

## Parents Connect

**Bible Story:**  
Where Was Jesus?  
(Luke 2:41-52)

**Bible Phrase:** "Jesus is the Son of God" (John 20:31).

**Bible Truth:** God helps me know about Jesus.



## God's Unfolding Story



1. God created everything



2. People disobeyed God.



3. God chose a special people.



4. **God sent Jesus to help us.**



5. Jesus began the Church.



6. Jesus is preparing heaven for us.



### Unfolding God's Story for Parents

A major part of understanding a story is to identify with the characters in the story. Parents, I know you can identify with the fear Mary and Joseph must have felt as they realized their Son was not with them. Can you imagine the conversation:  
Mary: Joseph, I just asked you to watch Him for a minute and now where is he?

Joseph: Mary, he is a big boy, and He can take care of himself; He will be fine.

Mary: Just look at all these people, and where did Jesus sleep, and what did He eat?

The bottom line for this story is that, even at 12 years old, Jesus was not an ordinary boy. His wisdom amazed the teachers in the temple.

### With Your Child

Ask: Can you remember a time when you could not find Mommy or Daddy? How did you feel?

Say: Our story today is about a time when Jesus was 12 and was not with His parents. Listen to learn what His parents and the teachers in the temple thought about Jesus.

Tell the story.

### Bible Story Where Was Jesus? (Luke 2:41-52)

When Jesus was 12 years old, His family traveled to the temple in Jerusalem. They had come to the temple every year since Jesus' birth. They went to temple to celebrate God and His blessings to their family. There were lots of people at the

celebration. It was a happy time to sing and worship God in the temple.

The festival ended, and all the families started on their long trips home. Some people were walking; others perhaps were riding donkeys. Children probably were playing as they ran and skipped down the dusty road. Mary and Joseph thought Jesus was with His friends and relatives somewhere along the path.

The people walked for a whole day. It was time to rest for the night, but where was Jesus? Mary and Joseph asked their relatives, "Have you seen Jesus?" They asked some of Jesus' friends, "Have you seen Jesus?" No one had seen Jesus. Where was Jesus?

Mary and Joseph decided to return to Jerusalem. They may have asked others along the way if they had seen Jesus. They must have been tired and worried when they reached Jerusalem.

The next day, Mary and Joseph went to the temple. Guess who they found? Jesus! He was sitting with the teachers, listening and asking questions to learn more about God. The teachers were very surprised Jesus knew so much about God.

Mary said to Jesus, "Why didn't You leave with us? We have been looking everywhere, and we were so worried!" Jesus said to His parents, "Didn't you know I would be at the temple?"

Mary and Joseph were glad they found Jesus and that He was safe. Jesus obeyed His parents and went home. The Bible teaches us Jesus continued to grow bigger and stronger and to understand more about His heavenly Father.

### Activity Suggestion

Play Where's \_\_\_\_\_ (your child's name)  
(same as "Hide and Seek")

After the story, talk about how important it is for Mommy and Daddy to know where you are so we can take good care of you. Sometimes we can play a game of hiding; but when we are not playing the game, it is very important that you not hide from parents.

Take turns hiding while the other waits, then switch roles so the other hides.

Explain that Jesus was not playing a game or being disobedient to His parents when He stayed at the temple. He was an older boy and needed to talk with the teachers about God and the Bible.