

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### TRAVEL TO THE TEMPLE

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#### Luke 2:41-52 Jesus as a boy

Jesus travelled with his family to the Temple to take part in the Passover festival. On their way home Mary and Joseph discovered that Jesus was missing. In today's session we find out where Jesus was and how we can follow his example as we journey through our own lives.

Each child will need:

- Small slips of paper
- Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

- A small container, large sheets of paper or a large wipe board
- Flip chart paper and pens

### Start It

- **Say:** In today's story Jesus went on a journey with his friends and family to Jerusalem. Imagine you are going on a trip. Have a think about the kinds of things you might take on a trip but don't share them with the rest of the group.

Play a game of Pictionary using the children's ideas for things you would take on a trip. Ask the children to write one idea on each slip of paper. Depending on your group it might be a good idea to prepare some of your own as well! Put all the clues in a container and let the children take turns drawing the travel item and see if the rest of the group can guess what it is. Draw on large sheets of paper or a wipe board.

### Sing It

- **Say:** In today's story Jesus and his family travel to Jerusalem to take part in the Festival of Passover. This was a time of celebration for the Jewish people. Our song for today reminds us how important it is to spend time praising God and hopefully will bring a big smile to your face.

'Praise ye the Lord hallelujah' (new version) by Listener Kids (Stop the clip at 1 min 41 secs)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuODF9Kbgnw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuODF9Kbgnw)

### Tell It

- **Say:** Over the past few 'Explore It' sessions we have:
  - travelled with the wise men to visit Jesus,
  - travelled with Joseph and Mary to Egypt as they tried to keep Jesus safe,
  - travelled to Nazareth where Jesus and his family made their home.

Today we will make a different journey with Jesus. We find this part of the story in chapter two of the book of Luke. Jesus and his family had travelled with a huge crowd of friends and family to take part in the Jewish Festival of the Passover.

**Read:**

**'Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the [Festival of the Passover]. When Jesus was 12 years old, they went to the [festival] as they always did. When the [festival was] over, they went home. The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Joseph and Mary travelled for a whole day. They thought that Jesus was with them in the group. Then they began to look for him among their family and friends, but they did not find him.'**

— (Luke 2:41-45 ICB)

**Ask:**

- How do you think your family would react if they suddenly discovered you were missing?
- What would they say, and what would they do?
- How do you think Mary and Joseph reacted when they discovered Jesus wasn't with the group?

**Read:**

**'So they went back to Jerusalem to look for him there. After three days they found him. Jesus was sitting in the Temple with the religious teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and wise answers. When Jesus' parents saw him, they were amazed. His mother said to him, "Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I were very worried about you. We have been looking for you."'**

— (Luke 2:45-48 ICB)

**Ask:** How many days was it before they noticed Jesus was gone?

💬 **Say:** In our modern-day society, it may seem terrible that Joseph and Mary didn't realise Jesus was missing until a whole day had passed, but families and friends would often travel together and take care of each other. Once they discovered that Jesus was missing, they began the search and found Jesus in the Temple.

**Ask:**

- Do you understand why Mary and Joseph were so upset with Jesus? If so, why?
- What explanation do you think Jesus had for staying at the Temple?

**Read:**

**'Jesus asked, "Why did you have to look for me? You should have known that I must be where my Father's work is!" But they did not understand the meaning of what he said. Jesus went with them to Nazareth and obeyed them. His mother was still thinking about all that had happened. Jesus continued to learn more and more and to grow physically. People liked him, and he pleased God.'**

— (Luke 2:49-52 ICB)

💬 **Say:** The Temple in Jerusalem played an important part in the story of Jesus. When Jesus was a small baby, he travelled with his family to meet Simeon and Anna. Watch the clip to see how that first visit to the Temple is connected to today's story.

**Video**

*Jesus in the Temple* (Luke 2) by Saddleback Kids (3 mins 15 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho\\_3gviWzbw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho_3gviWzbw)

**Ask:** Why was the Temple such a special place for Jesus?

💬 **Say:** Although Jesus could always be with his heavenly Father, the Temple was a special place where he felt at home. He spent time there to learn and grow.

**Ask:** How does your church help you to learn and grow?

# Action It

## Ask:

- How else do you grow as a Christian?
- Who are the people who help you to grow and learn like Jesus did?

Discuss with the children all the different ways they grow as Christians and what we can learn from Jesus in today's story. Jot down all their ideas on some flip chart paper.

## Imagine

Ask the children to imagine a game that helps people to discover how to grow as Christians. This could be a board game, a starter game for an 'Explore It' session, or they could imagine what it would look like as an app or computer game. The children can use this opportunity to get creative. They may wish to draw some of their ideas.

While they are thinking through and discussing their ideas, there will be plenty of opportunities to discuss what it means to grow in Jesus but also clarify any misconceptions. For example, when it comes to growing as a Christian, is there a game to win or are we travelling on a journey just like Jesus did? Give the children time to plan their ideas (the more creative, the better) and share them with the rest of the group.

- 🗨️ **Say:** The main aim of the life of a Christian is to follow Jesus and be like him. Our memory verse reminds us that we can only do that if Jesus is living within us. Let's share our memory verse together.

**'If someone says, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God," then God lives in him. And he lives in God.'**

— (1 John 4:15 ICB)

## Pray It

- 🗨️ **Say:** For our prayer time today, we are going to sing together. This song is a prayer to God where we tell him how much we want to be like Jesus.

## Video

'Just like you' by Kids Praise 3 (3 mins 14 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftUadO6vaAU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftUadO6vaAU)

- 🗨️ **Say:**

Dear God,

Help us to follow the example of Jesus.

We want to grow in our faith and become more like you.

Help us to travel through our lives with you as our guide.

Amen.

# Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

JANUARY  
SESSION 03

### TRAVEL TO THE TEMPLE

 Luke 2:41-52 Jesus as a boy

## FOR ME

## TOGETHER



### Watch

Watch the clip to remind you of today's story.

*Jesus teaches in the Temple* (Bible Heroes of Faith episode 3) by Bible Kids

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYMcR6HFpL4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYMcR6HFpL4)

What do you learn about following Jesus from this clip?



### Create

Create a game for your family to play on a trip. Think about the mode of transport you use the most and keep that in mind when you create the game. Teach it to the rest of your family and play it on your next trip together.



### Song for the week

'Praise ye the Lord hallelujah' (new version)  
by Listener Kids

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuODF9Kbgw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuODF9Kbgw)



### Memory verse

'If someone says, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God," then God lives in him. And he lives in God.'

— (1 John 4:15 ICB)

### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

*Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

