



A Boy in the Temple

**Matthew 2:19-23
& Luke 2:39-52**

EXPLORE

As a family, read *The Action Bible* story on pages 542–544 or the *Action Bible New Testament* on pages 32–34 as a family. Then, read this true Bible story found in Matthew 2:19–23 and Luke 2:39–52.

Here is what the story is about:

After King Herod died, an angel told Joseph in a dream to take Jesus and Mary back to Nazareth. Jesus grew up there, becoming wiser and stronger. When Jesus was 12, Jesus and His family went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Jesus spent time in the temple, amazing the teachers with His knowledge of scripture. After the Passover feast, as Mary and Joseph travelled back to Nazareth, they realized that Jesus was not with them. They returned to Jerusalem and found Jesus teaching in the temple. Jesus told them that He was in His Father's house. Back in Nazareth, Jesus continued to grow in wisdom, stature, and favour among men.

REMEMBER

Answer each question with information you learned from the story:

- › After King Herod died, what did an angel tell Joseph in a dream? The angel told Joseph to return to Israel. Jesus was no longer in danger.
- › When Jesus was in Jerusalem with His family for Passover, where did He spend time? Jesus spent time in the temple with the wise men and teachers.
- › What are all of the Gospels about? The life of Jesus.

DISCUSS

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus travelled over 150 kilometers to celebrate the Passover feast in Jerusalem.

- › **What do the Israelites celebrate during the Passover Feast (Exodus 12:1–30)?** Passover is a special time when Jewish families remember how God helped their ancestors escape from slavery in Egypt. They celebrate how God brought freedom and redemption to their nation.

Of all of the places in Jerusalem to visit, Jesus chose to spend His time at the temple. He discussed scriptures with students and teachers. Many were amazed with His understanding.

- › **Why is it important to study the Bible?** The Bible is God’s Word. It teaches us about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches us about our identity and God’s redemptive plan for creation. When we study the Bible, God speaks to us.

PRAY

Read the prayer below aloud or pray your own prayer based on Luke 2:52:

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to redeem the world. Guide us to grow in wisdom and favour with You and others. As we read and study scripture, speak to us and teach us, deepening our understanding of who You are.

ACT

Plan a special dinner with your family. Have each member of your family participate in the preparation and sit down to have the meal together. At the meal, take some time to remember and share about what God has done for you. This could be something that God has provided for you, protected you from, or blessed you with. Take turns sharing these reflections as a family and praise the Lord for all that He has done!