

From Holy Days to Holidays



BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

LUKE 2:41-52

Jesus at the temple as a 12-year-old



AIMS

This resource equips you to lead children and young people in exploring our only record of Jesus' activity at school-age. It highlights the importance of spending time away from family, and everyday life, to discuss the Bible with others- an opportunity SU Holidays offers. You can use this resource to promote SU Holidays to your SU Group.

Luke records that when Jesus was 12 (a point of adulthood for Jewish boys), he joined Mary and Joseph, along with other relatives and friends, as they travelled from Nazareth to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. After a mix up in his travel plans, he spent three days without Mary and Joseph and had the opportunity to explore and discuss the Bible with other people.



PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passage for this session and reflect:

- What were the defining or exciting milestones in your faith development? The first time you remember going to an SU Holiday, joining a church, telling people you are a Christian, becoming a Christian, going to a place or event that meant a lot to you.
- Where do you go now to listen to and ask questions of others?
- Notice that "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52) How are you seeing this in the young people who attend the SU Group? How might an SU Holiday or Weekend contribute to this?



GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme.

>> Where's Jesus? (seated activity)

We have provided an image in the resources section of a large crowd with Jesus hidden somewhere. The story is about people looking for Jesus. Ask the group if they can spot Jesus in the

picture. Alternatively bring along the book, 'Where's Wally', and ask the group to look for Wally in the pictures.

>> Where's Jesus? (moving around activity)

Hide a few copies of the image of Jesus from the resource folder. There are nine copies on a page, and you can print out enough for everyone in the group to find Jesus for themselves. This image is part of the Free Bible Images slides that we will use in telling the story.



INTRO ACTIVITIES (cont.)

>> Looking for matching pairs

Instead of looking for Jesus, you can look for matching pairs of pictures from SU Holidays. We have provided two sets of 12 pictures in colour or black and white for your printing preference.

Lay them out face-down at random on the table or floor. To help the group find pairs quicker, you can lay them face-down in a grid with one copy of each photo in the top two rows and one on the bottom two rows. One team picks two pieces of card/paper and turns them over; if it is a matching pair they keep it; if not, they turn them back over and the turn passes to the next group. The team with the most pairs at the end of the game wins. You could discuss what is on the picture as the winners remove them or at the end, e.g. have any of you tried a zip line before? What is your favourite food? What do you think you have to do for the crate climb?

>> Discussion Questions

- Where is the best place you have ever visited with your family?
- Where would you like to visit with your family?
- Where would you like to go without your family?



EXPLORING THE BIBLE

>> Jesus at the temple

Tell the story using the slides from Free Bible images. Either tell the story by showing the pictures in turn (the script on page three is based on these slides) or read the passage from a Bible and ask the pupils to put the photos into order (the slides can be printed several to a page for different sizes.)

>> Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Mary and Joseph didn't realise Jesus hadn't left Jerusalem with them? (Probably with his friends or other relatives, he is an adult now so he will be with Joseph; he always travels with his mother.)
- How do you think Jesus got on without Mary and Joseph? Do you think he was scared? Who do you think looked after him? How would you get on for a few days away from home without those who normally care for you?
- People were amazed at Jesus understanding and answers (v 47). What question would you ask Jesus?
- Who else can you ask questions to about Jesus?
- In what ways is Jesus like you?
- How can you be more like Jesus?



SU Holidays

Explain to the group that over 3,000 young people each year come on an SU Scotland residential event. Some come to many events in a year, and others do events for many years. But like Jesus going to his first Passover Festival, they all had to go to their first SU Holiday or weekend not exactly sure what it would be like. Show the group the SU Holidays video to give them an idea of what they are like. Give out the brochures and let the group look at the range of picture. Take questions from the group then direct their focus a bit more with some of your questions.

- What Holidays could they go to at Easter? (look for events for P5-7 or others for older primary and early secondary)
- What if you can't afford the full price? (read the Holiday Sponsorship Fund section)
- Which holiday looks the most fun?
- Which of the places on the map is nearest to us?
- What is the website address to look for more information and pictures?
- What event am I going to? (if you are going as a leader.)



CLOSING ACTIVITY

If there is still time left in your session, play a game of "I went on an SU Holiday and in my bag, I packed..." After saying this phrase, the first participant mentions one item (e.g. a sleeping bag). The second participant repeats the phrase with the first participant's item, then adds their own item (e.g. wellie boots), and this continues until there is a long list.

>> Follow Up

Next week, make sure you have additional brochures in case anyone misplaced theirs. Ask how they got on at home with discussing going on an SU Holiday. If possible, show the children the booking section of the website. If financial help is needed, then speak to your local staff member who may have access to additional funds.



Check out other
resources from SU
Scotland:
[suscotland.org.uk/
resources](https://suscotland.org.uk/resources)



Script for 'Exploring the Bible' section

Slide 1: Title slide, Luke 2:41-52

Slide 2: When Jesus was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph took Him to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.

Slide 3: It was a holiday celebration they attended every year. Thousands of people from all over the country were in the city and the narrow streets were very crowded.

Slide 4: At the end of the festival Mary and Joseph joined others from Galilee making the trip home. They thought Jesus was with their relatives and friends in the crowd heading home, but He was in the Temple sitting with the teachers, asking questions and giving answers.

Slide 5: That evening Mary and Joseph set up camp and rested.

Slide 6: But when they looked for Jesus they could not find Him.

Slide 7: After a frantic search they realised Jesus was not with their relatives or friends. Immediately they set off back to Jerusalem to find Him.

Slide 8: They searched the city for three days.

Slide 9: But they could not find Jesus.

Slide 10: Having searched and searched they went into the Temple and suddenly ...

Slide 11: ... they saw Jesus sitting with the teachers of God's law.

Slide 12: Those listening to Jesus were amazed at the questions He asked and the answers He gave.

Slide 13: 'Son, why have you treated us like this?' asked Mary. 'Joseph and I have been anxiously searching for you.'

Slide 14: 'Why were you searching for me?' Jesus asked. 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house doing what He wants me to do?'

Slide 15: Mary and Joseph did not understand what He was saying to them.

Slide 16: Jesus returned to Nazareth with His parents and was obedient to them. Mary treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.