

In My Father's House

Theme

It is important for us to be in our Father's house.

Object

TV remote, a book, car keys -- any item we might easily misplace.

Scripture

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

Have you ever misplaced something? Of course you have. We have all done that, haven't we? Perhaps we were reading a book and put it down and then later couldn't remember where we put it. Maybe we were watching television and couldn't remember where we put the remote control. I have even put my coffee cup in the microwave oven and later couldn't remember where it was. What do we do when we misplace something? We usually retrace our steps to all of the places we have been until we find it.

Our Bible lesson today is about some parents who misplaced something. Now, these weren't just any parents -- it was Mary and Joseph -- the parents of Jesus. Mary and Joseph didn't misplace something like a book or some keys. They misplaced Jesus! Here is how it happened.

Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem every year for the Feast of the Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem just as they always did. After Passover, they began their journey home, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary didn't know it. They thought he was with some friends or family members who were traveling with them. After they had gone a day's journey, they began to look for Jesus among their relatives and friends, but he wasn't there. When they couldn't find him, they decided to return to Jerusalem to look for him. After searching for three days, they finally found him. Guess where he was? He

was in the temple, sitting in the middle of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions.

When Mary and Joseph saw him, they were astonished. His mother asked him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? Your father and I were anxiously looking for you."

Jesus answered, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" You see, even as a child, Jesus knew that he must follow the path that his Father had laid out for him, and at that moment, the most important place for him to be was in his Father's house.

Sometimes you and I may lose Jesus. We get so busy in our daily routine that we never give him a thought. Then, one day we realize that he is missing. Do you know what we need to do when that happens? We need to retrace our steps and go back to the place we left him. Where do we usually find him? In his Father's house!

Jesus said it was important for him to be in his Father's house. It is also important for you and me to be in his Father's house. Why? Because His Father's house is our Father's house too! It is a house of worship, a house of prayer, a house of peace, a house of love, a house of joy. What better place could there be for a child of God than to be in the Father's house?

Dear Father, we have come into your house today to worship you. Help us to remember that there is no better place for your children to be than to be in your house. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Lessons for Advent

Celebrate the birth of our Savior

4-Week Series

Sermon Title: "In My Father's House

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:41-52

LOOKING FOR JESUS:

The teacher will tape little pieces of paper all around the room " under chairs, under pews, or anyplace that the kids could go for a BIG hunt! Each little piece of paper will have a name on it. Tell the children when they find a name that is NOT Jesus, they should call out "WHERE'S JESUS? JESUS, WHERE ARE YOU?" After the children have been searching for a little while, the teacher will quietly tape a piece of paper with the name JESUS written on it to a picture of a church and put it in a CONSPICUOUS place so that the children can FIND JESUS. This will be a good game to lead into the story! Explain to the children that today's lesson is about a time when Jesus got lost.

WHERE IS JESUS? GAME:

The teacher will tell the story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus going to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. The children will follow the teacher as she walks around the room (in and out of chairs, around the room, under a table, etc.) representing the journey to Jerusalem. When the teacher comes to the part of the story when Mary and Joseph had to go BACK to Jerusalem to FIND Jesus, the kids will follow her back around the room until they FIND Jesus once again " all the while, the kids and teacher can be calling out - WHERE IS JESUS? JESUS, WHERE ARE YOU? Discuss where they found Jesus and WHY?

MY FATHER'S HOUSE DRAWING:

Have a child go to the chalkboard and draw a CHURCH and label it HOUSE OF WORSHIP. Another child will draw a church and label it HOUSE OF JOY. Another child will draw a church and label it HOUSE OF PRAISE! If the class is large, the other class members could add trees, flowers, and the sun. If you prefer, you could divide the children into groups and have each group create a poster as described in the activity.

MAZE DRAWING:

Have the children write JESUS in one corner of a sheet of paper and MY FATHER'S HOUSE in another corner. They will then draw a line that wanders all around the paper. The child will then hand the paper to another child and that child will try to FIND JESUS by using a highlighter to follow the line that the other child drew. When they have found their way to Jesus, they will say out loud " JESUS IS IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE AND SO AM I!

GUESS WHERE JESUS IS:

Divide the children in two groups. Have three chips or marbles with one of them marked with a "J" or a cross. Place the three chips or marbles under a paper cup and move them about. Let a child from each team take a turn choosing the cup where he thinks Jesus is hiding. Keep tabs to see which team found Jesus most.

MAKE A CHURCH:

Using craft sticks, have the children glue them in the shape of a church on a construction paper. Have them draw a walkway to the church and stick people going to it. Write the title WE ARE GOING TO MY FATHER'S HOUSE.

MY FATHER'S HOUSE ACROSTIC:

Write MY FATHER'S HOUSE downward on the chalk board. Have the children write words that begin with each letter having to do with how they feel and/or what they do when they are in their Father's house.

SNACK:

Have the children draw the shape of a church on plain sugar cookies using squeezable icing dispensers and then share them with the group. Another option would be for the teacher use a cookie cutter to make cookies in the shape of a church and let the children add icing.

Song: "I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me"

Music:

Sheet music in PDF format.

MP3:

Piano Accompaniment (right click on link and save to your computer)

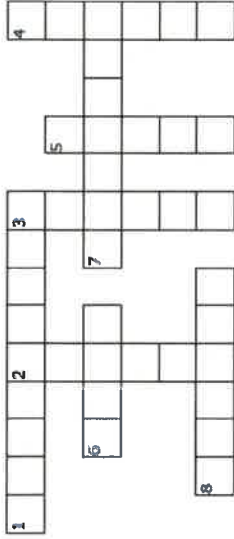


Lessons for Advent

Celebrate the birth of our Savior

4-Week Series

Crossword Puzzle



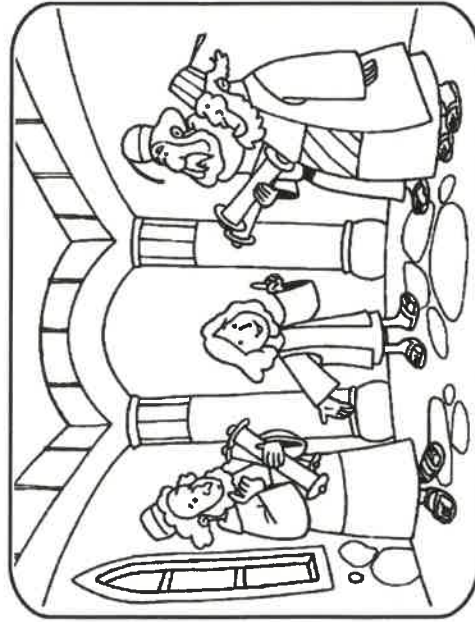
ACROSS

1. People related by kinship, common origin, or marriage.
6. A place where a person or family lives; a residence
7. A father and mother
8. Someone you know, like, and trust

DOWN

2. A building used for religious ceremonies or worship
3. To look carefully in order to find something
4. The ability to judge what is true or right
5. A large meal; A periodic religious festival

PARENTS	RELATIVES	TEMPLE	WISDOM
FRIEND	FEAST	HOME	SEARCH



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Children's Worship Bulletin

Boy Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:41-52

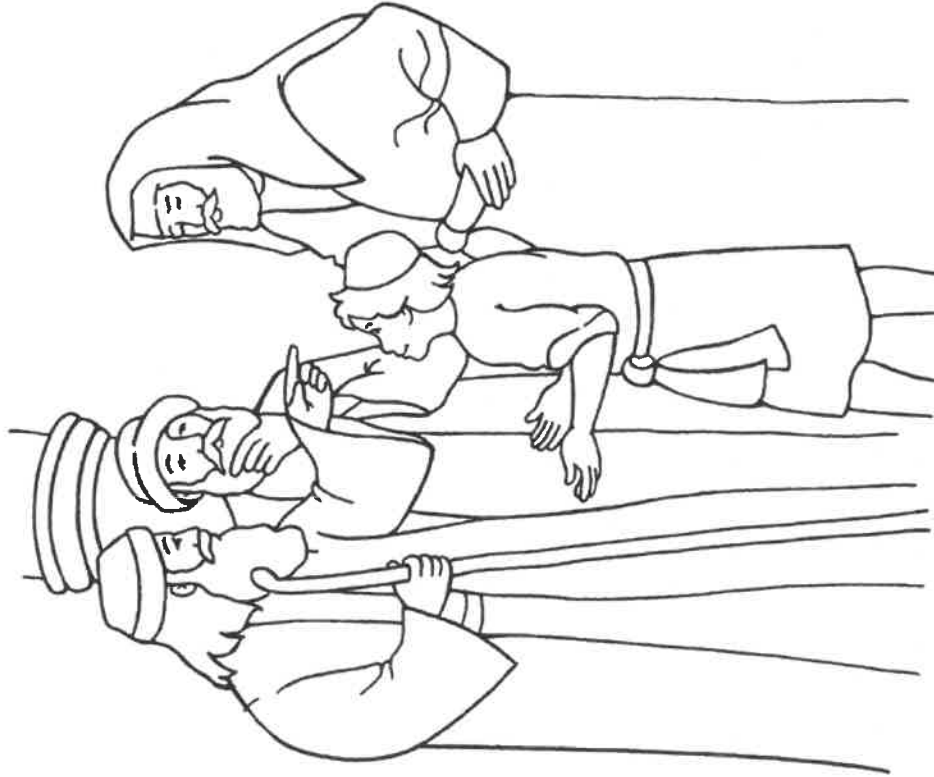
Word Search Puzzle

Q L U T E M P L E R E T U R N
 A C T L S A R P P E A N U P T B R T
 E T F R E U P P A L R P T B R T
 U T E Y A R V T L Z A E S L H H
 D D I A R C A E A N E T N J K E
 P H Q H O H R L N L D I T C R
 E Y M O H R L N L D I T C R
 J K P M I B E Q E S H A V S V
 L U W E N K X R M D W B C E W
 L Y L D G B W S S U D E B I S
 P Z A F R I E N D S T E R Z C
 W F E V C L G N J S X C O R S Z
 G W B B F J Q M A R D I R P E
 X W P V J O M E P F A T H E R
 U E F V F C F O U N D Z X A W

FRIENDS	ANSWERS	FOUND	AMAZED	TEACHERS
MOTHER	FEAST	SEARCHING	FATHER	RELATIVES
PARENTS	RETURN	TEMPLE	HOME	TRAVELED

Your Church Name Here
Anytown, Anywhere

Coloring Page

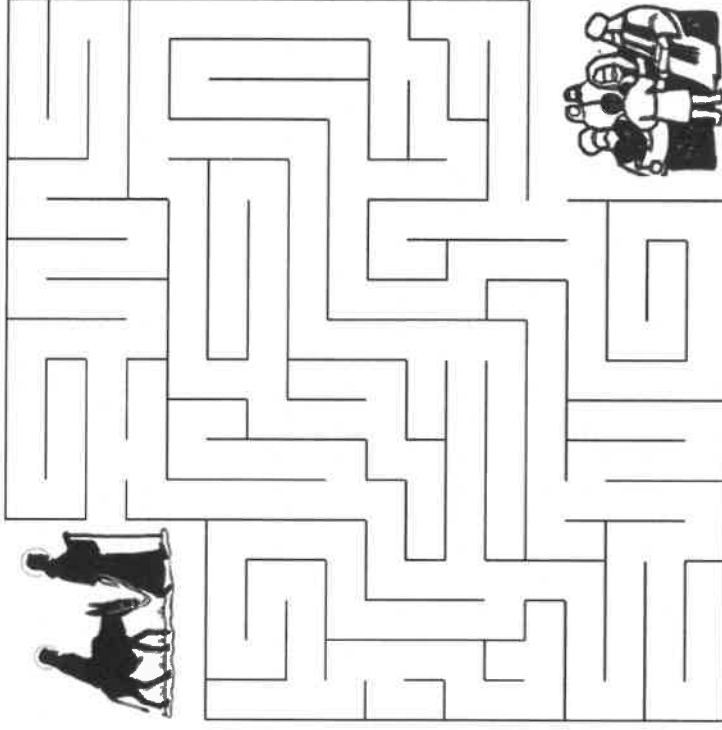


Jesus in the Temple
Luke 2

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Maze Puzzle

Can you help Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple?



We're
Searching for
Jesus



After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Luke 2:46

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