



Unit 2, Lesson 8

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: JESUS VISITS THE TEMPLE LUKE 2: 41-52

THE STORY HOME

Tradition and obedience. Today's story shows that 12-year-old Jesus, His parents, and relatives travel to Jerusalem for an annual religious festival. While there, Jesus amazes the temple teachers with His understanding of God and His wise answers to their questions. (Luke 2:41-52) It's interesting that God often seems to do something important when a group of people are gathered together, like in church. With all the chaos and crowds, Mary and Joseph leave for home but later discover they've accidentally left Jesus behind. They return to retrieve Him. Although Jesus is the Messiah and will become a spiritual leader, He still obeys His earthly mom and dad. He leaves with His parents and the family goes back home to Nazareth, where Jesus grows in wisdom and gains a good reputation with both God and people.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Every year Jesus' family went to Jerusalem for a religious festival. What are some of your family traditions?
- Why do you think Jesus amazed the teachers and elders with His knowledge of God?
- How do you avoid getting separated from each other in public places?
- Jesus obeyed His mom and dad even though He wanted to continue talking to the temple teachers. Name a time when you obeyed even though you wanted to do something else.

TOGETHER HOME

The habit or custom of doing things together is called "tradition." Talk with your family about the habit of church attendance. This week encourage your family to sit together at church and then over lunch discuss the church service. If that is not possible, then start a new habit of going to the library, a ballgame, or a play together. Some families have the tradition of going to see a special program each Christmas season. It's the ritual of being together that bonds families and makes for memories. Remember, to be in your child's happy memories tomorrow, you must be in his or her life today.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11) is our monthly verse. An easy way to commit it to memory is to repeat it while stressing different words, for example, "born TO YOU;" (a gift) or "he IS the Messiah..." (confirmation) or "THE Messiah, THE Lord" (our one and only). When words are emphasized, the verse gives fresh meaning.

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