

The Story of the Finding in the Temple

Luke 2: 41-52

With the death of Herod, the immediate threat against Jesus' life ended. The angel of the Lord appeared to **Joseph** and told him that it was safe to return home. So Joseph, Mary and Jesus journeyed to their home in **Nazareth**, a small town in Galilee.

The Bible tells us that Jesus "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom and the favor of God." We are not told about the details of His life as a boy. However we do know some information based on what is related to us in other parts of the Bible. We know Jesus is spoken of as both a **carpenter** and a carpenter's son. It appears that He assisted Joseph in his chosen trade. Jesus probably grew up as did other Jewish boys of that age, taking part in the youthful sports of the day, mingling with neighbors and attending the social and religious activities of the community.

Because Joseph and **Mary** were not wealthy in material things, Jesus was probably brought up in a very simple home. His house may have been made of walls of whitewashed stones and its floors may have been bare earth. The furniture might have consisted of a small table or two, a wooden chest for clothing, woven baskets for food, earthen jars for water, and a stand from which a stone lamp gave out a flickering light. The beds in that time were often made of woven rugs, which were kept on a platform at one end of the room during the day and spread on the earthen floor at night. Unlike many children today, Jesus grew up with very few material things.

We know that Jesus grew up in a very loving home. As a boy, Jesus showed His love for both Mary and Joseph as well as His love for God. He learned and lived the **scriptures** each and every day. Jesus may have even been sent to school in the village **synagogue**, where He was taught to read. Children of this time were instructed in the word of God from scrolls containing the books of the Old Testament, and required to memorize long passages from the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms.



When Jesus was a boy of twelve, the **age of reason** in the Jewish tradition, He was allowed to accompany Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem for the annual feast of the **Passover**. This was the feast which reminded the Jewish people of the time when the angel of death stalked the land of Egypt, taking the firstborn in every home which was not protected by the blood of a lamb sprinkled on the doorposts.

Jesus probably walked among the courts of the temple, and looked upon the great altar with its burning sacrifices. He may have watched the priests in their white robes as they ministered about the altar, and heard the **Rabbis** explain the laws of Israel while on this trip. In fact, He may have been so completely fascinated with these sacred proceedings that He did not realize that His parents and friends had started on the journey back to Nazareth.

There was a large **caravan** of pilgrims traveling the road which Mary and Joseph took on their way home. They went for a whole day before they realized Jesus was missing. Mary and Joseph returned to **Jerusalem** at once to search for Him. It took three days to find Him. His parents found Him conversing with the learned teachers in the temple and astonishing them with His wisdom. Mary gently **reprimanded** Jesus for staying behind, and He replied, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" At the time, neither Joseph nor Mary fully understood what Jesus meant.

Thanking God that they had found Him, Mary and Joseph took Jesus and returned to Nazareth. Jesus grew in wisdom and the favor of God.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Worksheet #23

Key Words - The Story of the Finding in the Temple

age of reason

Jerusalem

Nazareth

reprimanded

caravan

Joseph

Passover

scriptures

carpenter

Mary

Rabbis

synagogue

A. Letters in a Box

Five **key words** are scrambled in the boxes below. Unscramble each word and write it in the space under the box. Use the clues under the spaces to help you reveal the answer.

O		H	
E	S	J	P

A	V	R	
A	C	A	N

A		R
	M	Y

Jesus' father

People traveling together

Jesus' mother

C	R	R	T	P	
U		S	I	E	S

E	R	P	A	N
E		C	T	R

Word of God

Joseph's occupation

B. Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks with correct **key word(s)**.

1. In the Jewish tradition, when a boy was twelve years old he was said to be at the _____.
2. Jesus and his family traveled with many other people in a large _____ to Jerusalem and back home again.
3. Jesus may have been taught to read at the village _____.
4. Jesus listened to the _____ explain the laws of Israel.
5. Jesus worked with his father as a _____.

C. Matching

Match the **key word** on the left with the correct phrase on the right.

_____ Reprimand

A. the town in Galilee where Jesus grew up

_____ Synagogue

B. the town where Mary, Joseph and Jesus traveled to celebrate Passover

_____ Jerusalem

C. learned teachers

_____ Passover

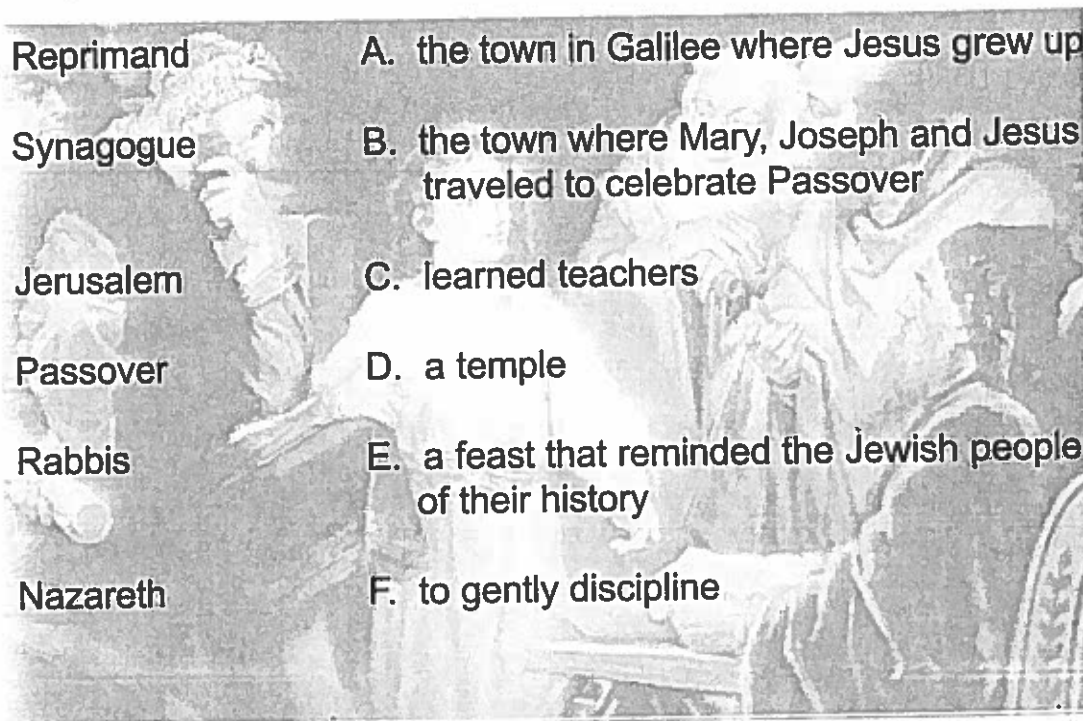
D. a temple

_____ Rabbis

E. a feast that reminded the Jewish people of their history

_____ Nazareth

F. to gently discipline



D. Essay Questions

What did Jesus mean when he said to his mother, "Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?"

Joseph and Mary worried about Jesus because they loved him. How do your parents show their love for you?
