



JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

Luke 2:40-52

Dear Parents,

The Book of Luke records just two narratives about Jesus' childhood: His dedication (Luke 2:21-40) and His time at the temple when He was 12 years old (Luke 2:41-52). Both stories set the stage for Jesus' ministry on earth as an adult.

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews. They had dedicated the baby Jesus according to the law of Moses, and they traveled to Jerusalem each year to celebrate Passover. God had commanded the men to appear before Him three times a year to observe certain festivals. (See Deut. 16:16.) Once a year, those who followed God's law would travel to Jerusalem—often in large groups—to celebrate Passover.

In Bible times, a Jewish boy became a man at 13. His father would train him to take on all the responsibilities of adulthood, social and spiritual. Joseph was a carpenter, and he likely trained Jesus in his trade. When Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem, Joseph might have taken Jesus around the city to teach Him the significance of the temple and explain the purpose of the Passover feast.

Jesus' parents started the journey back home after the feast. They assumed Jesus was among their traveling companions, but He wasn't. Jesus had stayed behind at the temple. Mary and Joseph traveled for a day before they noticed Jesus was missing. They went back to Jerusalem and found Him at the temple.

When Mary asked why He had done this, Jesus answered Mary's question with a question: "Didn't you know that I had to be in My Father's house?" Mary and Joseph did

not understand. But Jesus is God's Son, and it was necessary that He honor His true Father. In all this, Jesus did not sin.

Even as a child, Jesus wanted to do His Father's plan. As Jesus grew up, He became strong and wise. God blessed Jesus as He got ready to follow His Father's plan: to die on the cross and rescue people from sin.

Check this session's Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jesus is God's Son.
 - Jesus went to the temple to worship God.
 - Jesus came to earth to do God's plan.
 - Jesus honored God the Father and His earthly parents too.
- **Preschool**
 - What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.
 - Jesus came to earth to do God's plan.
- **Kids**
 - What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.
 - Jesus came to earth to do His Father's plan.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- 1 Timothy 1:15

NEXT WEEK

- "Jesus Was Baptized" (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:19-34)



Our Vision for Children

At Harlan Baptist Church we take seriously the Lord's command to "bring [our children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

We envision a church culture or atmosphere that reflects that of Moses' instruction to God's people as they prepared to enter into the Promised Land as found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

In fact, Psalm 78 sets forth the very desire of our heart, that our children would hope in the Lord and not forget the God who gives them life.

Therefore, it is our desire to partner with parents in seeing our children come to faith in Christ and prepare them for life-long obedience to His Word.

At Harlan Baptist, we use a number of different methods and teaching styles to achieve these desired goals.

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