

A long time ago, in a small village called Nazareth, there lived a boy named Jesus with his parents, Mary and Joseph. Every year, they traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival, which was a very important event for the people back then. When Jesus was twelve years old, they made the journey to Jerusalem once again.

The Passover festival was a time of joy and celebration. The streets of Jerusalem were filled with people from all over the land. Jesus was very excited because he loved being in the temple and learning more about God.

After the festival was over, Mary and Joseph started their journey back home with a large group of relatives and friends. They thought Jesus was somewhere in the group, maybe with his cousins or friends. But Jesus had other plans. He stayed behind in the temple to talk with the teachers and scholars.

Mary and Joseph didn't realize Jesus was missing until a day later. They searched for him everywhere in the group, but no one had seen him. Worried, they returned to Jerusalem and searched for him for three days throughout the city. They were very anxious and wondered where their son could be.

On the third day, they finally found Jesus in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking smart questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his knowledge and wisdom, even though he was still so young.

Mary and Joseph were relieved but also puzzled. Mary went to Jesus and said, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been searching for you anxiously." Jesus looked at them and replied, "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

Mary and Joseph didn't fully understand what Jesus meant, but they took him back to Nazareth. Jesus was obedient and grew up to be wise and strong, and God and people were pleased with him.

This story shows how important it was for Jesus to be with his heavenly Father and to learn more about God. It comes from the Bible, specifically from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verses 41-52.

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