

Be My Disciples **Finding Jesus in the Temple**

Ask your friends or family to help you act out this story from the life of Jesus.

Narrator: Mary and Joseph had been walking for three days. They were hot and dusty, and their feet hurt. But the ache in their hearts was worse. The boy Jesus they loved so much was missing. After celebrating the Passover in Jerusalem, they had started for home with their family and friends from Nazareth. At first they thought Jesus was with other people in the group—but then they realized that he was nowhere to be found. So with sadness, they had turned back toward Jerusalem to look for him.

Mary: Joseph, I don't understand. This is not like Jesus!

Joseph: I know! Perhaps he was captured by robbers along the road. But even if he's safe, he could be anywhere in the whole city! How will we know where to look for him?

Mary: I don't know. Let's stop at the temple and ask God to show us the next step.

Narrator: So, as quietly as they could, Mary and Joseph stepped into the back of the temple. Inside, a group of priests and teachers was gathered in a circle having a serious conversation.

Mary: Joseph—look! It's Jesus! In the midst of the teachers!

Narrator: And sure enough, Jesus was talking with the priests and teachers who studied the Scriptures. He sat with them, asking and answering questions. They nodded their heads and listened carefully to everything he said. Mary and Joseph were amazed. They were filled with relief and happiness, but they felt confused, too. When Jesus was finished, he approached them.

Mary: Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking and looking for you. We were afraid something had happened to you.

Jesus: But, Mother, why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house?

Narrator: Mary didn't understand Jesus' answer. But she knew that there was something different about him. She knew he was special. And she knew that he had been sent to do God's will. So she turned her confusion over to God in prayer. The family returned to Nazareth together in joy. Jesus continued to grow wise and loving.

