

Week 17

Jesus as a Young Boy



Jesus was once a busy, growing child. God helped Jesus grow, just as He helps you grow. Jesus grew bigger and stronger. He grew smarter. He grew in His love for God and for other people.

One time, Jesus' family went to the city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival. The family walked many miles to get there. They traveled with friends and camped out at night. When they got to the city of Jerusalem, they went to the large, beautiful temple church. They worshiped God in the temple church and listened to the teachers tell about God's Word.

When the celebration was over, Mary and Joseph started for home. But Jesus was still at the temple church. Jesus was still learning more and more about His heavenly Father's work. When Mary and Joseph realized that Jesus was not with them, they searched everywhere in the busy town. (*) Then Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple church, talking to the teachers. Jesus loved going to church to learn about God's love.

Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

Think about It

Read about Jesus in the temple-church in your Bible in Luke 2:41–52. Praise God that He gives us parents, teachers, and other caregivers who tell about the love of Jesus. Name some of your child's special teachers as you pray for them.

Bible Words

God is with you
wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9



Dear Family,

You can see the many ways your child is growing physically, socially, and intellectually. Your child is also growing spiritually. He is growing in his love for God and in his understanding of who God is. She is learning that because Jesus loves her, she can share that love with others. Your support in this growth is vital. Take time to do some growing yourself by spending time in God's Word and coming with your child to church and Sunday School.

Make a special "church bag" to carry items your child may use during church. Include a small pad of paper, a pencil, books, Christian stickers, and perhaps a simple puzzle. Remind your child that God helps our faith and love for Him to grow as we read, study, and hear His Word.

Read more about the Bible lesson on pages 290-292 in *The Story Bible*, which is available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH).

