

GRADES  
K-6

# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Printable Lesson Kit



**M**  **GHTY MESSAGES**

# THANK YOU

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# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

## LESSON OVERVIEW



### BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE MIGHTY MESSAGES

This lesson on Jesus at age 12 will help children think about what's important. Is it following the crowd or being interested in the Father's work? Jesus could have followed in the caravan of people out of Jerusalem. Instead, he was different. He was more serious. He sets a great example.



### How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Printable Craft
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



#### MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- What Would Jesus Do Questions File (game)
- Basket (game)
- White cardstock
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

## SCRIPTURE & LESSON

### PASSAGE (NIV): LUKE 2:41-52

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:



#### Luke 2:41-52

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

<sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

## Questions for Children about Boy Jesus in the Temple

1. Jesus was 12 years old when this happened. What did his parents find him doing? **Studying with the teachers in the Temple.** After the virgin-birth miracle, Jesus was a normal baby who had to grow up like any other child does. What do you think he was trying to find out in the Temple?
2. In Jewish tradition, 12 is only one year from being a man. How might your life be different if people wanted you to be a man at 13 instead of 21? **You'd have to be a lot more serious and grow up quicker.** Today people joke that 30 is the new 20. In other words, people do not grow up as fast. Is it better to be pushed to grow up or encouraged to stay childlike?
3. We barely know anything about Jesus' childhood. Scholars say he probably didn't stand out, or someone would have written about it. The passage ends with Jesus "growing in favor with God and man." What do you think he was like at 12? Try to describe a day in his life.



### TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

We really don't know exactly what Jesus looked like. Artists have drawn pictures of him, but they're guessing. The only thing we have is the prophecy found in Isaiah 53:2: "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him."

So, what might this tell us about what Jesus looked like? **Only that he looked pretty much like everybody else. He blended in.**

It's very common in our culture that we tend to admire people who are very beautiful. Have you noticed that? But Jesus himself isn't said to be among the most handsome, and he is God's only Son. What does that tell us about the importance of beauty? **We shouldn't put too much emphasis on it. We should try to look at people's hearts because that's where real beauty is found.**

Now let's look at how Jesus acted as a child. All we really know is that he never gave into temptations, he resisted peer pressure, and probably stayed out of the spotlight to avoid those situations.

And yet here is something that is often surprising to people about Jesus. When he grew to be a man, he went back to his hometown in Nazareth, where he grew up. The people heard him teaching in the synagogue that he was God's anointed.

The people said, "Heh? Isn't this Mary's son? Isn't this Jesus merely the son of that carpenter?" What might this tell us about Jesus' behavior as a child that they were remembering? **He didn't stand out.** How was it sort of like his appearance? **They are the same.**

Jesus blended in at your age. Concerning his claims to be the Messiah, **nobody really saw it coming.**

You see, to be good, that doesn't mean that you always have to stand out in the crowd. The good news in that is that you can follow God, and that doesn't necessarily mean you will make a huge spectacle of yourself. People who are shy or who don't like to be center of attention—they can follow God just as easily as people who are very outgoing.

There are times in our lives when we **don't** want to copy those around us. Those times include when God might want us to do something bigger, something more important. Sometimes that means being quiet, being least likely to be seen.

**You can be like Jesus without being so different that you're consistently standing out.** But when it counts? Dare to be different. Jesus did, and he was only 12.



# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

## PRINTABLE CRAFT



### MATERIALS:

- Boy Jesus at Temple Printable Craft (two pages that follow)
- White Cardstock or Paper
- Coloring Utensils
- Scissors
- Glue

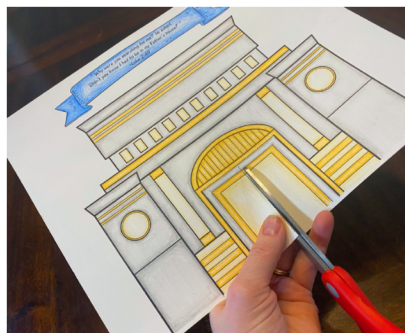


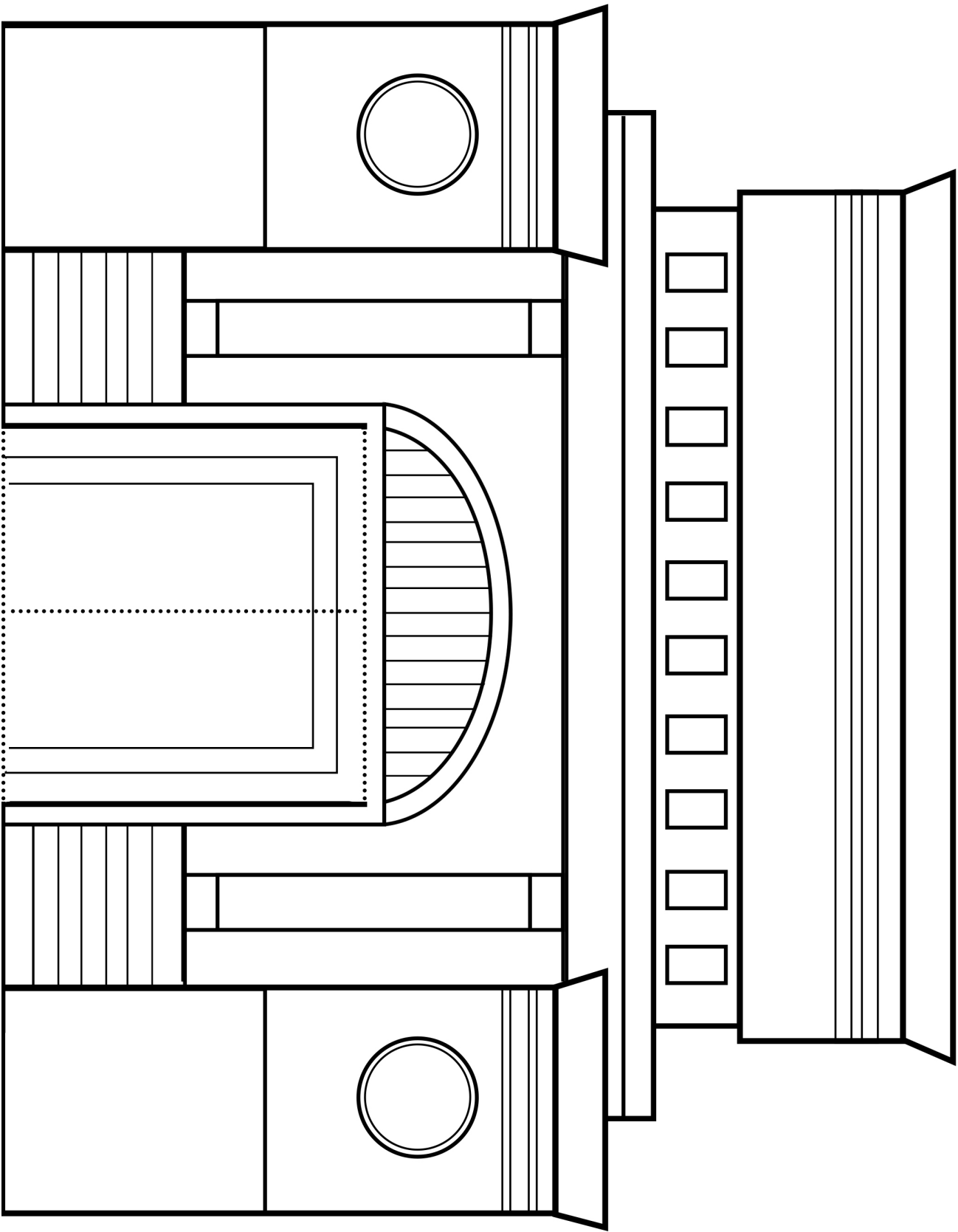
### PREPARATION:

- Print one copy of each page for each student

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Color pages as desired
2. Carefully along dotted lines around temple doors and fold open
3. Add glue to back of temple page, avoiding the folded temple doors, and paste to the front of picture of boy Jesus.
4. Open and close doors to see boy Jesus in temple





" 'Why were you searching for me?' he asked.  
'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?' "  
- Luke 2:49





### WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Q & A

Here's a laid-back discussion with students inspired by four scenarios of what Jesus would have done at their age. Keep the answers for yourself and cut up the questions for students, using the multiple-choice answers



#### MATERIALS:

- What Would Jesus Do Questions File—four scenarios
- Basket

#### Preparation

1. Make two copies of the question file—one for your answer sheet and one for the students.
2. Cut the students' questions into strips containing the questions and multiple-choice options.
3. Fold all four questions in half and place them in a basket for students to pick one at a time to read.

### INTRODUCTION

Let's play a game where we try to decide what Jesus would do at your age. Remember, Jesus never sinned. We'll take turns picking scenarios out of a hat. We'll read the predicament and try to decide what Jesus would do—or what we should do if it happened to us!



#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Have kids take turns picking a question from the basket, and reading it. Students can discuss what the correct answer is and why. Use your teacher's notes to explain the answers.

**YOUR FRIEND PULLS HIS CAT'S TAIL REALLY HARD. THE CAT MEOWS, BUT YOUR FRIEND SHRUGS. "IT DOESN'T HURT," HE SAYS. "THAT WAS A LAUGHING MEOW! YOU TRY IT!" WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?**

- a. pull the cat's tail to be polite to your friend, but not hard enough to hurt the cat;
- b. pretend you're pulling the cat's tail, but really don't
- c. point out how the cat might feel and how helpless it is
- d. tell your friend that if he wants to continue being friends, he'll have to quit acting up

**YOU BURNED POPCORN IN THE MICROWAVE. YOU KNOW YOUR MOM WILL BE MAD ABOUT THE SMELL AND THE IRRESPONSIBILITY. YOUR FRIEND JACK JUST LEFT. YOU COULD SAY THAT HE POPPED THE POPCORN AND PUT THE TIMER ON TOO HIGH, AND IT WILL GET YOU OUT OF TROUBLE, AND BESIDES, SHE WOULD NEVER YELL AT HIM, SO NOBODY WILL BE IN TROUBLE. WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?**

- a. Just say Jack burned the popcorn, and nobody will be hurt.
- b. Tell your mom the truth. Even if she yells, it might be a good opportunity to discuss how her yelling isn't always fair.
- c. Say, "That Jack! What is wrong with him?" You're not exactly lying because it's just implying.
- d. Tell your mom the truth and remind her of the horrible smell when she burned the meatloaf that week; point out the hypocrisy if she yells.

**DURING A TEST IN SCHOOL, YOU SEE A KID COPYING ANSWERS FROM THE KID SITTING NEXT TO HIM. BUT THE CHEATING KID IS KIND OF BIG AND SCARY. YOU'RE NOT SURE YOU WANT TO GET HIM IN TROUBLE BY TELLING. HE MIGHT BE MEAN TO YOU LATER. WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?**

- a. Mind your own business; it's safer;
- b. Tell the teacher when nobody else is looking. It's honest but safe;
- c. Tell the teacher in front of everyone; after all, Jesus said "Shout the truth from the rooftops!"
- d. Tell the cheating kid to stop or you're telling.

**YOUR FRIENDS WANT TO WALK OUT ON THE LAKE AFTER IT FREEZES. YOUR MOM HAS TOLD YOU NEVER TO DO THIS, AND YOU TELL YOUR FRIENDS AS MUCH. THEY LAUGH AT YOU AND CALL YOU A BABY AS THEY HEAD OUT ONTO THE ICE. WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?**

- a. head out onto the ice with them. The ice probably won't break, and your mom will never know;
- b. head out onto the ice with them but only go a few inches, so you're not making waves and also not really putting yourself in the danger your mom warned you of;
- c. Tell them how dangerous it is, but if they won't listen just go home.
- d. Tell them how dangerous it is, and threaten to tell your mom.

1. **Answer: C.** A and B lack courage and honesty; D is a bit harsh. You should give your friends a few chances, then back away with sadness if they are consistently mean-spirited.

2. **Answer: B.** A and C are lying. Implying a lie is lying. D might be honest, but brutally so; if you want someone to listen to you, don't go on the defensive. B is best because it not only tells the truth, but it provides opportunity for honest discussion that you might not get otherwise.

3. **Answer: Probably B.** Answer A really does not generate fairness and it's self-centered; you're looking out for you. The best Christians are those who look out for Jesus, for right and wrong, and for what Jesus would do. Jesus did say to shout things from the rooftops as mentioned in answer C, but Jesus also said not to cast your pearls before swine and thereby have them trample you. It may not be wise to provoke a bully, which is why C and D might not be as good as B.

4. **Answer: D.** Frequently kids will do things that are life-threatening without realizing the danger. A real friend is the one who tells the truth; kids fall through the ice and drown every year, all of which could be prevented by heeding the warnings of adults and not walking on ice. Answer A could cost you your life; B is not really helping anything. It's selfish, and if a friend fell through the ice and died, your guilt could last a lifetime. C is being more honest, but this scenario enforces the dangerous false value, "Never rat out your friends." Kids have wound up in hospitals, juvenile detention centers, and drug rehab clinics because friends refused to seek help from authorities. You can say, "Well, it wasn't my business to tell," but that lame excuse rarely eliminates the guilty feeling when a friend suffers the worst consequences and you didn't do anything.

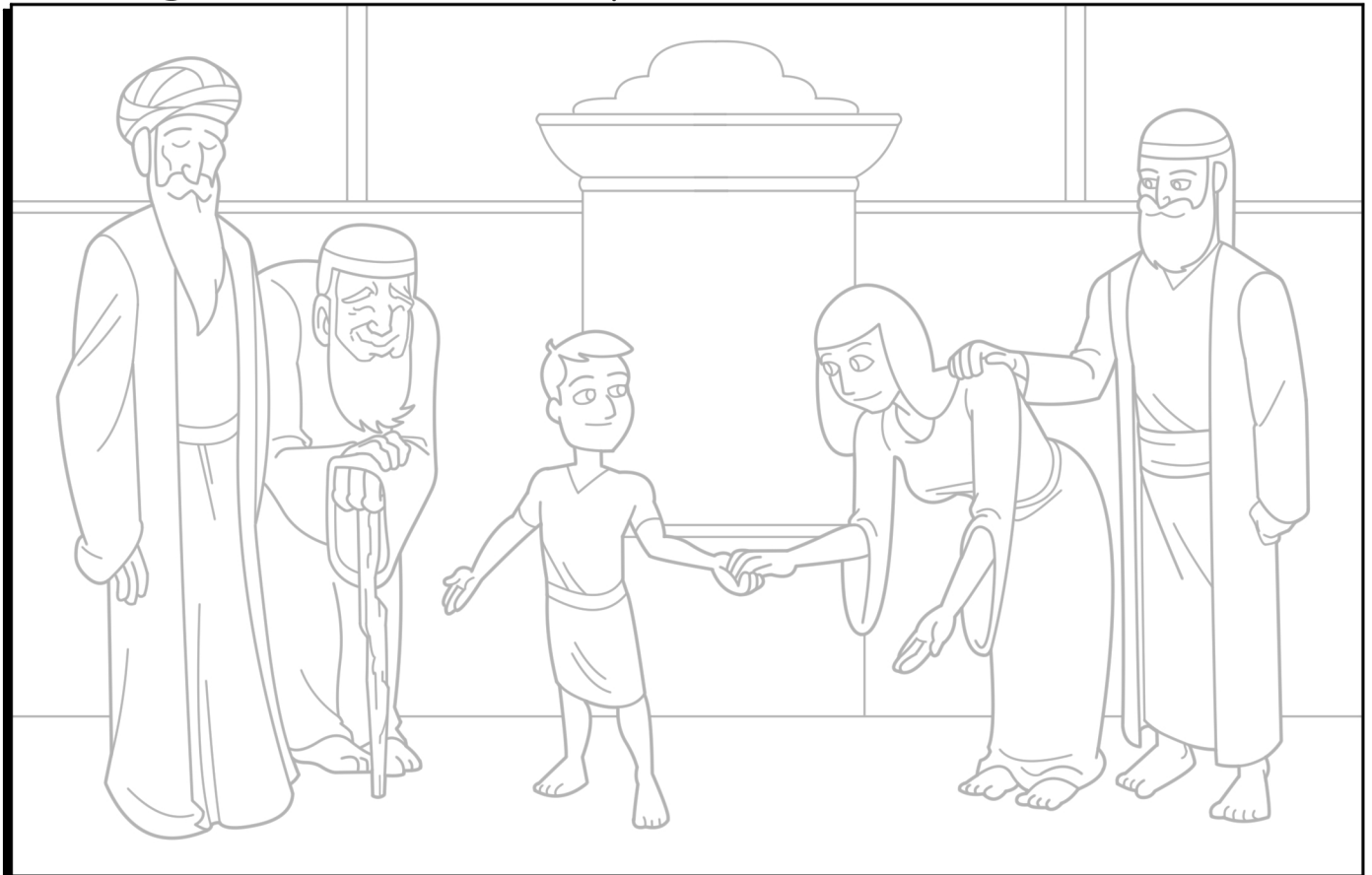
# Cut-Paste-Color!

Cut along the dotted lines & arrange in order below.



Jesus gets lost from his parents.

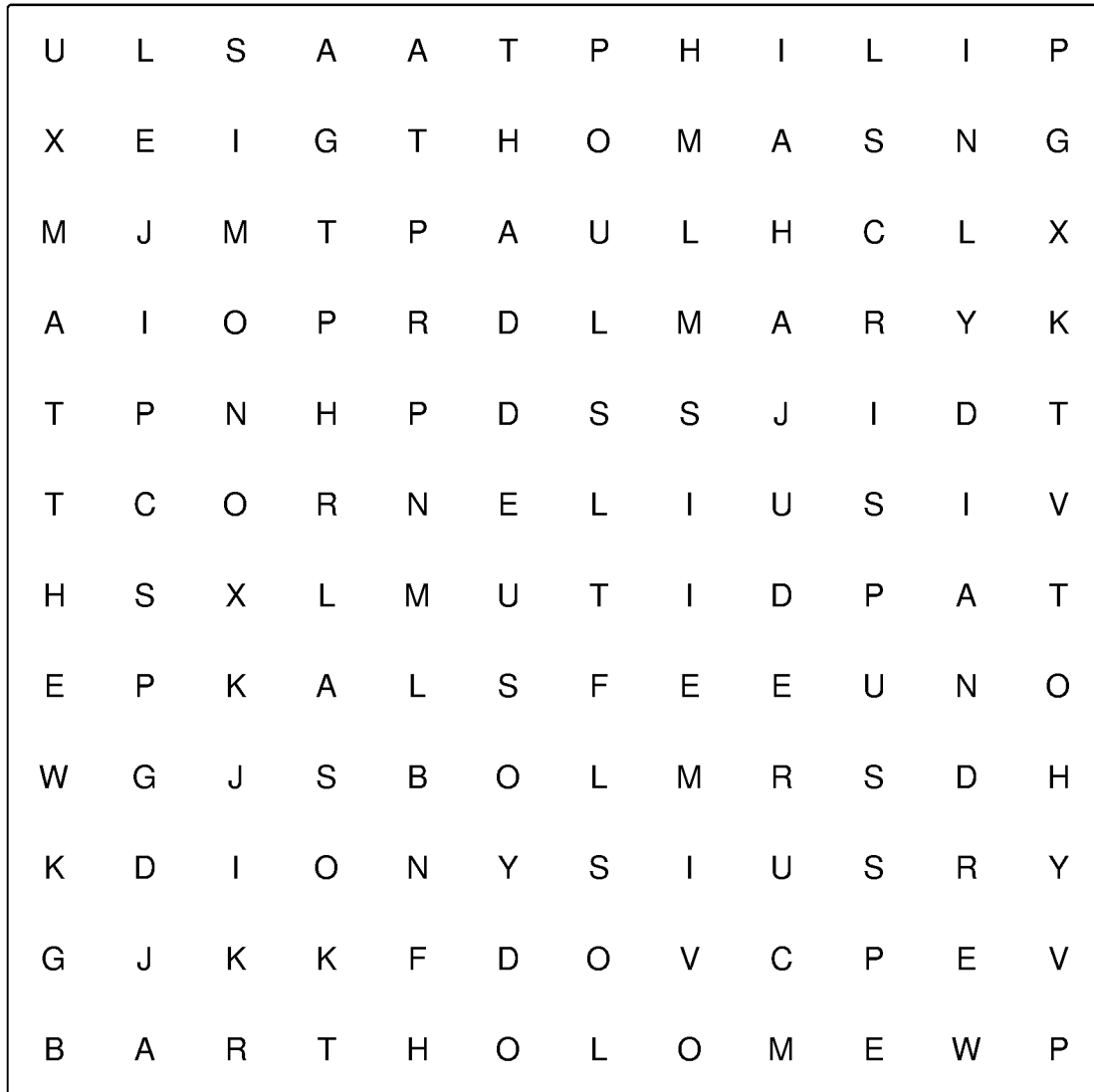
Luke 2: 41-48



# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

## WORD SEARCH

Jesus had a lot of followers at the start of his ministry. But they kept falling away and losing interest. Below are the names of people who did not fall away—the disciples who followed him from the beginning and others who joined on in the Book of Acts. Find their names below! (Note: some disciples shared a name, so only one is included)



### Words to Find:

JOHN  
JAMES  
PETER  
ANDREW  
MATTHEW

SIMON  
BARTHOLOMEW  
THOMAS  
THADDEUS  
JUDE

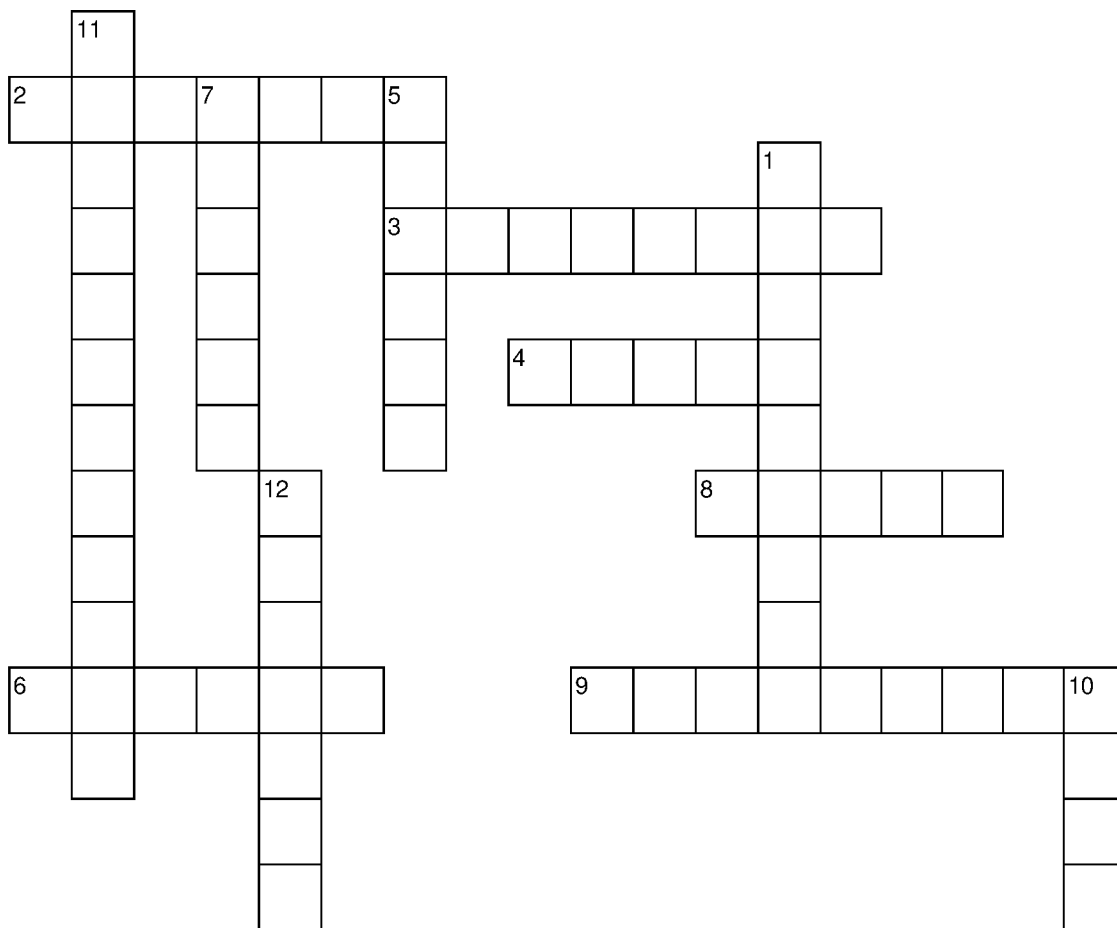
PHILIP  
MARY  
APOLLOS  
CRISPUS  
PAUL

LYDIA  
CORNELIUS  
DIONYSIUS

# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use your At-A-Glance Sheet, Old Testament Prophecies about Jesus, to fill in the answers to the crossword below.



### Across

2. Jesus' beginnings are from these times, long ago
3. A name that means God is with us
4. Name of the prophet who named Jesus' birthplace
6. Throw the silver to this person
8. I offered my cheeks to those who pulled out this
9. Jesus was killed with two of these types of people

### Down

1. Place where Jesus was born
5. This many pieces of silver
7. Name of the prophet who predicted the virgin birth
10. Jesus bore these on the cross, for many people
11. What Jesus would make for transgressors
12. What they gave Jesus on the cross for his thirst

# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

## PARENT HANDOUT



Scriptures to Read: Luke 2:41-52



### This Week We Learned About ...

...Jesus at age 12. The lesson will help children think about what's important. Is it following the crowd or being interested in the Father's work? Jesus could have followed in the caravan of people out of Jerusalem...instead, he was different. He was more serious. He sets a great example



#### ✓ Questions for Kids:

1. Where did Jesus and his parents go to celebrate Passover? **A. Jerusalem**
2. How long did Mary and Joseph travel before they realized Jesus was missing? **A. A day**
3. Where did they finally find Jesus?  
**A. in the temple**

#### ✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

Jesus stayed behind because he wanted to be in the temple learning and talking about God. What are your favorite Bible stories to learn from and talk about? Why?

Some people think Christians are weird or silly, but we know there is both truth and beauty in the Christian belief system. What are some of your favorite beliefs about Jesus or the church? How can you use those things to help you remember who you are when the crowd is trying to lead you astray?

#### Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



*Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **Colossians 3:2***



*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you. **Matthew 6:33***



*Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. **Proverbs 16:3***



# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

## FAMOUS OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS

The Old Testament contains hundreds of prophecies that fit the life of Jesus. Here are just six containing famous facts. Do *you* think he is the son of God?

1

### JESUS WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM

Written: Around 715 BC

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.” *Micah 5:2*

2

### JESUS WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN

Written around 750 BC

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (which means, God is with us.)  
*Isaiah 7:14*

3

### JESUS WOULD BE BETRAYED FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER

Written around 520 BC

I told them, “If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.”  
So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.  
<sup>13</sup> And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—  
the handsome price at which they valued me!  
So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them  
to the potter at the house of the Lord. *Zechariah 11:12-13*

4

### JESUS WOULD BE BEATEN AND HAVE HIS BEARD PULLED OUT AT HIS TRIAL

Written around 675 BC

I offered my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from mocking and spitting. *Isaiah 50:6*

5

### JESUS WOULD BE KILLED WITH CRIMINALS

Written around 675 BC

...because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.  
For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors. *Isaiah 53:12b*

b

### JESUS WOULD BE OFFERED VINEGAR ON THE CROSS

Written sometime between 1400 and 586 BC

They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst. *Psalms 69:21*



# LEARNING LOOKUPS

# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

**Lookup:** Matthew 5:14-16. Write down Verse 16.

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**Lookup:** Matthew 5:13 and write it down.

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Question: Both these scriptures say things about how to be Jesus' disciple. They are metaphors. What do they mean in your life, in reality?

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Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Ask God to keep putting in your mind what you need to do as a disciple of Jesus and not just a believer. Use your own words:

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# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

## QUIZ



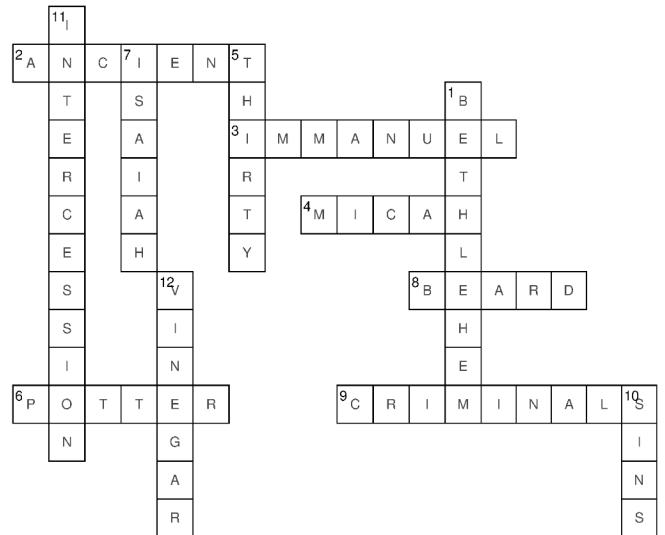
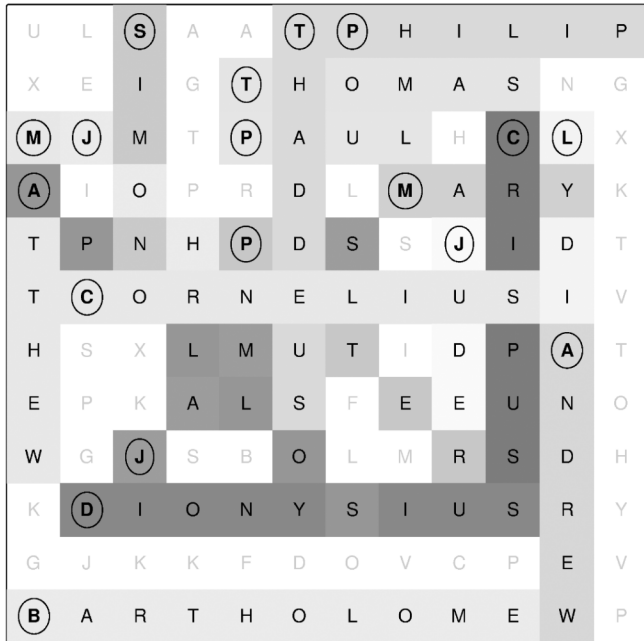
**Instructions: Fill in the blanks of the story of Jesus as a boy using a NIV Bible in Luke 2:41-52**

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Every year Jesus' parents went to \_\_\_\_\_ for the festival of the Passover.
2. After the festival was over, while his \_\_\_\_\_ were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.
3. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a \_\_\_\_\_. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.
4. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the \_\_\_\_\_ courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
5. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his \_\_\_\_\_ and his answers.
6. When his parents saw him, they were \_\_\_\_\_.
7. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you \_\_\_\_\_ us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."
8. "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's \_\_\_\_\_?"
9. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was \_\_\_\_\_ to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.
10. And Jesus grew in wisdom and \_\_\_\_\_, and in favor with God and man.

# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

## ANSWER KEY



### Quiz Answers:

- Understanding
- Temple
- Treated
- House
- Jerusalem
- Astonished
- Day
- Obedient
- Parents
- Stature

# BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION



NAME:

DATE: