

**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY**  
**CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K & K)**

**Lesson #53**

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** The Lord Jesus As a Young Boy in His Father's House

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:40-51

**AIM:** To show the children that even as a young boy the Lord Jesus loved to come to His Father's house.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 John 4:15 "... Jesus is God's Son ..."

**Content:**

**Bible background**

It is natural to believe that as a boy, Jesus would have made the most of the educational opportunities of His time: the instruction of Mary and Joseph at home, of His teachers in school, of the rabbis in the synagogue, from the world of nature, and from the Holy Scriptures themselves.

At the age of 12, Jesus became a "son of the law" and was privileged to attend the Jewish Passover feast held in Jerusalem. What a thrilling experience that first trip must have been! It surely intensified Jesus' feeling of His unique relationship to His Father God! To Jesus, Jerusalem was His Father's city, the temple His Father's house, and the Passover feast His Father's rite.

Why Mary and Joseph searched for in Jerusalem without going directly to the temple is strange. There is a room where the learned rabbis taught, they found Him listening and asking questions – the way to learn – and showing such wisdom the understanding that the educated "doctors" were amazed. At 12, Jesus was a master of the Scriptures.

Jesus gently but firmly corrected Mary's reference, "Your father," which referred to Joseph, with the words, "My Father," that referred to God. Jesus at 12 knew He "must" "devoted all His thoughts and energy to His Heavenly Father's work (2:49). The first recorded words of Jesus clearly emphasize His deity. And the action that followed emphasized His humanity. "He went down with them (Mary and Joseph) and was subject unto them.

**Boy Jesus in His Father's house**

*Flannelboard* When Jesus was a little boy, He learned more and more about His Father God from His mother Mary and Joseph. When Jesus was a bigger boy, He learned more and more about His Father God. Jesus always wanted to learn more and more about His Father God.

Every day Jesus [*hold little Boy Jesus figure in one hand*] was growing to be a bigger boy. He was growing taller, and all the time, Jesus was learning more and more – He was growing wiser. [*Hold up 12-year-old figure in other hand.*] How glad Jesus was when He was old enough to go with Mary

and Joseph to His Father God's house in the big city far away! [*Lay aside small Boy Jesus. Place Mary and Joseph and 12-year-old Jesus in the middle of board.*] Lots of people were going to God's house. [*Place crowd.*] And as they walked, they sang happy songs and laughed together.

They walked and walked a long, long way. [*Move all gradually to left.*] How glad they were to get to the big city where God's house was! [*Remove all figures. Place three temple teachers and Boy Jesus as in sketch.*] What Jesus loved best about His Father's house was to listen to the wise teachers talk about God. Jesus loved to ask the wise teachers questions. They were surprised that He knew so much about God. Jesus was having a wonderful time in God's house! He didn't even think about going home!

But Mary and Joseph were ready to go home. [*Hold their joined figures in your right hand.*] And some other people had already started home. [*Place group in your right hand behind Mary and Joseph. Move group to the left to indicate traveling.*] Mary and Joseph thought that Jesus had left with them and was with some friends. At nighttime, they looked for Him. [*Have them walk beside crowd as if questioning individuals.*] They looked and they looked but they couldn't find Him anywhere. They asked everyone, "Have you seen Jesus?" But no one had.

They said, "We must go back to God's house." [*Lay aside crowd.*] So they started back. They walked all night – all the way back to God's house. [*Walk them to the right edge of board.*] "See some teachers over there," said Mary. "Maybe they have seen Jesus." They hurried to ask the teachers. [*Move them closer.*] [*Show Bible Picture #9*] And there was Jesus! He was listening to the teachers and asking questions. [*Exchange seated figure of Jesus for standing one, facing Mary.*]

Mary said, "Son, why have you done this to us? We have been so worried! We've been looking all over for you." Jesus was surprised. He said, "Didn't you know I would be in My Father's house?" But even though Jesus wanted to stay in God's house, He obeyed Mary and Joseph. Right away He started home with them. [*Walk them off board.*]

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