to God, or we can put in the time to learn and understand God, like young Jesus did in the passage. Through these actions, Jesus also begins to reveal to His parents that He is truly the Son of God, sent to save mankind from sin. Like Jesus, we need to be true to ourselves and to our faith. We should show the world who we are by spreading the good news of God's love and using our understanding of Him to bring others closer to Him.

4 | REMEMBER IT!

*"AND **JESUS** ADVANCED IN WISDOM
AND AGE AND FAVOUR BEFORE
GOD AND MAN. " (LUKE 2:52)*

5 | LIVE IT! [**Understanding**]

Understanding - to grasp the significance, implications, or importance of something.

In this passage, Jesus shows us that He understands His role in God's plan. We, too, must strive to understand what God wants us to do. While Mary and Joseph did not yet understand the reasons of Jesus' actions, He understood how his parents felt, so Jesus went home with them and was obedient to them. We need to be able to understand our parents, teachers, and friends so that our relationships with them can blossom. This week, go out of your way to understand why your parents do what they do. Talk to them and try to understand their views so that your relationship can grow.

6 | PRAY IT!

Heavenly Father, we pray that You may help us understand one another as well as understand Your intentions for us. Please give us the patience to listen and respond accordingly to Your will. Amen.