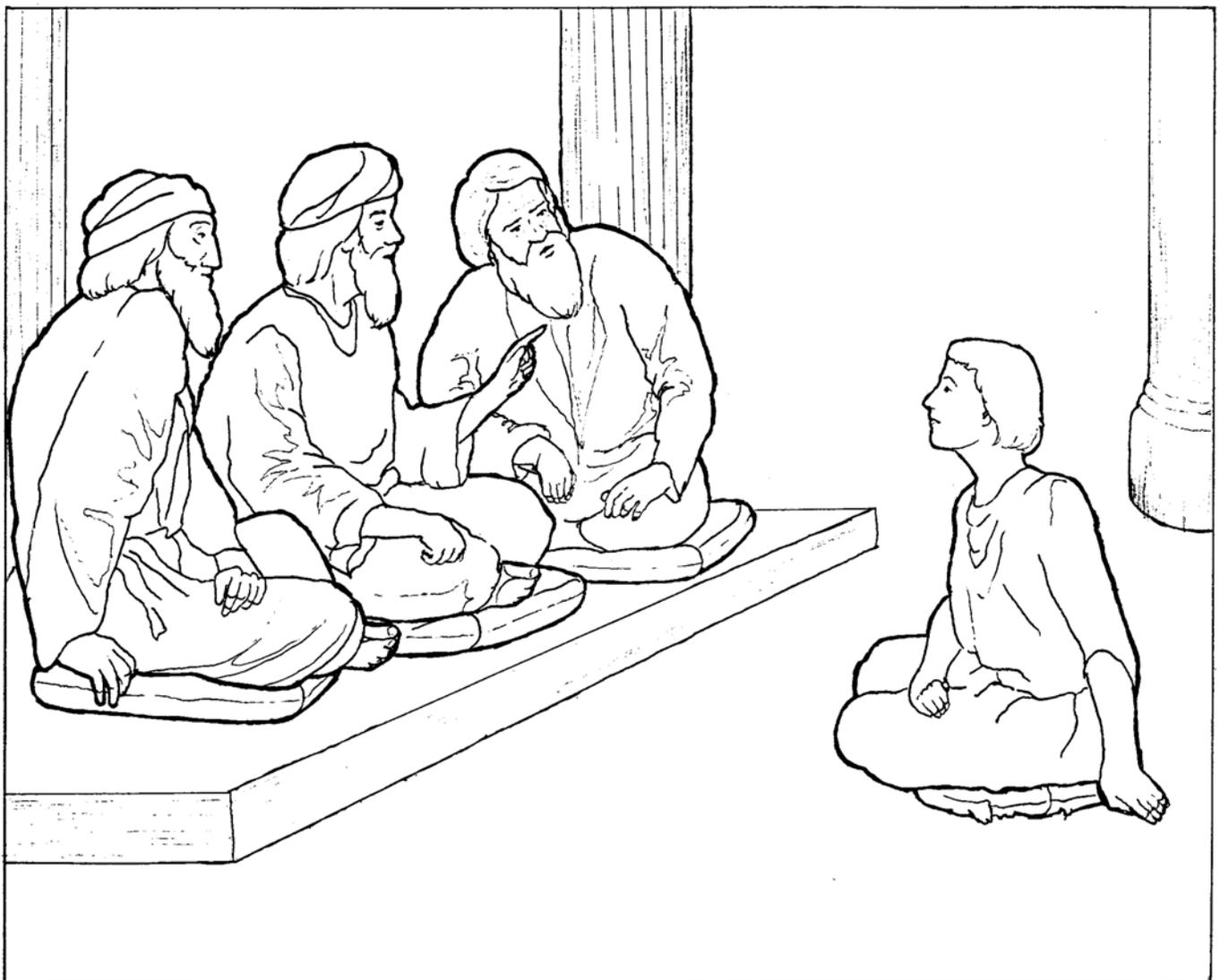


Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:40-52



The Story

The Bible tells us that as a child Jesus grew strong in His body and spirit. He became very wise and God's grace was upon Him. Today we will read the only story in the Bible about Jesus as a child.

Every year Jesus' mother and father would travel from their town Nazareth to a city called Jerusalem. They went to the Passover feast. When Jesus was twelve years old He went with His parents, Mary and Joseph, to Jerusalem for the feast. They went because God wanted them to go.

After the feast was over, Mary and Joseph started traveling back to Nazareth with all the other people from that city. Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His mother and father did not know Jesus had stayed in Jerusalem. They thought He was traveling with other friends and family.

Mary and Joseph traveled for a whole day before looking for their Boy. When they could not find Jesus, they went back to Jerusalem to look for Him.

They looked and looked for Jesus. After three days, they found Him. He

was in the temple. The teachers were all around Him. Jesus was listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Him could hardly believe how much Jesus knew.

When Jesus' mother and father saw Him they were very surprised. His mother said to Jesus, "Son, why have you done this to us? Look, your father and I have been very worried while we looked for you."

Jesus told His mother and father He did not know why they were looking for Him. He thought they knew He would be doing God's work. He thought they knew He must be learning God's Word. But Jesus' mother and father did not understand what Jesus said to them.

Jesus went back to Nazareth with His parents and obeyed them always. Mary kept all the things she had seen and been told in her heart. Jesus kept growing wiser and stronger, and God and men admired Jesus very much.

The boy Jesus came to do His heavenly Father's business.

Activity One - Choose from the following words to finish the sentences below. Then put the words in the correct places in the crossword puzzle.

Nazareth, Son, three, Temple, Passover, Jerusalem

ACROSS

1. Jesus was talking with the teachers in the ____.
3. Joseph and Mary looked for Jesus for a long time in the city of ____.
4. Joseph, Mary and Jesus lived in ____ .

1			2				
3							
4							
5							

DOWN

1. Joseph and Mary looked for Jesus ____ days.
2. Jesus and His parents went to the feast of the ____.
4. Jesus is God's ____.

Jesus willingly treasured God's Word perfectly for us.

Activity Two - Use the 3rd Commandment to help answer the questions.

3rd Commandment - Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

How did Jesus show He loved God's Word?
 How can you show you love God's Word?

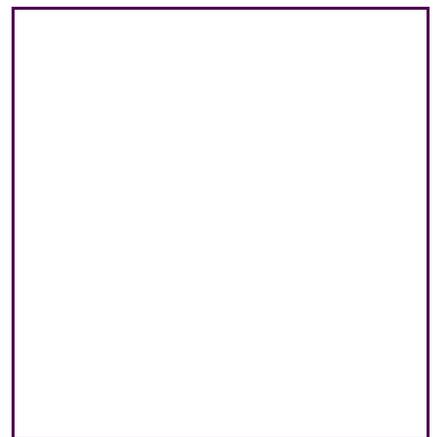
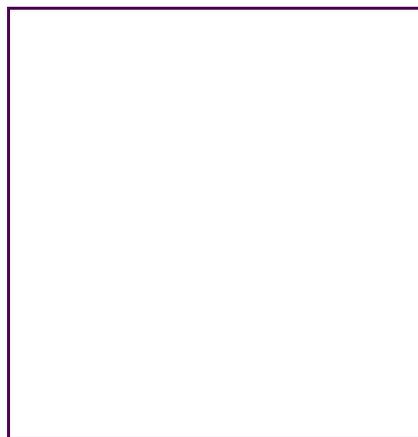
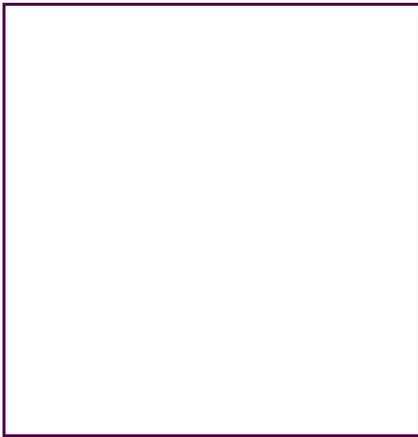
Passages

Psalm 122:1 - I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Luke 11:28 - (Jesus said) "Blessed are those who hear the word of God
and keep it!"

Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Draw pictures of three places where you can learn God's Word.



Hymn - TLH 297 v. 1, 3, 4, 6

The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That man might thus be justified.

It brings the Savior's righteousness
Our souls to robe in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release
And gives the troubled conscience peace.

It is the pow'r of God to save
From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith, which firmly clings
To all the treasures which it brings.

May we in faith its tidings learn
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess
And praise the Lord our Righteousness!

Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for giving us Your Word. Help us to love Your Word and gladly learn it
like You did when You were a child. Help us when we let other things become
more important than You and Your Word. In Your name we pray. Amen.