

Joyful Catholic Families  
**Lesson #6**  
**Jesus is Found in the Temple, Lenten Chain**

**Before class:** Hide “Jesus” for the hats in many different places in the room.

**Story with Actions -- “Mary Finds Jesus at the Temple”**

I used the story with actions, “Mary Finds Jesus at the Temple” in [New Testament 30 Interactive Stories for Young Children](#) by Steven James. You can see this story in [Google books](#).

**Discuss:**

Jesus’ parents found Him in the Temple. The Temple was their church.

- Where is Jesus’ today? (Tabernacle, Heaven, and in the hearts of all who believe in Him!)
- Show a picture of the tabernacle in your church.
- Show a ciborium or a picture of a ciborium (chalice with lid).
  - Explain that the ciborium is what the Blessed Sacrament (consecrated hosts – Jesus) is kept in.
  - The ciborium is kept in the tabernacle.
- **OR** go to your church and show the children the tabernacle.

What did Jesus’ parents have to do to find Jesus?

They looked high! (look up) ...

They looked low! (look down) ...

They looked this way! (look left) ...

They looked that way! (look right) ...

They looked all around! (stand up, turn in a circle looking) ...

We don’t have to do that. We can always find Jesus in the tabernacle!

## Make “Jesus in the Temple” hat:

For the printable, go to [My Little House website](http://MyLittleHouse.com) and click on “download file” for “Jesus Visits Jerusalem as a Boy.”

- Print pages 4 and 5 on white paper.
- Cut apart the figures.
  - I chose to only use 3 of the “priest and leaders” because of the amount of time it would take for the children and parents to color and cut out all of them.



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Show the children the hat. Ask who the people are on the hat. Which one is Jesus?

Hand out to the children all the pieces for the hat except for “Jesus”.

(I put each child’s set into a plastic bag – easier to hand out and no pieces were “lost” during the handing out process.)

- Children color the pieces.
- Parents/children cut the figures out.
- Glue the figures to the temple piece.
- Attach strips of paper to each side of the temple piece to make the hat.
- Fit to child’s head and tape the strips of paper together.

When someone realizes that “Jesus” is missing say:

Where is Jesus?

Where is Jesus?

Where could he be?

When no one can find their “Jesus” say:

They looked high! (look up) ...

They looked low! (look down) ...

They looked this way! (look left) ...

They looked that way! (look right) ...

They looked all around! (stand up, turn in a circle looking) ...

Encourage the children to look around the room for their “Jesus”

When each child has found a “Jesus”, finish the hats.



## Musical Chairs:

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were on a trip to Jerusalem when Jesus became lost.

- How do you think they traveled to Jerusalem? (They probably walked. There were no cars, bicycles, planes, or trains when Jesus lived on earth.)

Let's play a game where you walk.

(Place a chair for each child in two rows with the backs of the chairs touching.)



Tell the children to start walking around the chairs when the music starts.

- When the music stops, the children all find a chair to sit in.
- Ask the children a question about the story of Jesus being found in the Temple.
  - Some possible questions:
    - Why did Mary, Joseph and Jesus go to Jerusalem? (for a special time of prayer – to pray)
    - Did Mary, Joseph, and Jesus travel by themselves? (no, they were with a lot of people)
    - When did Mary and Joseph realize that Jesus was missing? (When they were on their way home.)
    - Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? (sitting in the Temple)
    - What was Jesus doing in the Temple? (listening to the Jewish leaders and asking them questions)
    - What did Mary, Joseph, and Jesus do after Jesus was found? (they went home)
- Repeat

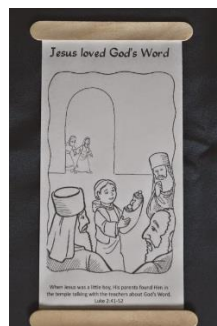
## Make a scroll:

(Note: We did not have time for this activity. If you are not making the Lenten Chain or have a longer amount of time, this would be a good activity to add.)

When Jesus and his parents lived on earth, they did not have books.

- The readings in the temple (church) were read from a scroll.
- (show a sample of the scroll the children are going to make)
- This is a pretend scroll. The person reading would unroll one side and roll up the other side as they were reading.

Make the scroll found at the [Faith Sprouts website](#).



(This picture is from the Faith Sprouts website.)

## **Make Lenten chain:**

[\(click here for the website with a Lenten prayer chain to print\)](#)

When do we celebrate Jesus' birthday? (Christmas)

What special Church season did we have before Christmas? (Advent)

What day did Jesus rise from the dead? (Easter)

What special Church season do we have before Easter? (Lent)

It won't be long and Lent will begin. It begins with Ash Wednesday. When we go to church on Ash Wednesday, we get ashes put on our foreheads.

Today we are going to make a chain for you to use during Lent. You will take a link off of the chain each day. Say a prayer for whatever is written on the link.

**Stickers:** Give each child a sticker as they leave.

**Supplies:**

Nametags & permanent markers

Prayers for prayer rings

Home lessons

Snack

Plates, napkins, water & glasses

Stickers (for each child at the end of class)

Picture of tabernacle

Picture of ciborium or an actual ciborium

(Go to [this post](#) for PDF of pictures.)

Copies to make “Jesus Lost in the Temple” hat

Scissors

Tape

Glue

Crayons

Chairs to play musical chairs

Music CD and CD player

Copies of coloring page for scroll

2 jumbo craft sticks per child

Yarn or string

Copies for Lenten chain

Stickers