Lesson: 9

Honouring God

Jesus in the Temple

LOOK at the young boy talking to these older men. They are teachers in God's temple at Jerusalem. The boy is **Jesus**. He has grown up quite a bit. Now he is 12 years old.

The teachers are very surprised that Jesus knows so much about God and the things written in the Bible. But why aren't Joseph and Mary here too? Where are they? Let's find out.

Every year Joseph brings his family to **Jerusalem** for the special celebration called the **Passover**. It's a long trip from Naz′a·reth to Jerusalem. No one has a car, and there are no trains. They didn't have them in those days. Most of the people walk, and it takes them about three days to get to Jerusalem.

By now Joseph has a big family. So there are some younger brothers and sisters of Jesus to look after. Well, this year Joseph and Mary have left with their children on the long trip back home to Naz′a·reth. They think that Jesus is with others traveling along. But when they stop at the end of the day, they can't find Jesus. They look for him among their relatives and friends, but he's not with them! So they return to Jerusalem to look for him there.

At last, they find Jesus here with the teachers. He is **listening** to them and **asking** questions. And all the people are amazed at how wise Jesus is. But Mary says: 'Child, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been very worried trying to find you.'

'Why did you have to look for me?' Jesus answers. 'Didn't you know that I had to be in the house of my Father?'

Yes, Jesus loves to be where he can learn about God. Isn't that the way we should feel too? Back home in Naz′a·reth, Jesus would go to meetings for worship every week. Because he always paid attention, he learned many things from the Bible. Let's be like Jesus and follow his example.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Date: _____

1. Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem? [1]

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2. Where did Jesus parent believe he was? [1]

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3. Why did Jesus stay behind in Jerusalem? [2]

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4. Why were the people in the temple amazed at Jesus? [2]

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5. Why do you think Mary "treasured these things in her heart"? [2]

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6. Quote the questions Jesus asked his parents. [2]

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LIVEWORKSHEETS