

## 28.11 Going to Jerusalem at Age Twelve (Luke 2:40-52)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *Passover (Unleavened Bread)*: a feast to remember Israel’s deliverance from Egypt, when God slew the firstborn of Egypt but passed over the houses of His people; this feast took place in early spring
- *Feast of Harvest (Weeks; Pentecost)*: a feast to commemorate the spring harvest (first fruits); it took place seven weeks after Passover
- *Feast of Ingathering (Booths; Tabernacles)*: a feast to remember Israel’s wandering forty years in the wilderness when they had to depend upon God; during this feast people lived in makeshift huts; the feast also celebrates the last harvest

### Scripture:

40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” 49 And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

### Introduction/Review:

King Herod the Great had destroyed all the male babies two years old and under because he wanted no competition for his throne. This is one of the cruelest and saddest scenes in all of Scripture as we consider those parents and those babies who were slaughtered. Jesus narrowly escaped the slaughter when Joseph, warned in a dream, took his family out of Bethlehem in the night and went to Egypt. How long did they stay in Egypt? [Until Herod had died and the angel of the Lord had told them to leave. This might have been only a few months.] Where did they settle? [Nazareth in Galilee.]

### Story:

All we know about Jesus’ first twelve years is that He “grew and became strong, He was filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.” Nothing foolish was found in Him. He never sinned, even in childhood. I wonder how it was for Him to leave the glory of His Father and to come down into the place of a boy, a human who needed to be obedient. But He willingly volunteered and “accepted the place God appointed for Him” (CAC 43f in Online Bible).

### ***Spiritual responsibility***

As He added years to His life, He reached the age of twelve. It was time for Him to take on responsibility for duties in public worship. Israelite males were commanded by God to appear before Him in Jerusalem three times a year—at Passover, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths (Exodus 23:14–19).

In the spring of Jesus' twelfth year, ✓He might have been eager to take part in Passover in Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph had always gone every year. ✓Although He might have attended before, this was the first year in which Jesus could participate—could demonstrate His own personal responsibility in Judaism. The actual Passover dinner on Saturday night consisted of roast lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs. We don't know exactly what the plan for the feast was during Jesus' time, but a modern Passover Seder (order) includes several foods eaten at scheduled times during the evening with certain words spoken at specific times. The whole meal can last two or more hours. (See <http://www.truthnet.org/Feasts-of-Israel/4-Passover/Index.htm> for the plan of a modern observation of Passover.)

Passover was not just one day or meal; it coordinated with the Feast of Unleavened Bread, during which no leaven was to be eaten and which lasted another week. So Joseph and Mary were in Jerusalem for "Passover" about eight days.

### ***Family submission***

Quite a group of relatives and friends had traveled to Jerusalem and would travel together back to Nazareth. ✓In those days, kids probably were not always under their parents' watchful eyes as they hung around or played hither and yon. Therefore, when it was time to go home, apparently Mary and Joseph assumed Jesus was in the crowded caravan of people. But He wasn't there. They discovered His absence the first night after they traveled a full day and had two days to go.

"Have you seen Jesus?" they asked their friends and relatives.

"No," answered a mother. "Let's ask Jesse if he's seen him."

"Jesse, have you seen Jesus today?" asked Joseph.

"No, I haven't seen him since yesterday," answered Jesse.

This interrogation went on for a while until Joseph and Mary realized Jesus just was not with their group. "We need to go back to Jerusalem," they decided.

It had taken them one day to get this far; it would take another day to return to Jerusalem. Two days passed. When they reached Jerusalem, they looked everywhere and found Jesus ✓on that third day. Where was He? With the great teachers of the Law at the Temple. ✓Seeing the teachers sitting in a semicircle, Mary and Joseph searched the rows of students sitting on the ground at the teachers' feet (TFG 58–59 and Gill in Online Bible). There was Jesus, listening to the scholars and asking them questions. All the teachers and students who heard Jesus were amazed at His understanding of God's Word.

### ***Heavenly family responsibility***

When his parents saw and heard Him, they, too, were astonished. ✓Mary seemed to blame Jesus for her lack of keeping track of Him when she said, "Son, why have you treated us so? Your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."

Jesus' innocent answer was this: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house, doing My Father's business?"

What was Jesus saying? ✓He knew God to be His true Father. He knew He needed more knowledge of God and His ways. He knew He was learning from these teachers; so He needed to be there, perhaps not even realizing that his family's crowd had left the city.

Mary and Joseph didn't understand. ✓They might have said, "Well, it is now time to go home. Come with

us.”

Jesus obediently went with them, submitting Himself to them.

✓This incident was yet another mystery to Mary—a wonder about her God-Man Son that she could not fathom. She tucked it away; the Bible says she “treasured up all these things in her heart.”

This is all the record we have of the next eighteen years of Jesus’ life. From other Scriptures we know that other children were born to Joseph and Mary (Mark 6:3). ✓It seems as if Joseph died sometime during, perhaps at the end of, these years and ✓that Mary and Jesus moved to Capernaum.

During all this time, “Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.” What a wonderful God-Man He is!

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- Jesus is God: He was fully conscious that He was the Son of God.
- Are you age twelve or above? Like Jesus, it is time for you to take responsibility for your spiritual life.
- We should not be restless in the place where God has placed us. Jesus humbled Himself to become a human for our sake. God has a plan to use us where we are.
- Some people think this action of Jesus was disobedience of His parents. It was not, for the Bible states He was without sin (Hebrews 4:15). If Jesus’ actions seem disrespectful, remember He was under obligation to a higher Authority—His Heavenly Father. Jesus did not respond with a lack of courtesy or an act of rebellion; it was an act of obedience to the Father. The passage states that his parents “did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.” Many times in His life He would wonder at the ignorance of others. ✓Here is the first example in His first speech in the Bible.
- “The method of question and answer was the customary form of rabbinical teaching” (JFB at Online Bible). Students, feel free to ask questions in this class/club.
- We, too, should “treasure” in our hearts all the things we learn of Jesus.
- Jesus submitted Himself to His parents, even though He had “wowed” the great teachers. Students are not so smart that they can be disrespectful of parents. Submit to authority.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: scrolls; people; Temple pillars
- Bring pieces of roasted lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs (Romaine lettuce dipped in salt water or horseradish—perish the thought) for students to taste if they wish.
- Play the YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtyVKPACIeU>) of a country-type song, “On My Father’s Side,” based on this story. (Disclaimer: Jesus did not tell the doctors He was the King of kings as the lyrics state. Otherwise, it’s a pretty neat song.) Lyrics may be found at <http://roughstock.com/lyrics/2008/07/7862-village-singers-on-my-fathers-side-crd>. My visual aid for the refrain is found below (5 pages). I put the “Mother’s Side” on the front of a poster board and the “Father’s Side” on the back and flipped the poster from front to back while singing the refrain.
- Print and prepare take-home booklets for this story. The online source for ordering or downloading for \$12.99 is <https://www.carsondellosa.com/products/0499--New-Testament-Take-Home-Bible-Stories-Resource-Book-0499#/?book%20media%20type=f389e45b92884d48844baaf09d49e3c5>. The book is less expensive at other sites, but those sites do not offer the ebook.
- Determine a town or landmark about 70 miles from your location. Tells students that is how far Joseph, Mary, and Jesus walked to Jerusalem and then, again, back to Nazareth.

- Sing “Going to the Temple,” found below.
- Review questions: (Game: Line up students in a row facing the teacher about ten steps away. Tell the students that you are at Jerusalem. For each correct answer, the whole line may move forward one step.)
  1. Where did Joseph and Mary go every year? [To Jerusalem.]
  2. What did they do there? [Observed Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread.]
  3. Name one food eaten at the Passover meal. [Roasted lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs.]
  4. On the way home, what did Mary and Joseph discover? [Jesus was not with the traveling group.]
  5. How many days had the group traveled when Mary and Joseph realized Jesus was not with them? [A day’s journey.]
  6. Where did Joseph and Mary find Jesus? [At the Temple.]
  7. What was Jesus doing at the Temple? [Asking and answering questions with the teachers.]
  8. What did the teachers think of Jesus? [They were amazed at his understanding and his answers.]
  9. What was Jesus’ answer when His parents asked why He had not come with them? [“Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” or “I must be about My Father’s business.”]
  10. How did Jesus grow in the next eighteen years? [In wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man.]

### Memory Verse[s]:

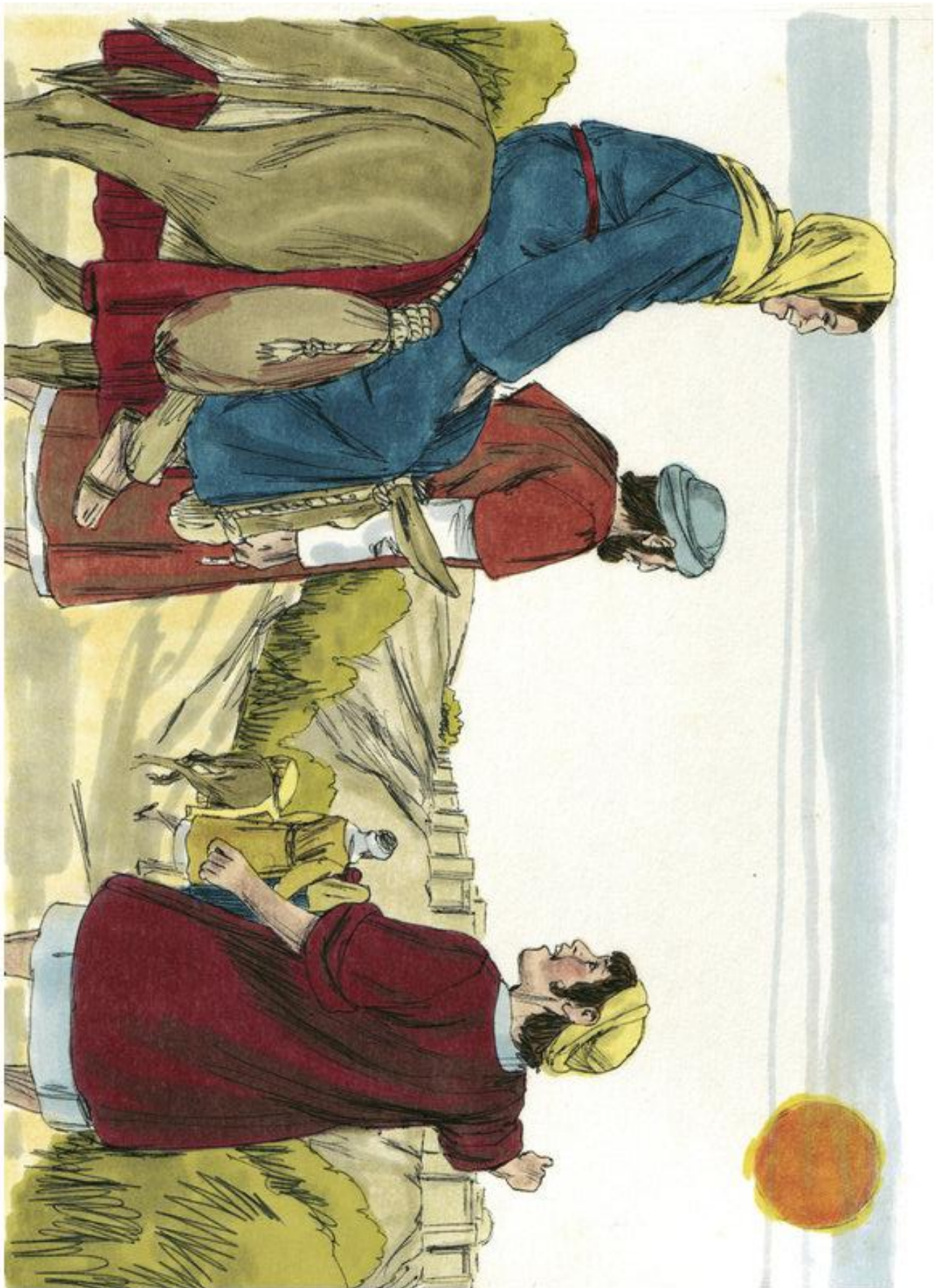
- Luke 2:52— Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.
- John 1:1-14:
  - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
  - 2 He was in the beginning with God.
  - 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
  - 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
  - 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
  - 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.
  - 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
  - 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
  - 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
  - 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
  - 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
  - 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
  - 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
  - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

### Handwork:

**Passover (Unleavened  
Bread)**

**Feast of Harvest (Weeks;  
Pentecost)**

**Feast of Ingathering  
(Booths; Tabernacles)**











*All that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.*



# Mother's Side (human)

**“My name is JESUS.”**

**“Now I'm 12 years.”**



**"I'm from Bethlehem."**



**"I'll be crucified."**

# Father's Side (divine)

**"They call me**



**."**

**"I've just always been."**



**"It's the New Jerusalem."**



**"In 3 days I will rise . . ."**



**"and I'll sit at My**



**Father's side."**