



## **YOUNG JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**

After the magi's departure, Jesus' family had to flee to Egypt because Israel's King Herod was seeking to kill Jesus. When Herod died, the angel appeared to Joseph and told him to return to Israel. As instructed, Joseph departed from Egypt and returned to Israel with his family, and settled in the city of Nazareth.

Jesus Christ spent His childhood and youth in Nazareth. He was a good and obedient boy who was always helping His earthly parents.

Every year, Jesus' family went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, to remember how God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt centuries earlier. And when Jesus was twelve years old, he accompanied His parents to Jerusalem according to their custom. When the festivities were over, Joseph and Mary left, while young Jesus remained in Jerusalem. His parents however were not aware that Jesus had stayed behind. They thought that He was with some of their friends and relatives. After some time, as they did not see Him, His parents started to worry and to look for Him. When they could not locate young Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem.

After three days, His parents found Jesus in the Temple, seated among teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who were present were astonished at His wisdom and answers.

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After three days, His parents found Jesus in the Temple, seated among teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who were present were astonished at His wisdom and answers.

When Mary saw Jesus, she said to Him: "Son, what have you done to us? Your father and I were alarmed when we could not find you." And Jesus answered: "Why were you seeking me? Don't you know that I would be in my Father's House?" Jesus wanted to help them understand that He was the Son of God and that the Temple was the House of God. But His parents did not understand the meaning of those words. Afterwards, Jesus returned to Nazareth with His parents, where He grew mentally, physically and spiritually. He was always doing the will of His parents.

As we read in the Bible, Jesus' obedience to His parents sets an example to all of us to do likewise and to listen to what our parents have to say, because that is what God wants us to do.

We need to always remember one of the Ten Commandments of God which says: "Honor your father and mother, so you can find goodness in your life."

### **QUESTIONS AND PROPOSALS**

- 1) **Where did Jesus' family reside after leaving Egypt?**
- 2) **Why did Mary and Joseph go to Jerusalem every year?**
- 3) **How old was Jesus when He visited Jerusalem for the first time?**
- 4) **What happened on their way back from Jerusalem?**
- 5) **What was Jesus doing in the Temple?**
- 6) **How should we treat our parents?**
- 7) **In the classroom, discussion and interpret the following words of Jesus: " Don't you know that I would be in my Father's House?"**

### **TO LEARN BY HEART**

**O God Almighty, who has given us  
a good father and a loving mother.  
Give us the grace to pray,  
To be righteous, to be meek and humble,  
and to always love You.  
Amen.**