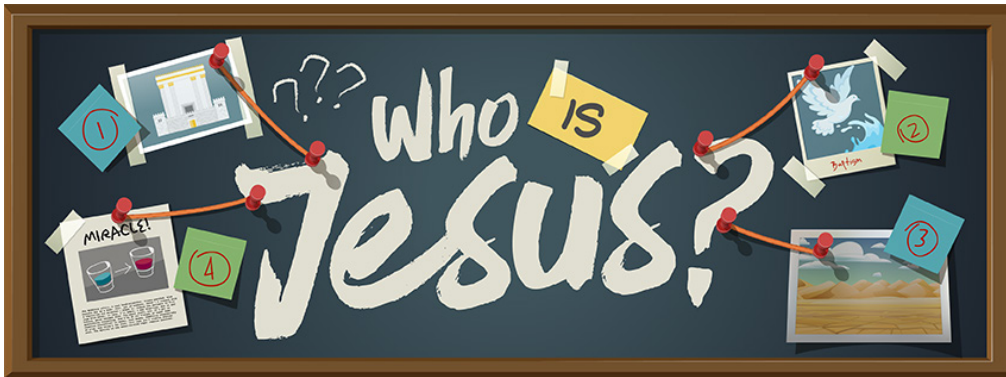




# JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

■ New Apostolic Church USA



### CURIOSITY

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: *Which animal reminds you most of yourself: a dog, a cat, or a mouse? Why?*
- Interactive Game: Kinda Sorta Looks Like
- Declaring God's Wonder

### BELIEF *Choose either Hear It or Experience It and supplement with the video*

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Opening Prayer
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth

### FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

### IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Four Corners Response Stations
- Blessing Your Kids

## JESUS AT THE TEMPLE LESSON 1

NAC USA  
Goals and Objectives  
[IA 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 23-25, 27-29](#)  
[IB 1, 3, 5 IC 1-13 IE 1-3](#)  
[IIA 1, 4, 7 IIIA 1-3](#)

**WONDER TRUTH:**  
Jesus Shows Us What God Is Like

**SCRIPTURE:**  
[Luke 2](#)

**GOD'S BIG STORY:**  
After visiting Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, 12-year-old Jesus stays behind at the temple while His family travels home. He talks with the Jewish teachers and amazes many with His insights.

**WORD OF WONDER:**  
[Colossians 1:15](#)  
*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation...*

 Lesson PPT Slides

 Lesson PDF Slides

 Lesson Printables

# FOR LEADERS

## A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father...*

Dear Sunday School Teachers,

Take a moment to read [Luke 2:41-52](#). Most parents can relate to the panic of losing a child, even for a brief moment. You've likely felt the heart-racing fear that Joseph and Mary experienced. As Sunday School teachers, many of you carry not only the worries of your own children but also the responsibility of guiding others' children through an anxious world.

But have you ever paused to consider Jesus' response when Mary and Joseph finally found Him? He wasn't distressed. He didn't share their fear because His connection to His Heavenly Father was unshaken. He knew where He belonged.

In the midst of all that pulls us in different directions—worries about safety, the future, and the well-being of those we love—do you find yourself overwhelmed? Jesus offers us an example of calm and unwavering trust. Even as a child, He teaches us what God is like: a safe place where we can grow, mature, and rest in His care, no matter how daunting our circumstances.

Mary moved from anxiety ([v. 48](#)) to contemplation and wonder ([v. 51](#)). She learned about God by watching her Son, and so can we. In your role as parents and/or teachers, may you model this trust in God for the children you nurture, teaching them to place all their fears in His hands, just as Christ did.

With love and joy,

**The Faith Arc Team**

### JESUS AT THE TEMPLE LESSON 1

NAC USA  
Goals and Objectives  
[IA 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 13-15,](#)  
[17-19, 21, 23-25, 27-29](#)  
[IB 1, 3, 5 IC 1-13 IE 1-3](#)  
[IIA 1, 4, 7 IIIA 1-3](#)

**WONDER TRUTH:**  
Jesus Shows Us What  
God Is Like

**SCRIPTURE:**  
[Luke 2](#)

**GOD'S BIG STORY:**  
After visiting Jerusalem  
for the Passover Feast,  
12-year-old Jesus stays  
behind at the temple while  
His family travels home.  
He talks with the Jewish  
teachers and amazes many  
with His insights.

**WORD OF WONDER:**  
[Colossians 1:15](#)  
*Christ is the visible image  
of the invisible God.  
He existed before  
anything was created  
and is supreme over all  
creation...*



Lesson  
PPT Slides



Lesson  
PDF Slides



Lesson  
Printables

## A ROAD MAP

### WHO?

The Jewish teachers were religious experts who instructed pupils in the temple courts. The teachers in [Luke 2](#) were likely rabbis, which means “my teacher” or “my master” in Hebrew. Rabbis would have taught apprentices, who sat at their feet, using a question-and-answer format.



### WHAT?

Every year Jewish families made the trip to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. When Jesus’ family left to go home, Jesus stayed behind in His Father’s house, listening to the teachers and asking questions. The 12-year-old Jesus amazed the rabbis at the temple with His wisdom and understanding.



### WHERE?

Jerusalem was about 40 miles from Jesus’ home in Nazareth. It typically took about three days to get from one city to the other. The temple in Jerusalem included buildings and courtyards used for both sacrifice and instruction. Jewish teachers may have taught here or in other areas of the temple.



### WHEN?

At this point in God’s big story, King Herod had died, and his son Archelaus reigned over Jerusalem. Caesar Augustus was likely nearing the end of his reign as Roman emperor. Passover happened in late March or early April.



### CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

This account bridges Jesus’ infancy and adulthood. It depicts Jesus growing strong and wise, living in step with the Father as He prepared for His kingdom work. It shows that Jesus understood His special relationship with God the Father, a relationship God would confirm years later at Jesus’ baptism.



## JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

### LESSON 1

NAC USA  
Goals and Objectives  
[IA 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 23-25, 27-29](#)  
[IB 1, 3, 5 IC 1-13 IE 1-3](#)  
[IIA 1, 4, 7 IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:  
Jesus Shows Us What  
God Is Like

SCRIPTURE:  
[Luke 2](#)

GOD’S BIG STORY:  
After visiting Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, 12-year-old Jesus stays behind at the temple while His family travels home. He talks with the Jewish teachers and amazes many with His insights.

WORD OF WONDER:  
[Colossians 1:15](#)  
*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation...*



Lesson  
PPT Slides



Lesson  
PDF Slides



Lesson  
Printables

### WELCOME QUESTION

**SUPPLIES:** paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, display the **Temple Welcome Question Slide**, or write the following question on a whiteboard: "Which animal reminds you most of yourself: a dog, a cat, or a mouse? Why?" Set out sheets of paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive, warmly welcome them by name and ask them to Check In.

#### All Ages

Always begin your class with a warm welcome and a social-emotional "check-in". Use the feelings chart and ask each child how they are feeling (refrain from asking "How are you?" as children may be accustomed to responding with "fine"). You may want to print and post the feelings chart in your classroom for ease of use.

- Allow each child to name their feeling or to use a color to name their feeling. Older children might use words, younger children might point to the pictures or use the colors to express their feelings.
- There are no wrong feelings and all feelings should be acknowledged.
- Acknowledge how children feel by giving each child time and space to share anything they might need or want to share in regard to their feelings. For example, you can ask "Why are you angry?" or "What made you sad?".
- If you can, address the feeling (hunger/thirst - provide a snack/drink, sadness - give a hug, joy - give a high five, tired - let the child rest, anger – a calming space, etc.).
- Keep in mind throughout the lesson how each child is feeling and that feelings may change during your time with the child.
- If you notice a change, you may want to allow the child to rename their feeling and again address the feeling if needed.
- Acknowledge all feelings, concerns, joys, and celebrations in your opening and closing prayer. Use a grace-based approach to the learning as feelings will impact how children learn. (adapted from the Zones of Regulation)

Show them the **Welcome Question** and encourage them to decide which animal most reminds them of themselves. Then invite kids to share with others why that animal reminds them of themselves. Share which animal you've selected for yourself and why you've done so. Invite kids to illustrate their answers if they choose and to show their illustrations to others. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

**Make It Inclusive:** Encourage kids with abounding energy to add actions to their Welcome Question answers. They can act out the animal they chose and challenge others to guess what they are. This also works great for younger kids and kids who are nonverbal.

### JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

LESSON 1

NAC USA

Goals and Objectives

[IA 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 23-25, 27-29](#)

[IB 1, 3, 5 IC 1-13 IE 1-3](#)

[IIA 1, 4, 7 IIIA 1-3](#)

#### WONDER TRUTH:

Jesus Shows Us What God Is Like

#### SCRIPTURE:

[Luke 2](#)

#### GOD'S BIG STORY:

After visiting Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, 12-year-old Jesus stays behind at the temple while His family travels home. He talks with the Jewish teachers and amazes many with His insights.

#### WORD OF WONDER:

[Colossians 1:15](#)

*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.*

*He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation...*



Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Angry



Scared



Panicked



Inconsolable



Happy



Focused



Calm



Proud



Worried



Frustrated



Silly



Excited



Sad



Bored



Tired



Sick



**At your start time...**

Smile and open your arms as you warmly greet kids, thanking them for coming. Ask for several volunteers to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **Which animal reminds you most of yourself: a dog, a cat, or a mouse? Why?**

Thanks for sharing how you see yourself! Today we're going to discover how sometimes when we see someone, that person shows us something about someone else. Confusing? It won't be when we discover how Jesus shows us what God is like. But, first, it's time to be curious.

## INTERACTIVE GAME: KINDA SORTA LOOKS LIKE

**SUPPLIES:** paper (1 sheet per kid), markers or pens (1 per kid), clipboards (1 per kid, optional), craft sticks (1 per kid, optional), opaque container (optional), timer (optional), **Shapes Slides** or **Shapes Sheet** (1 for every 2 kids), **Kinda Sorta Looks Like Slide**, **Temple Wonder Truth Slide**

Ahead of time, prepare the **Shapes Slides**, but don't display them yet. If you can't display the slides, print the **Shapes Sheet** back-to-back, one copy per pair of kids. If clipboards are available, clip a blank sheet of paper to each board (one per kid).

Consider preparing a fun way to pair kids up with partners: Ahead of time, color the ends of craft sticks, two sticks per color, and place them colored side down in an opaque container. Then at the start of the activity, invite each kid to pick a stick and find their partner with the matching stick. (Be sure there is the same number of sticks as there are kids and that every stick has a match.)

Display the **Kinda Sorta Looks Like Slide** and pair kids up, using the craft stick method if possible. Give each kid a sheet of paper (on a clipboard, if available) and a marker or pen. Instruct pairs to sit back-to-back, with one partner facing the screen and the other looking directly away from the screen. (If using the **Shapes Sheet** instead of the slides, the placement of kids in relationship to the screen isn't important.)

Explain to kids that you'll show a slide of simple shapes—triangles, circles, squares, ovals—or that you'll give one partner in each pair a sheet of paper with these shapes on it. Kids who can see the shapes will describe the arrangement of the shapes so their partners can reproduce what is shown.

Kids giving descriptions can't trace shapes on their partners' papers or offer corrections once something's been drawn. Kids drawing the shapes can't peek over their shoulders! After about 60 seconds, all kids can look at the shapes so pairs can compare what they drew to what's on the screen (or the sheet). Kids in pairs will then switch places and repeat the activity, viewing the second slide (or the other side of the sheet).

**Make It Inclusive:** Invite kids with visual impairments and those who are nonverbal or who struggle with verbal communication to be all-time drawers!

**Teaching Tip:**

*For Younger Kids:*  
Consider having a leader describe the shapes as younger kids try drawing them.

Display the first **Shapes Slide** or hand one partner in each pair the **Shapes Sheet** with side 1 facing up. If using the sheet, instruct kids not to turn the sheet over until later. When it's time for kids to switch places with their partners, advance to the **second slide** or have the second partner flip the sheet over to side 2.

Finally, gather kids together and display the **Temple Wonder Truth slide**. **It's hard to get a clear idea of how something—or someone—looks just by hearing a description. The good news for us is that we can get a clear picture of what God is like by looking at Jesus. Today's Wonder Truth is: JESUS SHOWS US WHAT GOD IS LIKE.** That means the more we know and love Jesus, the more we know and love God!

## DECLARING GOD'S WONDER

Display the **Temple Declaration Slide**. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**You show me Your love when I see Jesus,** (Kids repeat.)

**And I am in awe of who You are!** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)

## OPENING PRAYER

Before entering into God’s big story, lead kids in an opening prayer. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for letting us know You through Jesus. We ask Your Holy Spirit to help us see You clearly, love You deeply, and follow You always. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

## GOD’S BIG STORY

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story – we recommend you choose **HEAR IT!** or **EXPERIENCE IT!** and supplement with the **WATCH IT!** video. **HEAR IT!** is read directly from the Bible. **EXPERIENCE IT!** is an interactive story-telling activity.

### Hear It!

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

Display the **Temple Title Slide**. Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find [Luke chapter 2](#). (Consider pairing older kids with pre-readers and those with special needs.) As kids find the passage, explain that the book of Luke was written so readers (like them!) could know about Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. The book introduces us to the most important person we’ll ever meet!

**Let’s start by reading part of God’s big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!** Invite kids to silently act out what Mary and Joseph do in this passage as you read [Luke 2:41-52](#) aloud. If time allows, have kids join you in reading it aloud (or simply follow along) a second time.

### Watch It!

Watch the [Jesus at the Temple God’s Big Story!](#)

### JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

LESSON 1

NAC USA

Goals and Objectives

[IA 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 23-25, 27-29](#)

[IB 1, 3, 5 IC 1-13 IE 1-3](#)

[IIA 1, 4, 7 IIIA 1-3](#)

**WONDER TRUTH:**

Jesus Shows Us What God Is Like

**SCRIPTURE:**

[Luke 2](#)

**GOD’S BIG STORY:**

After visiting Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, 12-year-old Jesus stays behind at the temple while His family travels home. He talks with the Jewish teachers and amazes many with His insights.

**WORD OF WONDER:**

[Colossians 1:15](#)

*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.*

*He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation...*



Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

## Experience It!

**SUPPLIES:** butcher or kraft paper (1 sheet per 3–5 kids), markers, tape, Bible, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase markers (optional), coloring utensils (optional), **Story Path Sheet** (1 per kid, optional)

Ahead of time, create Story Paths from the butcher or kraft paper (one for every 3–5 kids). Cut the paper into sheets that are 40"–50" in length. Write "Home/ Nazareth" at the bottom of each path (in portrait orientation). Write "Temple/ Jerusalem" at the top of each path. Draw a curvy, winding path between the two locations. Make an extra Story Path for the leader to use in the classroom, and tape it to a flat, vertical surface, such as a wall or whiteboard (or draw a Story Path on a whiteboard for the leader to use). Alternatively, print a Story Path Sheet for each kid and have markers available for kids to share.

Arrange each Story Path face-down on the floor or on tables with markers at each paper. Help kids form small groups, and invite each group to gather around one of the papers.

**Hey, everyone! Do you think you can help me tell today's part of God's big story?** Pause for kids to answer. **Great! There are many places Jesus and His family travel to in this story, and we're going to keep track of them all. Go ahead and flip your papers over.** Reveal your own Story Path on a table near the kids. **What do you see?** Kids respond. **Yes, a path! Together as a group** (or individually, if each child has her own paper) **we'll work to draw pictures to match the different parts of the story. Let's begin!**

**The day Jesus was born—before He ever took a step or spoke a word—He was already showing people what God is like. Jesus' birth showed that God keeps His promises. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God had promised to send the Messiah—the everlasting King. Jesus is that King!**

**Mary and Joseph were Jesus' parents. They loved God and obeyed His commands. When God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, He commanded that every firstborn boy be dedicated to God in a special way. So when Jesus was still a baby, His parents took Him to Jerusalem (point to the phrase "Jerusalem/Temple" on your Story Path) to present Him at the temple. The temple was the place where people put God first.**

**Let's draw the temple in Jerusalem at the top of our Story Path. The temple was kind of a rectangular building with columns all around ... and some stairs ...** Draw the temple on your own Story Path. (It can be very simple!) Allow time for kids to draw temples near "Jerusalem" at the top of their Story Paths. Remind kids to put their markers down before you continue with the story.

**"Joseph and Mary did everything the Law of the Lord required" ([Luke 2:39](#)). They dedicated Jesus to God at the temple and offered a humble sacrifice. Then they went home to Nazareth (point to the phrase "Nazareth/Home" on your Story Path), where Jesus grew strong and wise. God's grace was with Him.**

**Let's draw a small house down here in Nazareth to show where Jesus and His family lived.** Draw a simple house on your own Story Path. (It can look modern with a sloped roof or more ancient with a flat roof.) Allow time for kids to draw houses as well. Remind kids to put their markers down before you continue.

**Every year, Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. This was a time to remember how God protected His people and delivered them from slavery in Egypt. Large traveling groups streamed into Jerusalem for the feast, then they streamed out again to return**

## ELEMENTARY

**home.** Move your arms and hands toward Jerusalem on your Story Path and then away to match the storytelling of the crowds streaming in and out of the city. **And when Jesus was 12 years old, He went to Jerusalem with His family to celebrate the Passover.**

**Let's add some celebration lines around the Temple to remind us of the Passover Feast Jesus and His family experienced in Jerusalem.** Draw a halo of excitement lines around the temple. Allow time for kids to draw. Remind kids to put their markers down before you continue.

**After the feast, Jesus' parents left to go back to Nazareth. Even though our Story Paths are short, Jerusalem and Nazareth were about 40 miles apart, and it would take Jesus' family several days to walk home.**

Indicate the movements of Mary and Joseph with your hand on the Story Path as you narrate this part: **So Mary and Joseph left with a large group of people to return home to Nazareth. They assumed Jesus was somewhere in the group, maybe tagging along with a friend or hanging out with a favorite uncle. But after a day of traveling** (point to the middle of the path in the middle of the paper), **they realized Jesus wasn't with the group. Yikes! Where could He be?**

**Let's draw some exclamation marks here in the middle of the path to show where Mary and Joseph realized Jesus was missing.** Draw exclamation points in the middle of the path and allow time for kids to do the same. Remind kids to put their markers down before you continue.

**Mary and Joseph traveled back to Jerusalem. They searched everywhere, and eventually found Jesus after three days!**

**Let's write the number three next to Jerusalem to remind us how many days Mary and Joseph searched for Jesus.** Write the number 3 next to the temple. Allow time for kids to do the same and remind them to put their markers down before you continue.

**Do you know where Jesus was all that time? The Bible says Jesus was at the temple, sitting in the courtyard with some of the Jewish teachers who taught students there.** Read [Luke 2:46b-47](#) from this script or directly from the Bible: **"He was listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Him was amazed at how much He understood. They also were amazed at His answers."**

**Let's draw Jesus in the temple.** Draw a stick figure of boy Jesus in the temple. If there's room, draw some adults around Him to indicate the Jewish teachers. Allow time for kids to draw, and remind them to put their markers down before you continue.

**Jesus' parents were amazed too, but they had been worried. "Son, why have you treated us like this?" His mother asked. "Your father and I have been worried about you. We have been looking for you everywhere"** ([Luke 2:48](#)).

**"Why were you looking for me?" Jesus asked His parents. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"** ([Luke 2:49](#)). What an incredible thing to say! Even at 12, Jesus understood that He had a special relationship with God. Who is Jesus the Son of? Allow kids to respond. **Yes, God! And Jesus needed to be near God, His Father, doing what God wanted Him to do.**

**Let's draw a big G around the whole temple to help us remember why Jesus stayed at the temple: to be near His Father, God.** Draw a large G around the temple and stick figures. Allow time for kids to draw their own. Remind them to put their markers down before continuing.

**After Jesus' parents found Him at the temple, He went back home with them and obeyed them. Let's draw a picture of Jesus and Mary and Joseph back at their home in Nazareth.** Draw a stick figure family outside the house at the bottom of the page. Allow time for kids to draw. Remind them to put their markers away.

Jesus grew wiser and stronger, pleasing to both God and people. He was getting ready—ready for His gigantic part in God’s big story. Many others would be amazed by Jesus as He revealed the wisdom and love of God to a broken world. Jesus shows us what God is like.

Gather the Story Paths. Then if possible, set them out again at the end of the lesson so kids can show them to their families during pick-up time.

## CONNECTING THE WONDER TRUTH

Display the **Temple Wonder Truth Slide**. Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

**Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS SHOWS US WHAT GOD IS LIKE. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**When Jesus was 12 years old, He already understood His special relationship with God the Father. Years later when Jesus was about 30, God would confirm that special relationship at Jesus’ baptism. Jesus is God’s Son, and He shows us what God is like!**

## ELEMENTARY

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

### QUESTIONS: YOUNGER KIDS

- How old was Jesus when today's part of God's big story took place?
- Where did Jesus and His family travel to in this story? Why did they go there?
- Jesus wasn't with Mary and Joseph when they left for home. Where did they find Him?
- Jesus was at the temple talking with the Jewish teachers! Why do you think the Jewish teachers were amazed at His answers?
- Jesus told Mary and Joseph that He had to be in His Father's house. What do His words tell us about who Jesus is?
- What's your favorite thing about Jesus? (It's OK for kids to have lots of favorites!)

Jesus is amazing! He is loving, kind, wise, and powerful. And getting to know Jesus better is how we get to know God better! Let's spend time talking with God in prayer, thanking Him for how wonderful He is!

### PRAYER TIME: YOUNGER KIDS

Invite kids to circle up, and lead them in sharing their praises and requests. Then go around the circle, giving kids who would like a chance to pray for what's been shared. Open and close the prayer time yourself.

**Make it Inclusive:** Kids with processing challenges can struggle to answer open-ended questions. Consider rewording questions to a yes/no format, giving kids two answers to choose from, or allowing them to illustrate their responses. For example, rather than asking how old Jesus was in today's story, ask whether Jesus was 12 years old or 30 years old.

### JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

#### LESSON 1

#### NAC USA Goals and Objectives

[IA 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 13-15,](#)  
[17-19, 21, 23-25, 27-29](#)

[IB 1, 3, 5 IC 1-13 IE 1-3](#)

[IIA 1, 4, 7 IIIA 1-3](#)

#### WONDER TRUTH:

Jesus Shows Us What  
God Is Like

#### SCRIPTURE:

[Luke 2](#)

#### GOD'S BIG STORY:

After visiting Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, 12-year-old Jesus stays behind at the temple while His family travels home. He talks with the Jewish teachers and amazes many with His insights.

#### WORD OF WONDER:

[Colossians 1:15](#)

Christ is the visible image  
of the invisible God.

He existed before  
anything was created  
and is supreme over all  
creation...



Lesson  
PPT Slides



Lesson  
PDF Slides



Lesson  
Printables

### QUESTIONS: OLDER KIDS

- Where did 12-year-old Jesus and His family travel to in this part of God's big story? Why did they go there?
- What did Mary and Joseph realize as they traveled home from Jerusalem?
- When Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple, what was He doing?
- Why do you think the Jewish teachers were amazed at Jesus' answers?
- What did Jesus say to Mary and Joseph when they found Him? What do His words tell us about who Jesus is?
- What amazes you most about Jesus (in this story, anywhere in the Bible, or in your life)?

Jesus is amazing! He is compassionate, kind, wise, and powerful. His love for us will never end or fail! And getting to know Jesus better is how we get to know God better! Let's spend time talking with God in prayer, bringing our requests to Him and praising Him for how wonderful He is!

### PRAYER TIME: OLDER KIDS

Invite kids to share their praises and requests; then encourage them to pray aloud for one another. Open and close the prayer time yourself.

**Make it Inclusive:** Kids with processing challenges can struggle to answer open-ended questions. Consider rewording questions to a yes/no format, giving kids two answers to choose from, or allowing them to illustrate their responses. For example, rather than ask where Jesus and His family traveled, ask if they traveled to Jerusalem or to Rome.

**Do you love being in God's house? Coming to church is not just something we do on Sundays, it's what God commands us to do. Let's practice saying the Third Commandment together, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."** Say the Third Commandment using choral response, and then ask if anyone would like to say it on their own. **Let's be like Jesus and show our love for Him and our heavenly Father by being in His house whenever we can. What do you love about coming to church?** Allow the kids to share their answers and accept all reasons, even if they are not spiritual reasons. We want kids to feel at home and welcome in church.

#### Teaching Tip:

Some kids are very self-conscious and fear what others think of them. (We've all been there!) So rather than expect all kids to pray aloud, invite them to do so. Some will take you up on the invitation, and others won't be ready yet. That's OK! Let every kid know you are glad they are part of the group!

### RESPONDING IN WORSHIP: FOUR CORNERS RESPONSE STATIONS

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock (1 sheet), scissors (prep only), Bible, small disposable cups (1 per kid), cool water, self-adhesive bandages (1 per kid), bowl, posterboard (1 sheet), paper (1 sheet per kid), trash can, small tables (4, optional), sheets or blankets (optional), [Responding in Worship Slide](#), [Four Corners Cards Sheet](#), [Who Is Jesus? Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print one copy of the [Four Corners Cards Sheet](#) onto cardstock and cut out the cards. Set up four response stations (see below for instructions), one in each corner or area of the room. They can be set up at small tables or on the floor—whatever works for your space. If your group is very large, set up multiples of each station. Consider covering the stations with sheets or blankets so kids don't see them until the worship response time.

**Station 1:** An open Bible and the Station 1 Card that says: When Jesus was 12, He chose to be in the temple talking about His Father. What does that tell us about God?

**Station 2:** Small disposable cups filled with water (one per kid) with the Station 2 Card that says: Enjoy a cup of cool, refreshing water. Jesus said we can find rest and refreshment in Him. What does that tell us about God?

**Station 3:** A bowl of self-adhesive bandages and a sheet of poster board with the Station 3 Card that says: Put a bandage on the poster. When Jesus was an adult, He suffered and died on a cross to save us from our sins—the wrong things we do. Three days later, Jesus rose again! What does Jesus' death and resurrection tell us about God's love for us?

**Station 4:** Sheets of blank paper (one per kid), a trash can, and the Station 4 Card that says: Hold a sheet of paper and think about a way you've sinned—a wrong thing you've done. Whisper a prayer to Jesus, telling Him about your sin and asking Him to forgive you. Now crumple up the paper and throw it away. When we confess, or tell, our sins to Jesus, He promises to forgive us! What does that tell us about God's forgiveness?

Play music from the [Who Is Jesus? Elementary Spotify playlist](#) softly in the background as you show kids each of the four response stations, reading the words on the cards and briefly modeling what kids will do at each station. Then invite kids to visit the stations in any order they choose. Encourage them to take their time,

#### Teaching Tips:

*For Older Kids:*

Emphasize that the truths presented at each station are based on Scripture by setting a Bible at each station and opening it to these corresponding verses. If possible, highlight the verses for kids to see and read: Station 1: [Luke 2:49](#); Station 2: [Matthew 11:28](#); Station 3: [Romans 5:6-8](#); Station 4: [1 John 1:9](#).

### JESUS AT THE TEMPLE LESSON 1

NAC USA  
Goals and Objectives  
[IA 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 23-25, 27-29](#)  
[IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#) [IE 1-3](#)  
[IIA 1, 4, 7](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:  
Jesus Shows Us What  
God Is Like

SCRIPTURE:  
[Luke 2](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:  
After visiting Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, 12-year-old Jesus stays behind at the temple while His family travels home. He talks with the Jewish teachers and amazes many with His insights.

WORD OF WONDER:  
[Colossians 1:15](#)  
*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation...*



Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

lingering at each corner. (Have an adult or youth leader at each station who's available to read the cards to younger kids and those who struggle with reading.)

**Disclaimer:** We have permission from the publisher to use the Spotify music playlist solely for the purposes of the Sunday School hour, Vacation Bible School experiences, fellowship events, or for listening at home. Please note that this playlist is not to be used during the divine service or for any streamed or broadcasted occasion.

## BLESSING YOUR KIDS

Display the **Temple Blessing Slide**. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

**Blessing:** May our unseen God fill your heart with love for Him, for others, and for yourself as you desire to know, love, and follow His ways. And may you walk with Jesus today and always.

## ELEMENTARY

### Teaching Tips:

Kids who are new to church may need help understanding the meaning of Stations 3 and 4. If possible, have a leader at each station engaging with kids to help them understand Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and His power and kindness to forgive.