



JESUS AS A BOY



LUKE 2

You've probably heard the story of when Jesus was born. An angel told the young girl, Mary, she was going to have a baby and it would be God's Son. She and her husband, Joseph, went to Bethlehem and that's where Jesus was born.

King Herod heard about this. He was afraid of a new king rising in power, so he wanted Jesus to be killed. But God spoke to Joseph in a dream and told him to take his family to Egypt. There they would be safe.

Some time passed. King Herod died. An angel spoke to Joseph again and told him to move his family to the town of Nazareth. That's where Jesus grew up. He became strong in His spirit and filled with wisdom. God was with Him.

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. This celebration was to remember the time when the Hebrew people were rescued from the wicked king in Egypt and led away to a new land God had promised them. Every year a great number of people went to Jerusalem for this special time.

When Jesus was twelve years old, he went with his parents to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover time. It took several days to walk all that way. They were traveling with lots of other people. It must have been a fun journey, even though it was quite far.

The days of the feast were surely enjoyed by everyone. When it came time to leave, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph were not worried about him in the beginning. There were so many people traveling with them that they thought Jesus was with some of his friends or relatives. But after walking about a day, they started looking for Him. They asked their friends, but no one had seen Him. Mary and Joseph became a little worried. They went back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus.

Joseph and Mary looked all over the city for Jesus. They must have been really worried. But after three days, they finally found him. Jesus was in the temple, sitting with all the teachers. He was listening to them and asking questions. All the teachers were so amazed at how much Jesus understood and at the questions He asked.

Mary and Joseph were surprised to find Jesus there in the temple. Mary said to Jesus, "Son, why have you done this to us? We have looked everywhere for You. We were so worried!" Jesus said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Didn't you know I have to be where My Father's work is?" Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus meant. They did not think about Jesus being God's Son.

Jesus went back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph and lived obediently with them. Mary kept all these things that had happened hidden in her heart. Jesus grew up in His body and in His spirit. He was blessed by God and people.

JESUS AS A BOY - TEACHER'S GUIDE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Jesus grew up with Mary and Joseph in the town of Nazareth.
- 2) Every year there was a Passover celebration in Jerusalem. Many people traveled by foot for several days to get to Jerusalem to be a part of this celebration. Mary, Joseph and Jesus also traveled this way to celebrate the Passover.
- 3) When the celebration was over, people began walking back to their own towns. After a day's journey, Mary and Joseph noticed Jesus was not with their friends or relatives. They returned to Jerusalem to find him.
- 4) They found Jesus in the temple, listening to the teachers and asking questions. The teachers were amazed at how much Jesus could understand. Mary and Joseph were surprised to find Jesus there and asked Him why He had stayed behind in Jerusalem and caused them to worry.
- 5) Jesus said He had to be where His Father's work was. But Jesus was obedient. He went back to Nazareth with them. He grew up and was blessed by God.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What town did Jesus grow up in?
- 2) Where were Mary, Joseph and Jesus going in order to celebrate the Passover feast?
- 3) When the celebration was over, how long had Mary and Joseph walked before they noticed Jesus was not with their friends or relatives?
- 4) Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus?
- 5) What was Jesus doing in the temple?
- 6) Why was Jesus in the temple?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Jesus grew up in Nazareth.
- 2) Mary, Joseph and Jesus were going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast.
- 3) Mary and Joseph had walked a day before noticing that Jesus was not with their friends or relatives.
- 4) Mary and Joseph found Jesus back in Jerusalem, in the temple.
- 5) Jesus was listening to the teachers in the temple and asking them questions.
- 6) Jesus said He had to be where His Father's work was.

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