## **Bible Stories for Young Children**

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

## JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

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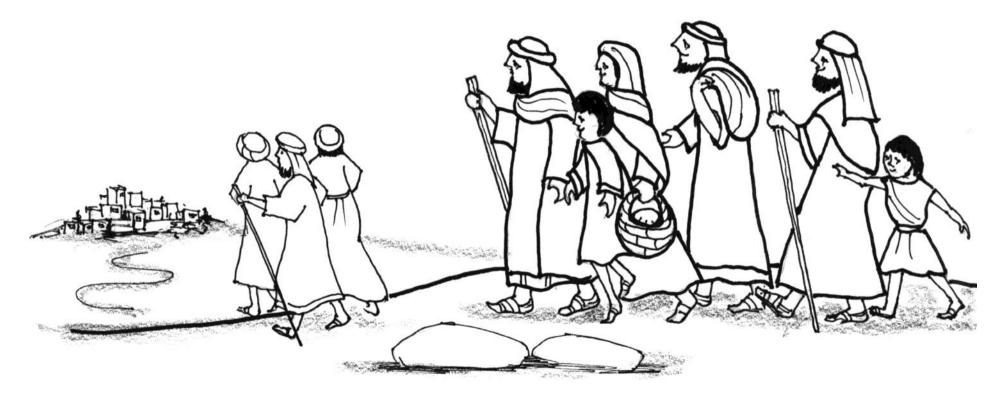
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When Jesus was twelve years old, his family and friends went on a long journey to Jerusalem.

They were going there for a festival called the Passover.



The Passover began when Moses was alive and God's people were slaves in Egypt.
God was about to free them.

God's people sprinkled the blood of a lamb or a goat around their doorways.

When the angel of the Lord saw the blood on their doorway, he passed over their house and their eldest son was saved.

Every year after the first Passover, God's people remembered that God saved them by celebrating the Passover festival.

This was the festival that Jesus was now attending.



After the festival, everyone started on their long journey home, except Jesus. He stayed in Jerusalem.

His Mother and Father did not know He was there. They thought He was with their friends.

Everyone walked along singing, talking and playing games unaware that Jesus was not with them.

At the end of the day, Mary and Joseph looked for Jesus among their relatives and friends.

They could not find Him anywhere.



Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem and looked everywhere for Him.

Where did they find Him?



He was in the temple, listening to the teachers of the law and asking them questions.

The Teachers were amazed at what He understood and the questions He asked about God.

They did not realise He was the Son of God.



When Mary saw Jesus she asked, 'Why didn't You come home with us?'

Jesus answered, 'Why were you looking for Me? Didn't you know I had to be in My Father's house?'

Who was His Father? It was God and the Temple was God's house.

Mary and Joseph thought about all of these things.
They were learning what it meant that Jesus was God's Son.



Jesus went home with Mary and Joseph. He obeyed them. He grew up to be wise.

