

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 5**  
**The Boy Jesus Amazes the Teachers (Luke 2:41-51)**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. Because God assumed the Human according to His Divine order, He grew up just as other children, except that His development was quicker, fuller, and more perfect. (TCR 89)
- B. In His childhood the Lord wished to take in no other knowledges than those of the Word. (AC 1461)
- C. The New Testament doesn't tell us very much about the Lord's childhood, but the story of Abraham describes His childhood development correspondentially.
- D. Basic correspondences: Father = soul, Son/Jesus = mind, Holy Spirit = operation, use, doing things

**II. Story Circle**

- A. Introduction
  - 1. In our last lesson we learned that the wise men traveled far to see the young Child, Jesus. They stopped in Jerusalem to ask King Herod where they could find Him, and Herod was worried. Do you know why? (He was afraid that Jesus would grow up to be king instead of himself.)
  - 2. Some time after the wise men returned to their own country, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and warned him to take the young Child and His mother and flee to Egypt because Herod wanted to kill Jesus. Then Joseph woke up and took Mary and Jesus by night and left for Egypt. (Matthew 2:13,14)
  - 3. When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and told him to return to the land of Israel with Mary and Jesus. And he took them to Galilee, to the city called Nazareth. (Matthew 2:19-23)
  - 4. Today's story takes place when Jesus was a 12-year-old boy.
- B. Tell/Read the Story
  - 1. Read aloud Luke 2:41-51.

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### C. Ideas to Discuss

1. The Passover was celebrated each year in memory of the first Passover, the night when the children of Israel came out of Egypt. Do you remember how Passover got its name? (The angel of the Lord passed over the houses where the lintels [part of the door frame] had been painted with the blood of a lamb, and did not kill the firstborn sons in those houses.)
2. Why had Mary, Joseph, and Jesus gone up to Jerusalem? (To celebrate the Feast of the Passover)
3. When they left Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary didn't know that Jesus had stayed behind because they were traveling with a group of people, and He could have been with someone else in the group.
4. How long had Mary and Joseph been gone from Jerusalem before they realized that Jesus wasn't with the company? (A day)
5. What did they do? (Went back to Jerusalem and looked for Him)
6. How long did they look for Him before they found Him? (3 days)
7. Where did they find Him, and what was He doing? ("In the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions." (Luke 2:46-47))
8. When Mary asked Jesus why He had done this to Joseph and her, what did Jesus answer? ("Why is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:49))
9. What happened then? (Jesus returned home to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph.)

### D. Further Ideas

1. Jesus had to learn things just the way other children do; He wasn't born knowing everything. But He learned things more quickly and understood them better than other children. That's why the teachers at the temple were amazed at His wisdom.
2. Jesus said, "I must be about My Father's business." He was talking about His heavenly Father, not about Joseph. Mary and Joseph didn't really understand what the Lord's business one earth was, so they were confused.
  - a. Who was Jesus' heavenly Father? (The Lord)
  - b. Who was Jesus? (The Lord)

Jesus and the Lord are the same Person. When Jesus talked about His Father, He was talking about the inner Goodness inside Himself.

3. Jesus was especially interested in learning about the Word. Because He was the Lord, He could learn about and understand *everything* about the Word. But we are never finished studying the Word. The older we get, the more we can understand; so we need to study the Word our whole lives, even in heaven, to learn to be better and better people.

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4. When Mary and Joseph came to the temple to get Jesus, He obediently came with them and continued on the Journey back to Nazareth. You can follow Jesus' example and obey your parents when they want you to do something.

### III. Enrichment Activities (Do as many as time permits)

#### A. Music

1. "Love thy father and thy mother," *Hymnal #167*.

#### B. Activities

1. What's this story? Divide class into groups of 3-4. Give each group a stack of illustrations of stories from the Old Testament, and have them figure out what story is depicted. (Note: If the class will be doing the play, the children who don't have lines to learn could do this while the others are memorizing their parts.)
2. Map Work. Point out the following places to give the class an idea of where Jesus was at different times.
  - a. Bethlehem - where Mary & Joseph went to be counted; where He was born.
  - b. Jerusalem - where Herod lived; where the wise men first came to ask Herod where they could find Jesus; where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus went for Passover; and where Jesus talked with the teachers in the temple.
  - c. Egypt - where the angel told Joseph in a dream to take Jesus and Mary because Herod wanted to kill Jesus.
  - d. Nazareth - where Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived after they returned from Egypt.
3. What's Your Favorite Story? Go around the Story Circle and ask each child to name his favor story from the Old Testament. Talk about each story very briefly to remind children of the details. (This is preparation for Project #2, below.)

#### C. Project

1. THE BOY JESUS AMAZES THE TEACHERS, A Narrated Play (attached).
2. Jesus Thinks about a Story from the Old Testament.
  - a. Materials Needed
    - 12 X 18 white drawing paper
    - Felt markers or oil pastels
  - b. Method
    - Use Activity #2 (above) to motivate class before beginning this project, (It is probably better to do the activity while still in the Story Circle rather than at project tables so the art materials aren't a distraction.)

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- Jesus learned the Old Testament stories when He was young, too. Have each child draw a picture of Jesus (at about age 12) to one side or down in a corner of the page. Jesus is thinking about an Old Testament story. Have the child use the rest of the page to depict his favorite story from the Old Testament that he would like Jesus to be thinking about.

### IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Picture of Jesus among the teachers in the temple.
- B. Pictures illustrating a number of stories from the Old Testament for Activity #1 (above).

### V. Further Reading for the Teacher

## THE BOY JESUS AMAZES THE TEACHERS

### *A Narrated Play*

**Roles:** Mary                      2 or more relatives/acquaintances  
          Joseph                     6 or more teachers at the temple  
          Jesus                        Passover celebrants in Jerusalem

**Props/Costumes:**

Card w/some of 10 Commandments on it (for Teacher #1)  
Blue cloth/scarf to cover Mary's head  
Brown cloth/scarf for Joseph's head  
White cape/sheet/gown for Jesus

**Designate Places in Room for:** Nazareth, Jerusalem, the temple

*[Position some teachers in the temple and some Passover celebrants in the streets of Jerusalem.]*

Narrator: Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when Jesus was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.

*[Mary, Joseph, and Jesus go up to "Jerusalem" where others are sitting and sit down with them.]*

When they had finished the days of the Passover, and as they returned to Nazareth, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it.

*[Joseph, Mary, and Jesus stand up, along with others. They all proceed away from "Jerusalem" except Jesus, who starts toward the temple.]*

But supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. Joseph asked...

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Joseph: "Have you seen Jesus?"

Person 1: "No, I haven't."

Narrator: And Mary inquired . . .

Mary: "Do you know where my son Jesus is?"

Person 2: "No, I don't."

Narrator: So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

Teacher 1: [Read/recite a portion of the Ten Commandments or part of a Psalm.]

Narrator: And Jesus asked of them . . .

Jesus: "Truly, aren't the two greatest commandments to love the Lord and our neighbor?"

Narrator: The teachers were amazed. And one of them stammered...

Teacher 2: "Well, I suppose they are!" *[Act amazed!]*

Jesus: "The fifth commandment is, 'You shall not murder.' Doesn't this also mean we shouldn't harm someone's spirit?"

Narrator: At this, the teachers said amongst themselves...

Teacher 3: "He's right, you know!"

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Teacher 4: "How does He know so much at His age?"

Teacher 5: "Do you know who He is?"

Teacher 6: "He calls Himself Jesus."

Narrator: Then Mary and Joseph found Jesus In the temple, and they, too, were amazed. And His mother said to Him...

Mary: "Son, why have You done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for You anxiously!"

Narrator: And Jesus said to them...

Jesus: "Why did you look for Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

Narrator: But they looked confused because they did not understand what He said to them. Then Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth and was subject to them.

*[Joseph, Mary, and Jesus proceed together from the temple in "Jerusalem" toward "Nazareth."]*