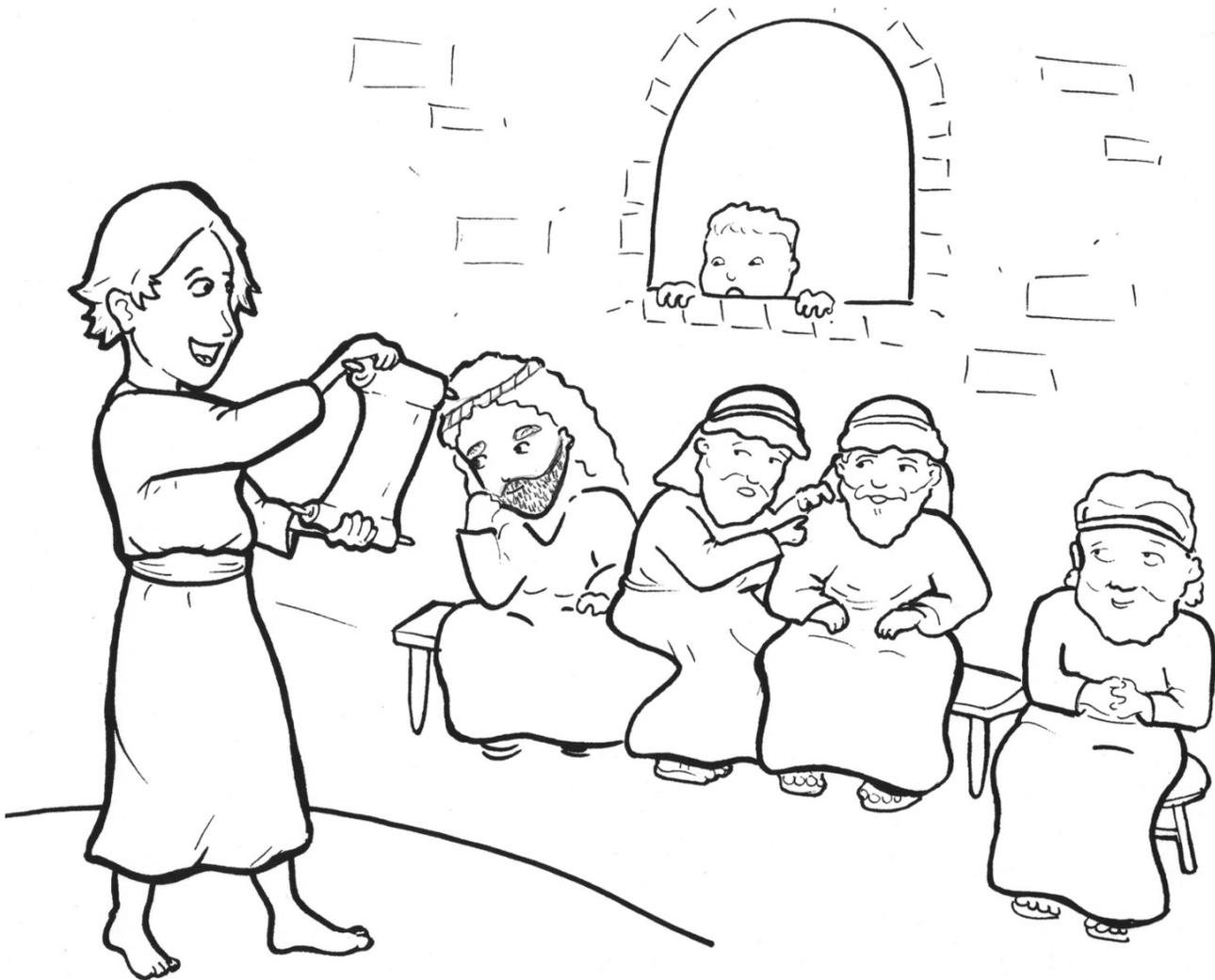


Bible Lesson

7. Jesus Gets Lost!

Luke 2



Jesus said, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

Luke 2:49

Jesus Gets Lost!

Each year, Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem to worship God. When Jesus was 12 years old, he got to go along! What a big city for a small boy. It was crowded with people from many lands.

A few days later, his family packed wagons and camels to go home. They traveled for a day.

“Where is Jesus?” Mary asked Joseph.

Joseph said, “Is he not with you?” Jesus was missing!

They returned to the city. They looked everywhere for Jesus. Finally, they found him.

Jesus was in the temple, the house of God. He was teaching the teachers. These old, wise men were amazed. How did this young boy know all about God? How did he know the Scriptures so well?

“Son,” Mary said. “We have been looking for you for three days!”

“Why?” Jesus said. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” They did not understand. Jesus went home with his mother and father to Nazareth. He obeyed them.

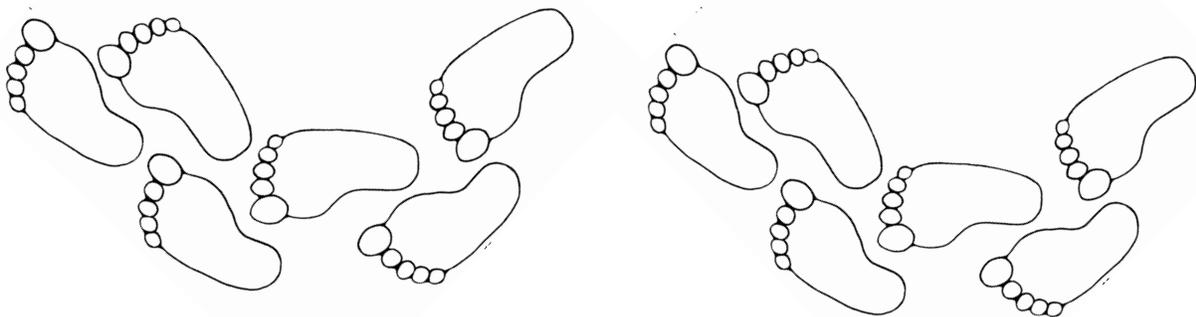
Questions

1. Where was Jesus when his parents missed him?
2. Why did Jesus feel that he had to be in the temple?
3. Do you have a burning wish to be in God's house? Where is God's house for you?
4. How can you get to church each week?

Pray this Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
I have to be in your house. I want to go to church.
Please help me to grow up in the house of God.
Help my family and I to be there each week.
Amen

There are 12 feet and 12 months in a year. Color in one toe for each Sunday that you get to church.



Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing

7. Jesus Gets Lost!

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) Have you ever been lost? Did you ever have a brother or sister who got lost? How scared were your parents?
- b) Where would you look for a missing child in a city?
- c) Where would you go if you were a child in a big city for the first time?
- d) Why is this the ONE story we have from Jesus' childhood?

After you read:

Who? What Clue?

This burning question lights up every gospel. Even the rabbis wondered: Who is Jesus? Give the kids a magnifying glass and have them search this story for clues. Write them on a board under the headings: "Jesus was a normal human boy" and "Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God." Review and add from memory some clues from the "God or Human?" activity in lesson 6. Have the kids write each clue on index cards. Make a path across a table with the same headings of "God" or "Human." Have the kids read and follow the cards to see where they end up.

HAD to - HAVE to

The bottom line and the most important words in this story are: "I had to be in my Father's house." The words "had to" ring loud and clear as the heartbeat of Jesus. He had to, wanted to, needed to be in the house of God. Do you feel the same desire? Have the kids trace their shoes onto paper and cut them out so there are many footsteps on the floor. Make a trail from "home" to "church." Set up impediments along the path (chairs or other barriers, such as streamers taped to chairs). Have the kids name and write barriers to going to church: sleeping in, friends are playing outside, family not interested, etc. Have them follow the footsteps while overcoming the barriers and saying, "I HAVE to be in my Father's house."

Top your Teachers

Jesus taught teachers of the Law, the Old Testament. His parents were astonished and the old men amazed at his wisdom. How did a young boy know so much? Read Psalm 119:97-99. Find a recipe for wisdom there. What are the ingredients? (loving the Word, spend time thinking about God's words, keep them in your heart – obey them – and spend time, all day long, thinking about God's commands). Soon, you will be wise too!

One Little Hour

The Bible tells us from the Old Testament to the New Testament that we should meet with other believers: "Keep holy the Sabbath" and "Do not give up meeting together." Church is important so that we can worship God, learn about Him, and be with our Christian brothers and sisters. God gives us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to do as we like. He only asks us for one little hour to go to church each week. Photocopy this page twice onto card stock and cut the tiles; there will be 168 tiles, one for each hour in a week. Scatter them on a table and gather the kids around the table. Read the above thoughts. Have them name and set aside every hour they might spend in a week on: sleep, school, play, homework, etc. How many hours are left? When you get to one little hour, ask them if they will spend it obeying God and going to church to worship Him.

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Where is Jesus?

Mary and Joseph searched for Jesus for three days. Why did it take so long? Jerusalem is not a huge city. It was the Passover, which meant it was jammed packed with worshippers and vendors from many nations. Pass around the map. Ask the kids to identify a spot and say, "Jesus might have gone to Golgotha (The Place of Skulls)." Add: "But Jesus was in the Temple. He had to be in his Father's house."

Find other places a boy might go to explore. Imagine and identify where they might be on this map.

- * climbing the olive trees in groves outside the city
- * observing the aqueducts
- * discovering the market that sells birds outside the temple
- * petting the sheep that were going to be sacrificed
- * watching the money changers
- * putting his feet in the pool of Siloam



The Big Question

Why did Mary and Joseph not know that Jesus had to be in his Father's house? Did they not really understand yet that he was the Son of God? How many people don't really understand who Jesus is? Do you?

