

Bible background

Luke 2:41-52

Aim of lesson

To show that Jesus was once a child and that he obeyed his parents.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Tell the children to hide in the classroom while you cover your eyes. Call them by name, one by one to come and sit down as you see them. Children usually have a great sense of imagination and will enjoy doing this even if the only space to hide is behind your chair. Once you have found them ask if any of them have ever been really lost - in a shopping centre for example.
2. Tell how Mary and Joseph once thought Jesus was lost. They had packed a picnic and gone on a long walk probably camping on the way. Ask the children if they have ever had a picnic and what they like best for a picnic meal. Tell how the family went a long way to Jerusalem to worship God at the Temple. A lot of people would be going at that time because it was a special celebration. When Mary and Joseph packed up for the journey home they thought Jesus was with the other children. Mary and Joseph had other young children to look after, so they were busy, but Jesus was not with the other children, and by the time his parents realised it they were a day's journey away. Mary and Joseph spent the next day going back and on the third day searched through Jerusalem.
3. Tell the children about the conversation when they met Jesus. Tell how Jesus would have liked to have stayed longer, but he obeyed his parents; and bring out that even as a boy he knew who his real Father was, and that he must learn how to please him.
4. Use the activity sheets here to re-tell this part of the story.
5. Teach the song 'Jesus Went To Jerusalem'.

Alternative activities

1. Make Plasticine/playdough baskets and food for the journey to Jerusalem.
2. Have some role play based on how Jesus would help his mother and father at home. Provide some cooking utensils, a broom, and if possible some toy tools for in the carpenters workshop.
3. Make a picture of Jesus surrounded by the men in the Temple. Make some paper doors to cover the picture. The doors can then be opened to show where Jesus is.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if they obey their parents when they would prefer to carry on doing something they are interested in.

Prayer

Ask who would like to say a prayer for children who get lost.

Verse

'They found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.' Luke 2:46.

Song

Jesus Went To Jerusalem (Tune: Peter Hammers With One Hammer)



- v.1 Jesus went to Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem
Jesus went to Jerusalem, when he was twelve.
- v.2 Mary and Joseph looked for him, looked for him, looked for him.
Mary and Joseph looked for him, looked for three days.
- v.3 Then at last they found him, found him, found him,
Then at last they found him. They were very glad.
- v.4 He was in the temple, temple, temple
He was in the temple, in his Father's house.

Music: Traditional.