

Unit 19: Session 5 - Jesus at the Temple¹

Scripture: Luke 2:40-52

Introduction (10 minutes)

READ

Pretend you are about to become participants in a reality TV show. In the show, you would be blindfolded and separated from your families and dropped, by yourself, into a random city somewhere in the world (hypothetically, of course). Hidden cameras would follow your every move. Before you head out, you can only bring one item: a plan. You will write out your first steps and priorities so that you don't instantly go into a panic when you are dropped off and have your blindfold removed. Take some time to think about or write down your plans and then take turns sharing them.

ASK

What are your plans and priorities when you would get dropped off? What would you be thinking and feeling?

As a child, Jesus was separated from his parents in Jerusalem and spent time in the temple listening to the Scriptures being taught and asking questions to the teachers. What do you think Jesus was thinking and feeling?

Teaching Plan (15-20 minutes)

Read the Scripture passage below one section at a time and ask the corresponding questions within each section. Feel free to use your own Bible or follow along with the text below (the translation used is from the CSB).

READ

Luke 2:40-47

The boy grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God's grace was on him. Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the festival. After those days were over, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming he was in the traveling party, they went a day's journey. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days, they found him in the temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all those who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

ASK

What was Jesus found doing in Jerusalem? How did others react to him?

How did Jesus have this understanding at such a young age (see verse 40)?

READ

Luke 2:48-50

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked them. "Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them.

ASK

¹ From The Gospel Project for Students, Leader Guide, Vol. 7, pgs. 40-47.

Why was Jesus surprised that his parents would be looking for Him?

Why do you think it was necessary for Jesus to be in His Father's house? (See Psalm 69:9 John 2:16)

READ

Luke 2:51-52

Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

ASK

What does Jesus' obedience to his parents tell us about Him?

Why do you think Jesus' mother "kept all these things in her heart?" (v. 51)

How does verse 52 point to Jesus' identity and purpose?

Our Mission (10 minutes)

For application, ask the following questions divided into sections head, heart, and hands, to help students think through how God's story connects with our own.

HEAD

Why is it important for us to seek the Lord together and learn from His Word?

HEART

What can we learn from Jesus in regards to taking our relationship with God and knowledge of His Word seriously as a young person?

HANDS

When is it difficult for you to show honor to those in authority over you? How can Jesus' example encourage you during those difficult times?

Prayer

Pray together to close, taking prayer requests if desired. Encourage students to spend some time journaling the following questions:

What does this passage teach me about God?

What does this passage teach me about myself?