

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*



December 30, 2018

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52



In My Father's House

Have you ever misplaced something? Of course, you have. We have all done that, haven't we? Perhaps we were reading a book and put it down and then later couldn't remember where we put it. Maybe we were watching television and couldn't remember where we put the remote control. I have searched for my glasses to find that they were on top of my head. I have even put my coffee cup in the microwave oven and later couldn't remember where it was. What do we do when we misplace something? We usually retrace our steps to all of the places we have been until we find it.

Our Bible lesson today is about some parents who misplaced something. Now, these weren't just any parents -- it was Mary and Joseph -- the parents of Jesus. Mary and Joseph didn't misplace something like a book or some keys. They misplaced Jesus! Here is how it happened.

Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem every year for the Feast of the Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem just as they always did. After Passover, they began their journey home, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary didn't know it. They thought he was with some friends or family members who were traveling with them. After they had gone a day's journey, they began to look for Jesus among their relatives and friends, but he wasn't there. When they couldn't find him, they decided to return to Jerusalem to look for him. After searching for three days, they finally found him. Guess where he was? He was in the temple, sitting in the middle of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions.

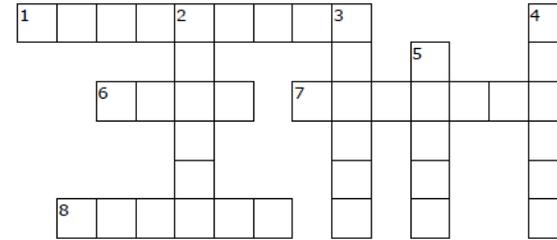
When Mary and Joseph saw him, they were astonished. His mother asked him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? Your father and I were anxiously looking for you."

Jesus answered, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" You see, even as a child, Jesus knew that he must follow the path that his Father had laid out for him, and at that moment, the most important place for him to be was in his Father's house.

Jesus said it was important for him to be in his Father's house. It is also important for you and me to be in his Father's house. Why? Because His Father's house is our Father's house too! It is a house of worship, a house of prayer, a house of peace, a house of love, a house of joy. What better place could there be for a child of God than to be in the Father's house?

Gracious and loving God, we have come into your house today to worship you. Help us to remember that there is no better place for your children to be than to be in your house. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. People related by kinship, common origin, or marriage.
6. A place where a person or family lives; a residence
7. A father and mother
8. Someone you know, like, and trust

DOWN

2. A building used for religious ceremonies or worship
3. To look carefully in order to find something
4. The ability to judge what is true or right
5. A large meal; A periodic religious festival

PARENTS	RELATIVES	TEMPLE	WISDOM
FRIEND	FEAST	HOME	SEARCH

Activity: Using craft sticks, have the children glue them in the shape of a church on a construction paper. Have them draw a walkway to the church and stick people going to it. Write the title WE ARE GOING TO MY FATHER'S HOUSE.

Discussion Question: Jesus' parents thought he was lost, but we never really lose Jesus because he's always with us in our hearts. Name a time when you knew for sure that you could feel Jesus with you.

Family Table Prayer for December: Round this table, here to pray. First we thank you for the day. For our family and our friends, gifts of grace that heaven lends. Living water, daily bread, countless blessings our God sends. Thank you, Jesus, for them all, for the great ones and the small. Amen.

December Memory Verse: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Jesus in the Temple

