

General Church Education



Jesus at Age Twelve

Luke 2:41-52

Lesson 16

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

JESUS AT AGE TWELVE

Luke 2:41-52

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

As a young boy of twelve, Jesus gave a clue to His true nature. He stayed in the temple showing a deep interest in the Scriptures and attending to "His Father's business." His grasp and understanding of the Scriptures amazed the teachers in the temple.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ The Lord's instruction in childhood came from the letter of the Word.
- ❖ As a child Jesus learned the truth from the Scriptures, just as we must.
- ❖ The knowledge of the literal sense of the Word gives an essential and powerful foundation for becoming truly human.
- ❖ Jewish people study the Torah. Most Christians study the Bible, which contains the Old and New Testaments. New Christians learn from the three-fold Word: the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Heavenly Doctrines for the New Church, also known as "the Writings."
- ❖ The Word of God is the Lord making Himself known to all people of all times. His Word has been given because He loves us and wants us to be happy.
- ❖ True and lasting happiness comes from living a heavenly life.

JESUS AT AGE TWELVE

IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

Jesus grew up as other children do.
He learned the Scriptures.

LET'S REMEMBER:

- ♦ What is the name of the very special Baby whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas? (Jesus.)
- ♦ Mary was His mother and Joseph was Mary's husband, but who was the Father of Jesus? (The Lord Himself.)

Yes, in this way Jesus was like no other baby who has ever been born. The Lord came down from heaven and lived in a human body here on earth for a while in order to show us the right way to live. The Boy Jesus probably grew up much the same as other boys at this time. We don't know much about His childhood except something that happened when He was twelve years old. Listen to what happened at the Feast of the Passover.



OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

Do you know what the Passover is? It is a celebration to remember how the Lord brought the Children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt at the time of Moses. What was the last plague of Egypt that finally made Pharaoh change his mind and let the people go? (Death of the firstborn of the Egyptians.) Yes, death "passed over" the Children of Israel. Only the firstborn of the Egyptians died. After Pharaoh said they could go, the Children of Israel left Egypt and slavery behind. They eventually returned home to Canaan.

The Passover was a very special celebration for the Children of Israel. Whole families would make the journey to Jerusalem to eat the special foods and worship in the temple there. When Jesus was twelve, He was old enough to go with His family. But a curious thing happened there.

When it was time to start for home, Mary and Joseph could not find Jesus. They thought He was somewhere in the large group of relatives and friends that they were traveling with, so they started back toward home. In these days families would travel together and it was not unusual for children to go along with their cousins for a while. However, after a day on the road, when they still could not find Him, Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem to search for Him. You can imagine how worried they must have been.

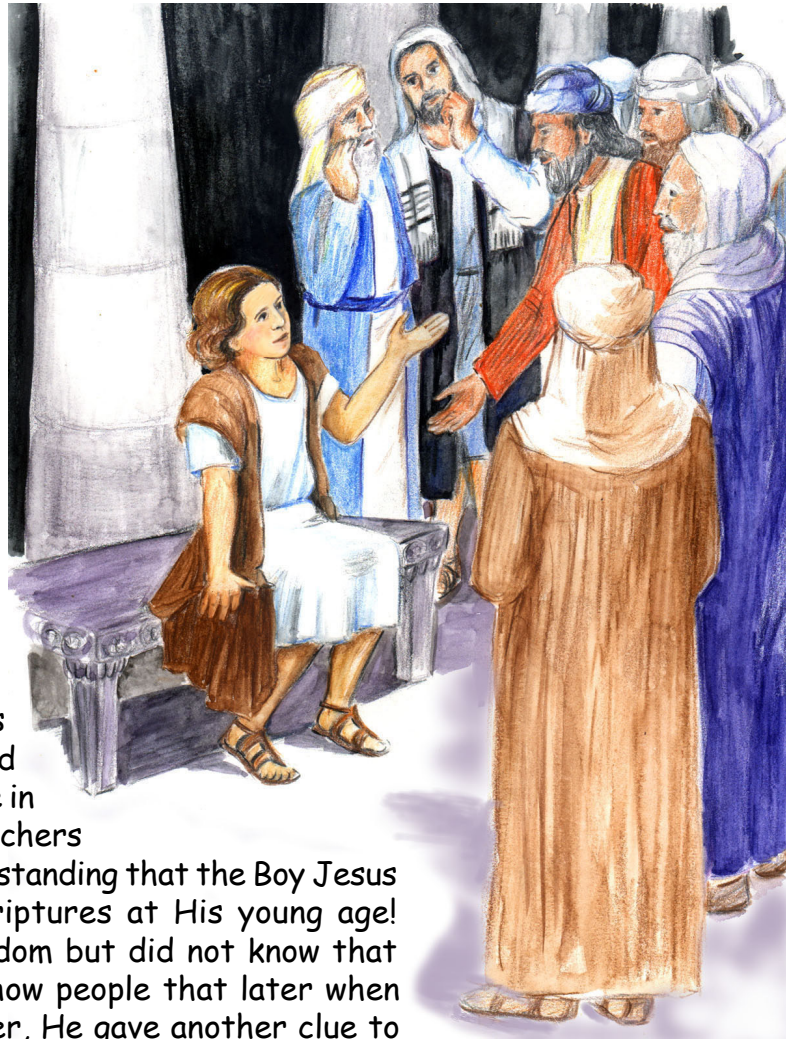
Listen and see if you can tell how long it took them to find Him and what He was doing when they found Him.



Read **Luke 2:41-47**.

How long did they look for Him? (Three days.) Where was He? (In the temple.) What was He doing there? (Listening to the teachers and asking them questions.)

The teachers in the temple were the most learned or smartest people of that time. They studied the Scriptures—the books of the Old Testament in our Word—because they knew these books were holy and that God was speaking to the people in them. Even these wise teachers were amazed at the understanding that the Boy Jesus already had for the Scriptures at His young age! They recognized His wisdom but did not know that He was God. He would show people that later when He was grown up. However, He gave another clue to His true being when He answered Mary's question. Let's read that now.



Read **Luke 2:48-52**.

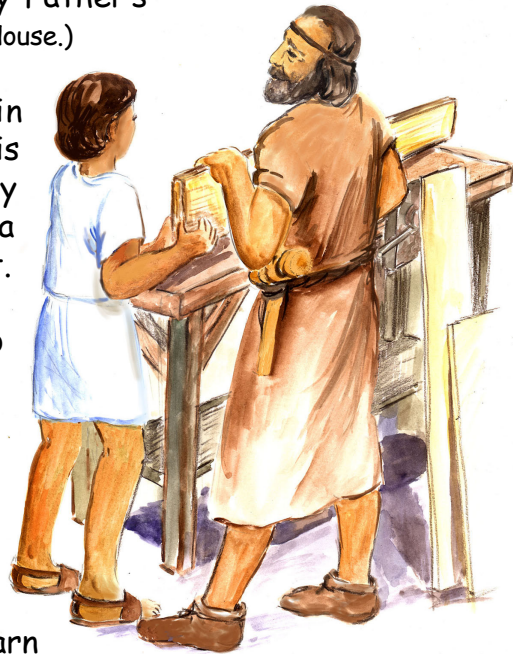
For the time being Jesus went back with Mary and Joseph and lived with them. Did they understand His answer when Mary asked why he had stayed in

the temple? (No.) Jesus wondered why they worried about Him. He told them, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" Whose house is the temple? (God's House.)

That is what Jesus meant. He was in God's House learning more about God and His own true nature. He was learning the Holy Scriptures. Even as a young boy, Jesus had a deep understanding of what they truly meant.

Remember that Jesus came to earth to teach us, so that we can make good choices and become angels in heaven. Jesus studied the Scriptures, or the Word of God, on scrolls. Do you know what a scroll is? (A book written on a long piece of paper and rolled up.)

We don't have scrolls today. What do we read from instead? (Books.) Where can we learn the Holy Scriptures? (In the Word.)



Even though we do not understand the Word as perfectly as Jesus did, it is very important for us to learn about it. The stories and teachings can show everyone the way to be truly happy, the way to heaven. That is why the Lord came to earth. He loves everyone and wants us to live with Him in heaven for eternity.

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **How was Jesus different from every other person?** (He was the Lord come to earth in a human form.)
- ♦ **What event does the Passover celebrate?** (When death passed over the families of the Children of Israel, although the firstborn of the families of Egyptians died. Then the Lord brought the Children of Israel out of slavery.)
- ♦ **How old was Jesus in this story?** (Twelve.)
- ♦ **Why were Mary and Joseph worried?** (They could not find Him when it was time to go home.)
- ♦ **How long did they search for Him?** (Three days.)
- ♦ **Where did they finally find Him?** (In the temple.)
- ♦ **Do you think Mary, Joseph or the wise teachers recognized who Jesus really was?** (No, not yet.)

JESUS AT AGE TWELVE

ACTIVITIES



Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.



Project choices:

Matthew 7:7-8

Scroll Project to make
Color a picture of Jesus in the temple



Songs:

See the Savior in the Temple—Listen or download at [https://](https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-see-the-savior-in-the-temple/)

www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-see-the-savior-in-the-temple/

I Pray Thee, Lord, to Guide My Ways—Listen or download at [https://](https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-i-pray-thee-lord-to-guide-my-ways/)

www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-i-pray-thee-lord-to-guide-my-ways/



Additional Activities:

- ❖ Learn more about the Passover celebration using an illustrated children's Bible.
- ❖ Experience the food mentioned in these stories. Prepare Passover food such as roast lamb, unleavened or flat bread, a herb or green salad and grape juice for wine.

Scroll Project

Learn how a scroll is made. Talk about the differences between scrolls and books. Think about how it would feel to live when people used scrolls.

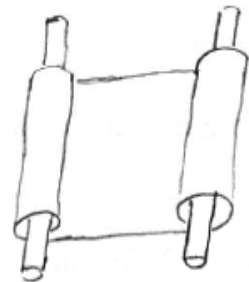
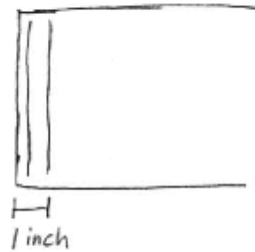
Supplies:

- 1 printed page
- 2 unsharpened pencils
- glue
- crayons or markers
- yarn, ribbon or string



Project instructions:

1. Cut the printed page in half along the dotted line. You only need 1/2 to make your scroll. The printed page shows Hebrew writing on it. Hebrew is read from right to left, instead of left to right like English.
 3. Apply a line of glue to one of the shorter edges of the paper with Hebrew writing. Make another line of glue about one inch from the same edge. Center one of the pencils over the second glue line. Wrap the paper around the sticks and glue the edge to the paper encasing the stick. Hold in place about one minute to let glue set.
 2. Do the same with the opposite side of the paper and the other pencil
 3. Roll the paper around the pencils from each end toward the center and secure with string, ribbon or yarn until glue is completely dry.
 4. Unroll the scroll and trace the Hebrew writing from right to left. Optional: decorate the Hebrew writing with crayons or markers.
- The Hebrew text is Exodus 20:1. It means "All these words God spoke to say."



כַּל-הַיּוֹד בְּרַיִם הַאֲלֹהָ
וַיִּדְבַר אֱלֹהִים אֶת
לְאֹמֶר

כַּל-הַיּוֹד בְּרַיִם הַאֲלֹהָ
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Recitation Award: Jesus at Age Twelve

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.

