

Boy Jesus in the Temple.

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In today's story, Mary and Joseph lost something. It wasn't a book, or a shoe, or even a key. It was something much more important than that. They looked and they looked and they looked until they finally found what they were looking for. Can you guess what it was? Or maybe I should say WHO it was? Well, let's listed very closely and perhaps we can find out what Mary and Joseph were looking for.

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Every year, Jesus and His mother, Mary and his father, Joseph went to Jerusalem to worship and to celebrate the Passover feast.

The trip to Jerusalem was a long, dusty one, and they probably had to stop and camp along the way. Have you ever been camping? What did you take with you? What do you think Jesus and His family took with them?

I am sure that Mary and Joseph and Jesus were all VERY excited. They would get to worship God, eat lots of good food, and see many friends and relatives from far away.

Jesus was especially excited about going to the Temple. He LOVED listening to the teachers talk about God's Word. They were wise, and Jesus asked them many questions about God.

Jesus felt so close to God when He was in the temple. He felt the same way that we feel when we are at church.

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Mary and Joseph traveled with all the other people who were going home. They knew that Jesus was not with them. However, they thought that He was somewhere in the crowd. Perhaps He was with some of His friends of maybe even with some of their relatives.

The donkey's feet clip-clopped along the road. The people talked and sang as they walked. They probably even talked about all the fun things they had done the past few days.

They walked and walked all day long, and when it was time to stop to rest, Mary and Joseph began to look for Jesus.

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Poor Mary! She was so worried.

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They didn't know what had happened to Jesus.

Have you ever been lost? How does it feel to be lost?

Suppose your Mommy couldn't find YOU in a crowd. Do you think she would be worried?

"We must go back to Jerusalem to look for Him," Joseph told Mary.

So Mary and Joseph started walking again. Down the very same road they had just traveled. They looked for Jesus as they walked.

Perhaps Jesus had left Jerusalem late and they would meet Him on the road. But, no they didn't see Him anywhere.

When they arrived back in Jerusalem, they looked and looked and looked for Jesus. They looked for three whole days, but they still couldn't find Jesus. By now, they were **REALLY WORRIED!**

They checked for Jesus in every place that they could think of. They asked everyone

"Have you seen Jesus?" But no one had seen Him.

"Let's go back to the temple", Joseph said. "Maybe someone there has seen Him."

When they came to the Temple, what do you suppose they saw?

That's right! Right there in the middle of the Temple sat Jesus!

He was listening to the teachers and asking them questions.

He hadn't even **THOUGHT** about going home. In fact, He hadn't even missed His parents.

The teachers were surprised that Jesus understood so much about God. They were happy to talk with the boy who loved God as much as Jesus did.

Can't you imagine how relieved Mary and Joseph must have felt?

"Jesus, Joseph and I have been sad because You were not with us." Mary said. "We have looked and looked for You, We've been so worried" she said.

Jesus said, "I've been in God's house. It's important for Me to do my Father's work."

What do you think Jesus meant by that?

Well, you see, Jesus is God's only Son, and Jesus knew that God has special things for Him to do. So Jesus was trying to learn all that He could from His teachers.

In fact, Jesus was having such a **GREAT** time with His teachers that He really didn't want to go home.

He would have loved to stay on and on. But for now, Jesus did not argue with His parents. He obeyed Mary and Joseph and got up quickly and went with them back to Nazareth.

"Flip, Flop, Flip, flop" went Jesus' sandals, all the way home.

When Jesus got home, He continued to obey His parents. In fact, He **ALWAYS** did just what they said. And that is exactly what God wants us to do too. **ALWAYS OBEY OUR PARENTS!**

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Have you ever been lost? How does it feel to be lost?

A Visit to the Temple (From Luke 2:41-52)

Jesus' sandals went "slip, slap, slip, slap" as he walked along the warm, dusty road.

Every year, Jesus and his mother, Mary, and his father, Joseph, went to Jerusalem

for the Passover feast. The trip to Jerusalem was a long one, and they probably had to stop and camp along the way. Have you ever been camping?

What did you take with you? What do you think Jesus and his family took with them when they went camping?

Passover was a special feast to celebrate the time God freed all the Israelites from being slaves in Egypt. During the feast, everyone had a good time. They went to the temple to worship God, and they saw many friends from far away. They ate lots of good food and thanked God for

taking care of their people. What special days does your family celebrate? What do you do on those days?

Jesus had a good time, too. He especially liked the temple. It was a beautiful building with polished wood and shiny gold. Let's pretend to polish the gold. Whenever Jesus went to the temple, he felt close to God. When do you feel close to God?

Jesus also liked the teachers at the temple. They were wise, and Jesus asked them many questions about God. It's good to ask questions. What questions would you like to ask about God?

When the Passover feast was over, it was time to pack up and go home. Let's pretend we're helping Jesus and his family pack up their things. All the people started traveling back to their own towns.

At the end of the first day of traveling, Mary and Joseph couldn't find Jesus. At first, they thought he might have gone off to play with a friend. But they checked with all their friends and family, and they couldn't find him anywhere! Let's help them look. They looked high. They looked low. They looked this way. They looked that way. But they still couldn't find Jesus.

Mary and Joseph were scared. They didn't know what could have happened to Jesus. Have you ever been lost? How does it feel to be lost?

Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem to see if Jesus was still there. Let's make our fingers run all the way back to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph. They looked everywhere for Jesus. They kept looking and looking for three whole days, but they still couldn't find him

anywhere. Then they were really
worried!

Mary and Joseph went back to the
temple to ask if anyone had seen Jesus.
Do you know what they found when they
went to the temple? They found Jesus!
And they breathed a deep sigh of relief.

Let's take a deep breath with them.

Jesus was in the temple with the
teachers. He was listening carefully to
everything they said and asking them
questions. What kinds of questions do
you ask your teachers?

The teachers were surprised that Jesus
understood so much about God. They
were happy to talk with a boy who loved
God as much as Jesus did.

Mary and Joseph said, "Jesus, we've
been so worried about you. We were
looking for you."

Jesus said, "I've been in God's house. It's

important for me to do my Father's
work."

Jesus is God's only Son, and he knew
that God had special things for him to
do. But for now, Jesus went home with
Mary and Joseph to Nazareth. "Slip, slap,
slip, slap" all the way home.

Jesus kept on growing up, just like you're
growing up. What are some ways you're
growing? Is your mind growing and
learning new things? Are you getting
taller? Jesus grew in all these ways, too.

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They looked everywhere for Jesus. They kept looking and looking for three whole days, but they still couldn't find him anywhere. Then they were really worried!

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(I wrote this story)

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They looked and they looked and they looked until they finally found what they were looking for.

Can you guess what it was? Or maybe I should say WHO it was?

Well, let's listed very closely and perhaps we can find out what Mary and Joseph were looking for.

In the Bible, God doesn't give us much information about Jesus when He was young.

We are told about His birth, and then we don't hear anything else about Jesus until He was about 12 years old.

We can only guess what type of a child He was. He was probably much like each of you.

He was probably curious about things.

He was probably full of energy, running and jumping and climbing trees.

But there is one thing about Jesus that we do know...and that is...that He ALWAYS obeyed His parents.

How many of you ALWAYS obey your parents?

Well...in our story today...Which takes place about the time that Jesus was 12 years old.

He and His family are on their way to Jerusalem to worship God in the temple.

Every year, Jesus and His mother, Mary and his father, Joseph went to Jerusalem to worship and to celebrate the Passover feast.

The trip to Jerusalem was a long, dusty one, and they probably had to stop and camp along the way.

Have you ever been to a family reunion? Maybe you get to see cousins and grandparents that you haven't seen in a long time.

Maybe you'll get to play some fun games and hear stories about your parents when they were about your age.

Maybe you'll get to have a BBQ and eat lots of good things.

The excitement probably grew and grew the closer you got.

I am sure that Mary and Joseph and Jesus were all VERY excited too.

They would get to worship God, eat lots of good food, and see many friends and relatives from far away.

Jesus was especially excited about going to the Temple.

He LOVED listening to the teachers talk about God's Word. They were wise, and Jesus asked them many questions about God.

Jesus felt so close to God when He was in the temple. He felt the same way that we feel when we are at church.

The Passover feast lasted for several days but all too soon, it was over, it was time to pack up and go back home.

All the people started traveling back to their own towns.

A LARGE group of people were traveling together in the same direction.

Mary and Joseph traveled with all the other people who were going home.

They knew that Jesus was not with them.
BUT.... they thought that He was somewhere in the crowd.

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They asked all the fathers and mothers, "Have you seen Jesus?" but they all said "No", we have not seen Him all day.

Poor Mary! She was so worried.

Poor Joseph! He was scared.

They didn't know what had happened to Jesus.

Have you ever been lost? How does it feel to be lost?

Suppose your Mommy couldn't find YOU in a crowd. Do you think she would be worried?

I would...in fact, I have. I had a son who liked to hide under the clothing racks at Wal-Mart.

He would hide under them and listen to me searching for him. I was scared to death.

And then one day I lost Jeremy in the store. He was probably about 2 years old.

His older brother took him to the restroom and then came walking back without him.

I said where is Jeremy and he said right here.

But when he turned around...Jeremy was not with him.

We looked for him and then they called a code ADAM and guarded all the doors while all the employees looked for him.

After quite a while, here came an employee walking with him and holding his hand.

He had gone clear over to the opposite side of Wal-Mart and was looking at the fish.

I know that Mary and Joseph must have been frantic. Just like all moms' and dads' would be.

In those days...there weren't as many dangers as there are in our days...but there were still many things that could have happened to Jesus along the way.

“We must go back to Jerusalem to look for Him,” Mary told Joseph.

So Mary and Joseph started walking again.

Down the very same road they had just traveled.

They looked for Jesus as they walked.

Perhaps Jesus had left Jerusalem late and they would meet Him on the road.

But, noooo they didn't see Him anywhere.

When they arrived back in Jerusalem, they looked and looked and looked for Jesus.

In fact, they looked for three whole days, but they still couldn't find Jesus.

By now, they were REALLY WORRIED!

They checked for Jesus in every place that they could think of. They asked everyone "Have you seen Jesus?" But no one had seen Him.

"Let's go back to the temple", Joseph said.
"Maybe someone there has seen Him."

When they came to the Temple, and walked through the doors, what do you suppose they saw?

That's right! Right there in the middle of the Temple stood Jesus!

When Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus in the temple, He was standing in the midst of the learned doctors of the day, both hearing them and asking them questions.

Apparently He was asking them questions they could not answer. And they were astonished at His answers—remember, He was only twelve years old!

Can't you imagine how relieved Mary and Joseph must have felt?

“Jesus, Joseph and I have been sad because You were not with us.” Mary said. “We have looked and looked for You, We’ve been so worried” she said.

And He said to them, "Why were you looking for me, didn't you know that I must be about my Father's business?"

Do you think He was referring to Joseph's business? No! Joseph was a carpenter. He wasn't talking carpentry was He?

No, He was listening and teaching the teachers. He was doing God's work.

In fact, Jesus was so involved in His teaching that He hadn't even noticed that His parents were gone.

He hadn't even THOUGHT about going home.

He would have loved to stay on and on. But when His parents said that it was time to go, He did not argue with His parents.

He obeyed Mary and Joseph and got up quickly and went with them back to Nazareth.

“Flip, Flop, Flip, flop” went Jesus’ sandals, all the way home.

When Jesus got home, He continued to obey His parents. In fact, He ALWAYS did just what they said. And that is exactly what God wants us to do too. ALWAYS OBEY OUR PARENTS!

Over the next few weeks, we are going to learn about some of the characteristics of Jesus.

You see, when Jesus left His home in heaven,
He left to be a sacrifice for each of us, BUT...
He also came to earth to live amongst us and to
show us how we should live our lives.

So by listening to several stories from the Bible,
we are going to pick out one characteristic each
week about Jesus and write that characteristic on
our board.

So who can tell me something about Jesus from
our story today?

He **always** obeyed His parents.

From our lesson last week; the lesson on “Why
Jesus came to earth.” Jesus displayed this same
characteristic didn’t He?

BUT...He obeyed His heavenly father, God
didn’t He?

How did He obey His heavenly father?

The Bible tells us that Jesus left heaven to become our sacrifice, not by His will, but by the Father's will.

Did Jesus WANT to die on the cross? No!

Did He want to leave heaven and come to earth?
No!

So why did He?

Because it was God's will and He ALWAYS obeyed His Father.

So let's write our first characteristic of Jesus down on our board.

ALWAYS obeyed His parents!

How many of you ALWAYS obey your parents?

Is there ever a time when it is not acceptable to obey your parents?

It is acceptable to disobey your parents only if they want you to do something that God's word has taught against.

We must first obey our heavenly Father.

Now, none of your parents will probably ask you to do anything wrong...but every day, we hear of parents who neglect or abuse children.

God has a very special place in His heart for children. And He will not stand for this type of abuse. In fact, in the Bible in Mark 9:42.

WE read

Mark 9:42 And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone (Or rock) tied around his neck.

In our story, did Jesus argue with His parents when they said "It's time to go?" No!

Did He beg to stay just a little bit longer? No!

Did He try to bargain with his parents? No!

What did He do when His parents said “It’s time to go?”

He got up and obeyed them right away.
And that is exactly what we must do.

We may not agree, we may think they are wrong, we may want to stay just a little bit longer, we may want a certain toy or a certain thing from the store, but when they say NO!,
What are we to do?

Listen, obey *immediately*, and not argue.

As Christians, our number one job is to become more like Jesus each day.

If we read our Bibles and we see what type of a person Jesus was, and we try to become more like Him each day...we will be very pleasing to Him indeed.

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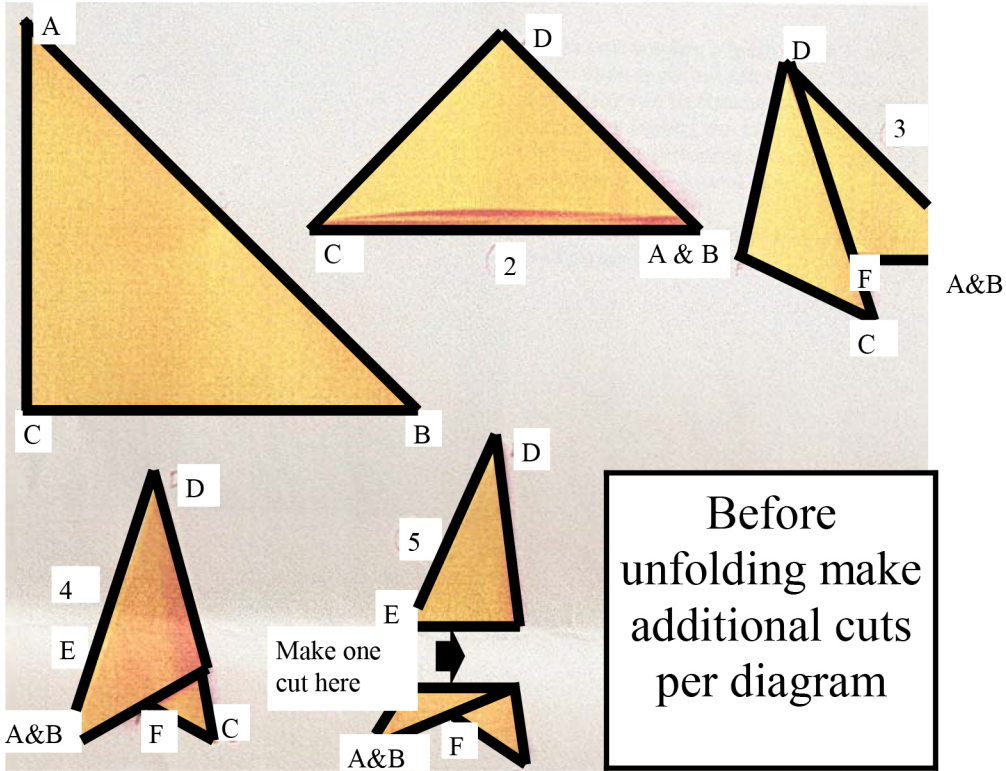
“Jesus grew is
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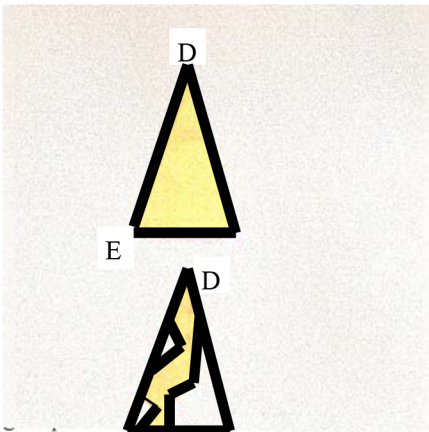
How to make a snowflake

Begin with a square piece of paper

Bag Instructions:
Cut out snowflake.
Glue snowflake to bag.
Dot the front of snowflake
with glue.
Shake clear or silver glitter
onto it.
Attach snowflake poem



Before
unfolding make
additional cuts
per diagram



The snowflake
as silent as a feather
falling from an angel above.
God sends us down a snowflake
to show how much we're loved.

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**Jesus talked with the teachers
about his Father, God.**



JESUS VISITS THE TEMPLE

Jesus' teachers were pleased when He asked questions.



Footprint Craft # 1 & # 2

(You will not use your feet for this craft, you will be using your hand to make the footprints)

Make a fist

Turn your wrist so that you can see the outside edge of your pinky finger. This area is what you will paint to make your footprints.

Brush paint on the side of your hand. Start at the wrist bone and continue painting hand all the way up to the first knuckle (or so) of your pinky finger.

Not use your hand as a stamp and place the footprint onto your picture.

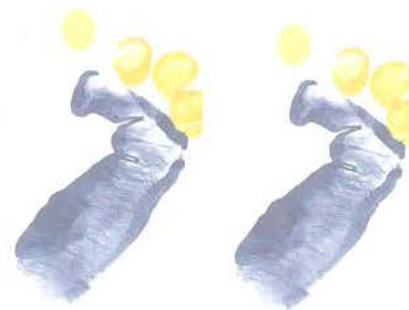
Use both the right and left hand to make the right and left foot,

Taking one of your fingers, dip it into paint and place the 5 toes onto your picture.



CRAFT #1

Two Feet
Here's one foot, here are two,
There's many things that they can do.
So skip and dance and praise the Lord,
That's what these two feet are for.



CRAFT #2

Beautiful
are the feet
of those
who preach
good news.
Romans 10:15

Beautiful
are the feet
of them
that preach
the gospel of
peace!

Rom 10:15



Two Feet

Here's one foot, here are two,
There's many things that they can do.
So skip and dance and praise the Lord,
That's what these two feet are for.

Two Feet

Here's one foot, here are two,
There's many things that they can do.
So skip and dance and praise the Lord,
That's what these two feet are for.



Body Tracings Craft Idea

Lay out large sheets of white paper.

Write across the top of paper :

“Jesus grew in wisdom and stature” Luke 2:52.

Wisdom- How smart you are, what you know

Stature- Height- How tall you are

Have the children lie down on the paper and trace around their bodies. (Turn their feet out to the sides so you can trace around them easily, have them spread out their arms and open their fingers wide. For safety purposes, stop tracing on the insides of the legs when you get to the area just above their knees. You can draw a straight line across from one leg to another for girls (as if they have on a dress) or wait until the child gets up and then free hand draw a V design between the legs)

Note: (For safety purposes, make sure there is more than one teacher in the classroom)

Now allow the children to color their drawing, add hair, color eyes, add clothing, put rings on fingers, add coloring for nail polish, lipstick, eye shadow etc.

Foot Coloring Picture

Tape a piece of paper onto the floor so that it doesn't move around.

Give the children crayons and instruct them to place the crayon between their toes and color by moving their feet around.

Make comments to the children as they are coloring.

“Aren't you glad we don't have to use our feet to color?”

“I'm glad God gave us hands to color with.”

“Our feet may not be able to color very well, but they can do many other things really well.”

“Can you think of some things that God created our feet to do?”

Foot Tracing Picture

Help the children trace their feet onto a piece of paper.

Write the verse “Beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news.” Romans 10:15 onto the top of page

Have the children color their feet. They can decorate each toe a different color, draw rings on their toes. Etc

Growing Boy Coloring Activity Page Instructions

Instructions

Run copies of the growing boy picture.

Fold on the two dotted lines.

Fold # 1- Take the bottom of the page and fold up on the top dotted line

Now fold downwards on the bottom dotted line.

Take the bottom of the page and pull downward. The boy will grow taller

