

# 8. Jesus in the Temple at Age Twelve

*The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children*

## Notes for Parents & Teachers

### 8. Jesus in the Temple at Age Twelve

- a) The importance of this story comes from the use of the word “Father.” Mary called Joseph the Lord’s father, while Jesus was talking about His own soul, which was His true “Father.” Joseph was not His father. At twelve years old, Jesus already knew very well that He was “born of God.”
- b) Why did the Lord stay behind in the temple? Because He was learning everything that the Word taught. He was already much wiser than anyone else, and He knew what His real job on earth was—to save all people.
- c) Ask the children to imagine what it would be like to see a twelve-year-old who knows more than the wise leaders of the church.
- d) Of course, you can imagine the worry that Mary and Joseph felt when they couldn’t find Jesus for three days.



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## The Lord Talks to the Teachers in the Temple

Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem every year to celebrate the feast of the Passover. When He was twelve years old they went to Jerusalem, and when they had finished the days of the Passover, they set out to return back to Nazareth.

But the Boy Jesus stayed back in Jerusalem, and Joseph and His mother, Mary, did not know it. They thought He was among the people who were with them on the way. After a day's journey they searched for Him amongst their family and friends. When they could not find Jesus, they turned back to Jerusalem to look for Him.

After three days they found Him in the temple. He was sitting with the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and answers.

And seeing Him, His parents wondered. His mother said to Him, "Child, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have searched for You. We were sad." And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

But they did not understand what He meant.

And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and obeyed them. But His mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

And Jesus grew in wisdom and in age, and in grace with God and people.

Luke 2

