

LESSON 9

THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Feast of the Passover

The Passover could refer to three different occasions in Jewish culture:

- 1) The historic meal shared by Hebrew families on the night God passed over the Jewish community but struck the firstborn of Egypt dead (Ex 12-13);
- 2) An annual commemorative meal shared by Jewish families, which recreates the meal eaten by the Jews in Egypt on the original Passover (Ex 12:24-28);
- 3) The annual seven-day festival, celebrated by public sacrifices and private sharing of the Passover meal, which continues for a week by eating only unleavened bread and concludes with another day of sacrifices and celebration (2 Chr 30:1-27).

Waiting for a Messiah

Ever since the Old Testament, the Jews had been waiting for a Savior, a Messiah. The Messiah in Jewish thought is a descendant of King David. He will be a king that will bring the Jews together to keep the commandments and live in the land of Israel.

The Messiah will fight wars against the enemies of the Jews, will prevail, and will inaugurate an era of everlasting peace when the third holy temple is built in Jerusalem. It is a commandment to long for the Messiah every day and to expect Him to arrive.

Even though Jesus Christ fulfilled these prophecies, sadly not all the Jews could accept Him as the Messiah and they are still waiting for the Messiah today.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Some of your students may be in the habit of coming to church regularly, but they might not understand why exactly they come. This lesson is a good opportunity to reinforce the importance of coming to church. Jesus' example of going to temple to learn the words of God may challenge your students to do the same.

Help your students understand that we come to church for many reasons. One of the more general ones is to worship God. Worshiping God includes learning about Him, praying to Him, and having fellowship with brothers and sisters.

The early Christians set the example for us in Acts 2:42. The church has also been described as the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27). Let your students realize that all of them are a part of the body of Christ and play a very important role in the church. As your students understand why they come to church and experience the love of God here, the desire to "dwell in the house of the Lord" will grow, and this desire will follow them into adulthood.

BIBLE TEXT

Luke 2:21-52

BIBLE TRUTH

The church is the body of Christ.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To acknowledge that we need to go to church often.
2. To understand that the purpose of going to church is to learn the word of God, pray, and have fellowship with other believers.
3. To grow in wisdom like Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

"That will I seek: That I may dwell
in the house of the Lord all
the days of my life."

(Psalm 27:4b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for guiding us through another week so that we may come and worship You. We know that it is important to come to church often to learn Your words—You have set an example for us to follow. Let us never leave the church, and let us never leave You, O Lord. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

- temple:** a special building to worship God in
- firstborn:** the first son born into a family
- sacrifice:** an offering for God; something special or important that you give up
- Passover:** a special feast day celebrated by the Jews; on this day they remember how God freed them from being slaves in Egypt
- law of Moses:** a set of laws that the Israelites received from God in the time of Moses
- prophetess:** a woman that passes on God's messages to the people
- wisdom:** knowing how to handle right and wrong
- grace of God:** God's blessings and guidance

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It began with Mary becoming pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Do you remember how Joseph felt when he found out about this? (He wanted to secretly end their engagement because he thought she had done something wrong.) Yes! But after the angels spoke to Mary and Joseph, they were comforted and were obedient to God's command.

When Jesus was born, shepherds came to visit Him. How did the shepherds know that the Savior had been born? (An angel from the Lord told them.) Where did they find Jesus? (They found Jesus in a manger, because there was no room for them at the inn.) Who else came to visit Jesus? (Wise men from the east.)

Do you remember how they got there? (They followed the star until it stopped where Jesus was.) What are the three gifts that the wise men brought for Baby Jesus? (Gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.) Jesus' birth was very special because His birth was foretold a long time ago. God had already planned to send down His Son to save us from our sins. Because of this, we know that Jesus is the Son of God.

Today, we will be learning about Jesus' childhood. Even though Jesus is the Son of God, He had to grow up, just like you and me. He was a good Son, and we can learn from Him how to be good, too.

BIBLE STORY

Mary and Joseph Take Jesus to the Temple

Now the time came for Mary and Joseph to present Jesus to the Lord, as the Law of Moses stated, "Each firstborn baby boy belongs to the Lord." The Law of Moses was a set of really old rules that had been given to the Israelites during the time of Moses. It was one of the ways that God let His people know what He wanted them to do.

So, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple and presented Him to the Lord. The law of Moses also stated that parents had to offer a sacrifice, such as a pair of doves or two young pigeons, which Mary and Joseph did.

Let's review. What did the law of Moses tell parents to do? (Give students time to answer—it told them to present each firstborn baby boy to the Lord and give a pair of doves or two young pigeons as a sacrifice at the temple.) Did Joseph and Mary follow this law? (Yes.)

Simeon Sees Baby Jesus

At this time, a man named Simeon was living in Jerusalem. Boys and girls, let's say "Simeon!" [On the count of 3, students will say "Simeon!" together.] He was a good man, who loved God and was waiting for God to save the

people of Israel.

God's Spirit told Simeon that he would not die until he had seen Christ the Lord. What was Simeon waiting for? (Let students answer—Yes! He was waiting for God to save the people of Israel.) What did God's Spirit tell Simeon? (That Simeon would not die until he had seen Christ the Lord.)

When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, according to the Law of Moses, the Spirit told Simeon to go into the temple. What do you think Simeon saw? (Let students guess—He saw the Baby Jesus!)

Simeon took the Baby Jesus in his arms and praised God: "Lord, You have kept Your promise to me, Your servant, and now You may let me die in peace. With my own eyes I have seen what You have done to save Your people, and foreign nations will also see this. Your mighty power is like a light for all nations, and it will bring honor to Your people Israel."

How did Simeon feel? He felt very happy! Do you know why? (Because he saw with his own eyes how God was going to save His people.)

Anna Sees Baby Jesus

There was also a prophetess named Anna. A prophetess is a woman who tells the people things that God wants to tell them. Anna was a very old prophetess. After she had been married to her husband for seven years, her husband died.

What do you think she did with her life after he died? She did not waste it, but instead used all her time to serve God! She never left the temple, worshiping God there day and night. Do you think she lived there? (Yes, she stayed at the temple all day and all night!)

Day and night she would pray, sometimes fasting as well. Anna came up to Mary and Joseph the moment after Jesus' circumcision and gave thanks to God. She told those who were waiting for God to save Jerusalem about Jesus.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything the Law of Moses told them to do, they returned home. The Child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was with Him.

Being filled with wisdom meant that He could understand what God wanted Him to do. He also knew the difference between right and wrong and how to handle situations. Having the grace of God meant that God was always with Him and blessed everything that Jesus did. What are the two things that Jesus was filled with? (Wisdom and the grace of God.)

Jesus and His Parents Go to Jerusalem for the Passover

Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for Passover every year. And when Jesus was twelve years old, they all went there for the celebrations as usual. How old was Jesus? (He was only 12 and not much older than the students in our class.)

After Passover, His parents left, but they did not know that Jesus had stayed behind in Jerusalem. A long time ago, when people traveled, they had many wagons, animals, and loads of things to bring for such a big trip. They didn't have planes back then, so every trip was a big effort. Because there were so many people and things, Jesus' parents thought that He was traveling with some other people.

Jesus' parents went a whole day before they started looking for Him. How long did it take for Jesus' parents to realize that He wasn't with them? (Yes, a whole day!) How do you think Jesus' parents felt when they realized that their Son was missing? (They must have been very worried and must have looked everywhere for Him!) When they could not find Him with their relatives and friends, they went back and started looking for Him in Jerusalem.

Jesus in the Temple

On the third day, Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus in the temple, sitting with the teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions. What were the two things that Jesus was doing in the temple? (He was LISTENING to the teachers and ASKING them questions.) Everybody who heard Him was surprised at how much He knew and at the questions He asked.

When His parents found Him, they did not know what to think. His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Your father and I have been very worried about You!" Jesus said, "Why did you have to look for Me? Didn't you know I had to be in My Father's house?" But they did not understand what He meant. They did not understand that He belonged in the temple, God's house, because He was the Son of God.

Jesus went back to Nazareth with His parents and obeyed them. Jesus is God, but He did not feel that He was the boss of His parents. He listened to His parents and followed them obediently when they told Him that it was time to go home. His mother kept on thinking about all that had happened.

What can we learn from Jesus' example? (We can learn that we should always listen to our parents when they tell us to do something; we should not talk back or make excuses.)

Jesus continued to grow in wisdom and stature. This means that He continued to learn the things of God, while growing taller and bigger as the years passed. God was pleased with Him and so were the people. Everything Jesus did made God, and the people, happy.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **At the temple, what was Simeon waiting for?** He was waiting for God to send a Savior for the Israelites.
2. **At the temple, there was also a woman. What was her name and what did she do there?** Her name was Anna and she was a prophetess; she served God day and night with prayers.
3. **Why did Jesus' parents travel to Jerusalem every year?** They went to celebrate the Passover.
4. **What is Passover?** A special feast day celebrated by the Jews; on this day, they remember how God freed them from being slaves in Egypt.
5. **On the way back home, what did Jesus' parents realize?** They realized that Jesus was missing.
6. **Where did they find Jesus?** They found Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem on the third day.
7. **What was Jesus doing there?** Jesus was listening to the teachers and asking them questions.
8. **What did Jesus do when His parents told Him that it was time to go home?** He obediently listened to them and went home.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

“That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” (Psalm 27:4b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Spiritual Teaching (1)

In this lesson, we learned about what Simeon, Anna, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus did in the temple. Nowadays, we don't go to a temple anymore but we go to church. What can we learn from each one of these characters?

From Simeon, we can learn to have more faith in the promises of God. The pure in heart will see God. From Anna, we can learn that we need to do more to serve God. Even if we have nothing, we can serve God with our prayers and fasts. From Joseph and Mary, we learn that when there is a special event at church, we should try our very best to attend.

From Jesus, we learn that when we are at church, we need to listen carefully to what the pastors and teachers are telling us. We also need to ask questions so that we can understand the Bible better.

Life Application (1)

Many children come to church each week without knowing why they come. This is a good time to ask students, “So why do we come to church? What are we here to do?” Church is a place where the children of God gather together to learn about Him. It's also a place where we pray and sing hymns to praise God.

Ask the students, “Remember, Jesus was only twelve when He went to the temple. He was just a kid! What things was He doing in the temple when His parents found Him? Yes, He was asking questions and listening to the teachers. What can we learn from this?” Students should answer that they need to also listen to the teachers and ask questions in class when they don't understand things.

Spiritual Teaching (2)

When Jesus' parents found Him at the temple after three days, they were very worried and asked Him why He stayed behind. Jesus answered them, “Didn't You know that I would be at My Father's house?” When they didn't understand, He did not get into an argument with them about it. Jesus is God, but He did not feel that He was the boss of His parents.

We see here that Jesus obediently followed His parents back home. He did not question them, but did exactly as He was told. This is an example to us that, as children, we need to obey when our parents tell us to do something.

Remember the fifth commandment: Honor your father and your mother. This is the first commandment with a blessing.

Life Application (2)

What can we learn from Jesus' example? [Let students think for a moment.] We can learn that we should always listen to our parents when they tell us to do something.

Ask students if there were times when their parents asked them to do something they did not want to do. How did they react? Some students may say that they got mad or made excuses.

But what can we learn from Jesus' reaction? We should not talk back or make excuses. Why not? It is a commandment of God to honor our mother and father.

Spiritual Teaching (3) To grow in wisdom

There is a big difference when we think of a person who is smart and a person who is wise. Who is wise in your family? When someone is wise, they speak from a lifetime of experience; they speak the truth from the word of God; they speak from love.

All wisdom comes from the Lord. When Jesus was in the world, He had to grow in wisdom gradually. That's why the Bible states, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Lk 2:52). Even at the young age of twelve, Jesus had already gained an astonishing amount of wisdom. Jesus shows us how we can follow in His

footsteps; He wants us to grow in wisdom.

It says that Jesus was there in the midst of the teachers, “both listening to them and asking them questions.” We can only grow in wisdom if we acknowledge that we do not know everything and that we have something to learn from others. This was the God of the universe in human form, and He needed to ask questions and listen! That’s what we need to do in order to grow wisely.

Life Application (3)

1. Draw close to Jesus by going to church and listening to God’s word. 1 Corinthians 1:30 says that “Christ Jesus [...] became for us wisdom from God.” The more I know Jesus, the more I know wisdom (Prov 1:7).
2. Listen to your parents who have wisdom and life experience (Prov 1:8-9; 4:1).
3. Have a humble attitude when seeking for wisdom (Prov 3:7).
4. When you apply wisdom, you become wiser (Prov 4:26).

ACTIVITIES

1

The Boy Jesus at the Temple

Objective: To remember how Jesus obeyed His parents.

Materials

- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Copies of activity template

Instructions

1. Give each student a copy of the activity template.
2. Color the patterns of Jesus and the temple priests with crayons or markers. Cut out all the patterns.
3. Glue the handprint to the center of the temple pattern.
4. Glue one temple priest to each fingertip.
5. Glue Jesus to the middle of the hand.
6. Write this week’s memory verse on top of the temple and display for all to see.

2

Things that Make God Smile

Objective: To reinforce the importance of coming to church to worship God.

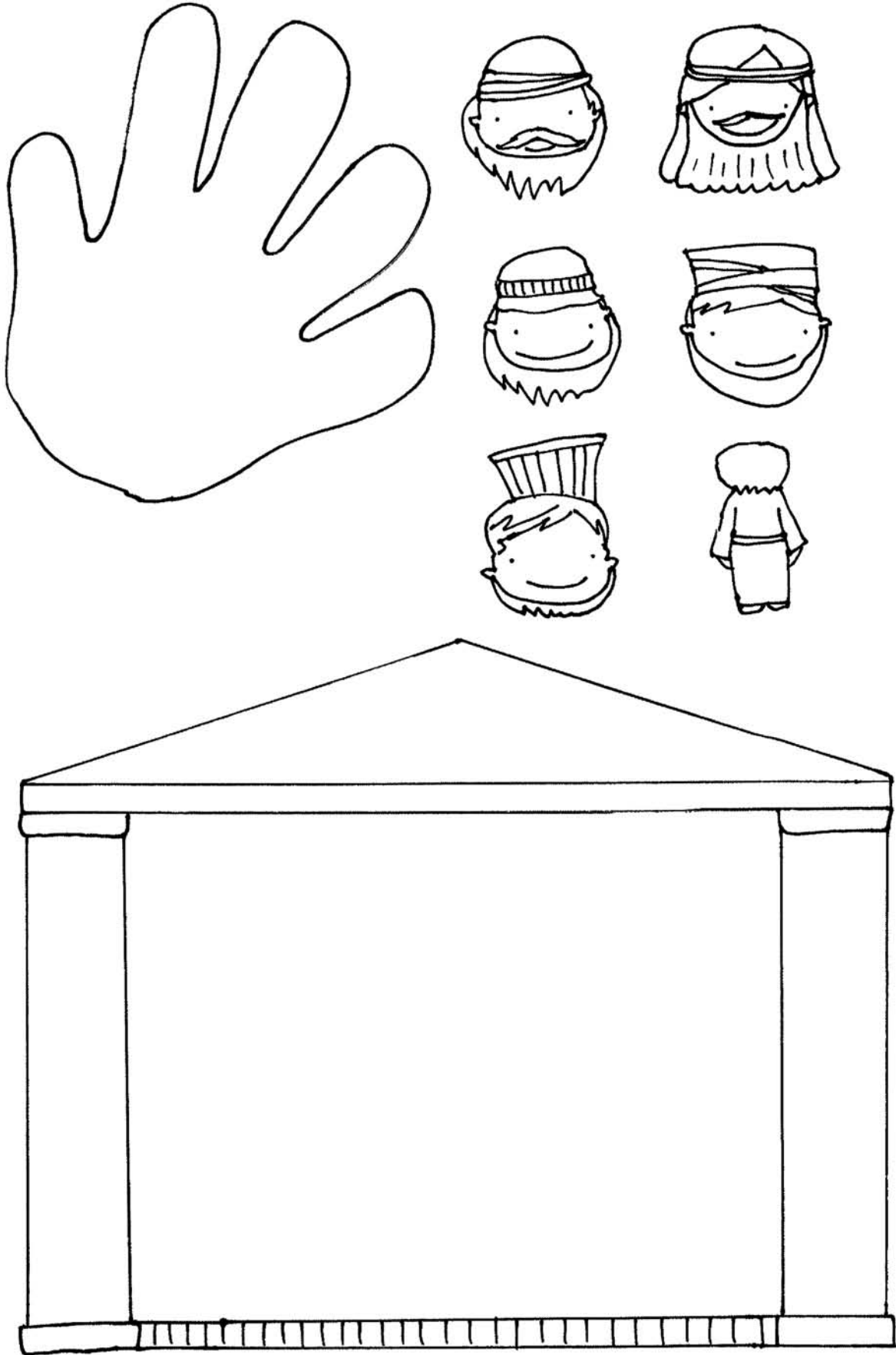
Preparations: Arrange chairs in a large circle, one for each student except for “It.”

Instructions

1. Choose one student to be “It.” Seat everyone else in the circle. “It” walks around inside the circle, takes a person by the hand, and says, “Come to church.” The two walk around inside the circle.
2. The second child then chooses another, taking him by the hand, and the three of them walk around inside the circle. The third child chooses a fourth, and so on.
3. Whenever he chooses, “It” may call out, “We’re at church!” At this point, all standing players rush to find a seat. The player left standing is the next “It.”
4. Continue playing until all students have had a chance to “come to church,” or walk around inside the circle.
5. Replay this activity and this time, say, “Come to church and worship God!”

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Passover | 7. True |
| 2. Simeon | 8. True |
| 3. Anna | 9. To listen to God's word; to worship and pray to Him; to pray for others; to praise Him; etc. |
| 4. third | 10. Go to church and listen to God's word; listen to your parents; and have a humble attitude. |
| 5. False; He was 12. | |
| 6. True | |



E1 Year 1 Book 4 Lesson 9—The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: The church is the body of Christ.

Lesson Objectives:

1. To acknowledge that we need to go to church often.
2. To understand that the purpose of going to church is to learn the word of God, pray, and have fellowship with other believers.
3. To grow in wisdom like Jesus.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.**Prayer:** Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 27:4b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

Simeon third Anna Passover

1. Jesus' parents took a trip with Him to Jerusalem to celebrate the _____.
2. _____ was the name of the man waiting to see the Savior of Israel.
3. The prophetess named _____ served God day and night with prayers.
4. On the _____ day, Joseph and Mary finally found Jesus.

True or False

5. When Jesus was 20, His parents brought Him to the temple. _____
6. Jesus was found in the temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions. _____
7. The Spirit of God told Simeon that he would not die until he saw Christ. _____
8. After Anna's husband died, she stayed in the church to serve God. _____

Life Application

9. Write three reasons why you go to church.

10. List three ways you can grow in wisdom just like Jesus.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____