

Luke 2: 41 – 52

Jesus in the Temple

When Jesus was 12 years old, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover as they did every year. When they began the journey home, Jesus stayed behind in the temple, without his parents knowing this. They had traveled the entire day thinking that Jesus was among the travelers.

That evening they began looking for him among friends and relatives but couldn't find him. They returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his ability to answer questions.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished. Mary said, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."

He replied, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house – doing his work?"

But they didn't understand his answer. Jesus returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. Mary treasured all of these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.