

Sunday School Lesson for Teens – Mother's Day or Father's Day
The Boy, Jesus, in the Temple

TEACHER PEP TALK

Congratulations! Soon, you're going to be teaching a Sunday School lesson for Mother's Day or Father's Day! This is a great opportunity for Youth to learn to appreciate their parents more fully! This lesson will help them see how Jesus interacted with His earthly parents when once, at the tender age of 12, they were really worried about Him ... *proving that even a perfect, sinless youth can make his/her parents crazy!*

SCRIPTURES

Read through Luke 2:41-52 – The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

LESSON PLAN

As you re-tell the Bible story stop and discuss how Mary and Joseph must have felt:

- When they first noticed He was missing from the caravan going home.
- While they were heading back to Jerusalem to look for Him.
- After they had been searching unsuccessfully in Jerusalem for 3 days.
- When they finally found Him safe! And just after they found Him safe!!

Also talk about how Jesus responded to Mary and Joseph when they finally found Him:

- Jesus knew who He was and who His Father was
- Jesus was able to “separate” successfully from His earthly parents
- Nevertheless, Jesus returned with them to Nazareth and was “obedient” to them
- He stayed with them until He was ready to start His ministry (at about age 30)

The Youth will learn that sometimes we make our parents crazy with our behavior!

- When we do, how do our parents react? Often with amazing love and patience!
- Talk about that! Who in your group has the best story?

Then the students will each make a nice homemade card for Mom or Dad.

BIBLE STORY

(Tell the story in your own words.)

Jesus was 12. That sounds really young to us! But remember that at that time, in Jewish households, 13 year old boys were considered to be men!

When Jesus was 12, He and Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem (from Nazareth) for the celebration of Passover. [*Scripture ref. for Passover is Exodus 12:14-28.*]

They went routinely every year, even though the journey from Nazareth (about 70 miles away) must have been long and difficult. To make it easier, they traveled with other family members and friends.

The Celebration of the Passover took a whole week (7 days). Finally it was time to go home, so Joseph and Mary and all their family and friends packed up and left.

Mary and Joseph's Situation

Ever been on a long trip with your family? **Ever left a kid at the gas station? Ever been the kid left behind at the gas station?** Sometimes you are miles up the road before you realize someone is missing. That's what happened to Mary and Joseph!

After the first day of traveling, Mary and Joseph started looking for Jesus. They had figured He was with some of their other relatives or friends. But they couldn't find Him!!

Can you imagine how Mary must have felt? What do you think? (Oh, no! I've LOST the Son of God!) **How about Joseph... How do you think he felt** about leaving Jesus back in Jerusalem? How about having to go ALL the way BACK to get Him?

When they got back to Jerusalem they started looking for Jesus. **Where would you have looked first?** Remember, no cell phones were available! They had to physically tromp around all over Jerusalem looking for Him. **What kinds of things do you think might have been running through their minds?**

After 3 DAYS they finally found Him! SAFE! **How do you think they felt?** (Relieved, excited?) **How about right after that?** (Maybe a little frustrated) Jesus was safe and that was great! But why had He treated them that way? Mary even asks Him that later.

In addition, where was He? Sitting with the elders and the teachers in the Temple discussing the Holy Scriptures with them! The Bible says that "Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers." Remember He was only 12!! **What do you think Mary and Joseph thought about that?** (Confused, perplexed)

So, finally Mary speaks to Jesus, saying "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

Now the ball is in Jesus' court... let's see what He will say in response...

Jesus' response to Mary and Joseph

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

At the tender age of 12, **Jesus knew who He was and who His Father was.** He was in the Temple of God... and He said it was His Father's house! He knew that He would eventually separate from Mary and Joseph and go on to have His own mission to fulfill.

The Bible says that Mary and Joseph "did not understand what he was saying to them." **They didn't quite get it.**

The Bible also says that Mary "treasured all these things in her heart." (*Scholars believe that Luke spoke to Mary to get some of the first hand information found in the Gospel of Luke.*)

Then Jesus did an amazing thing!!! He went home to Nazareth with them and **"was obedient to them."**

Jesus, the Son of God, who knew that He was the Savior of the world... who knew that the Temple was His Father's house... went home with his earthly parents and was obedient to them! Even though He knew all these things... even though Mary and Joseph didn't quite "get it"... He was still obedient to them.

The next thing we hear about Jesus in the Gospels is when He began His ministry at about the age of 30.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they first noticed that Jesus was missing?** (*Oh, NO! I've misplaced the Son of God!!*)
- **How do you think they felt when they finally found Him?** (*Relieved, thankful, happy, thrilled, and then... wait for it... Angry! Yep, that's when parents act crazy... when they're mad... usually just after they've been worried to death and then suddenly are relieved. And no, it doesn't make sense... even to parents.*)
- **Have you ever made your parents "crazy"? What did you do? What did they do?**
- **Who has the best story?** (*Of when you did something really outrageous, but your parents responded really well?*)
- **Should we follow Jesus' example and be obedient to our parents?** (*Even if they don't always get it?*)

ACTIVITY

Create a Card - Nothing goes over better than a handmade card on Mother's Day or Father's Day!

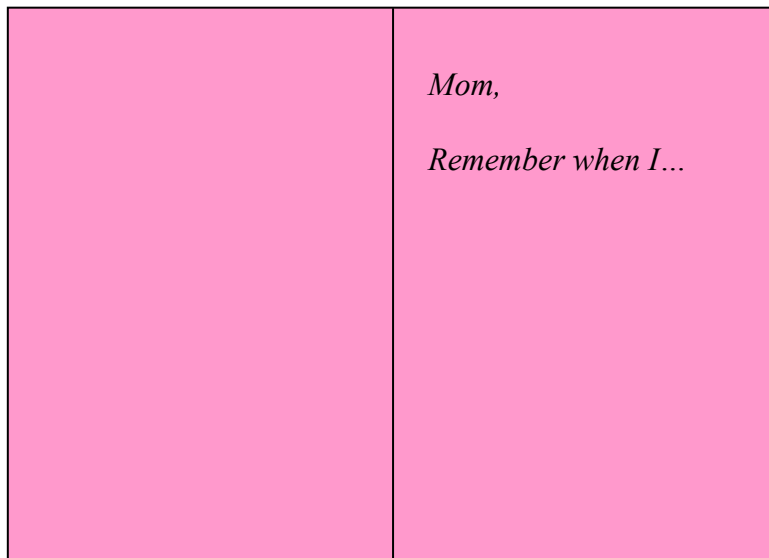
Provide lots of construction paper or note card paper and envelopes. Bring in markers, pens, pencil, glue, sequins, glitter-glue, etc. Let the children make their own handmade cards for Mom or Dad.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CARDS

On the front write "**Mom/Dad... Remember when I...?**" (Fill in the blank with something you did). On the inside write "**And you...?**" (Fill in the blank with how s/he responded) "**Thanks for loving me and being such a great Mom/Dad!**"

Scripture verse for Father's Day: 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

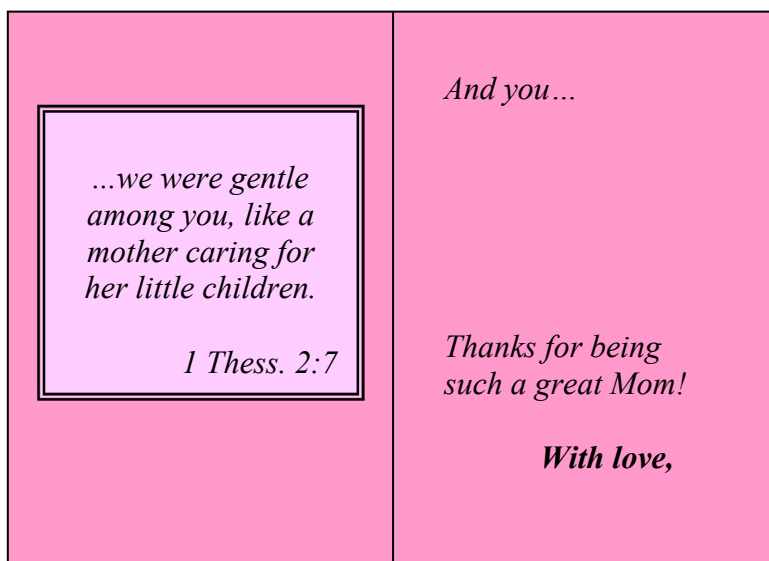
Scripture verse for Mother's Day: 1 Thessalonians 2:7 ...we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.



OUTSIDE OF CARD

On the front of this card to Mom or Dad write out something you did that made your parent crazy (*but they reacted well.*)

Use different colored construction paper for Mom and Dad. Decorate as desired. (*Mom likes flowers!*)



INSIDE OF CARD

Write the way your parent responded in love and patience to the crazy thing you did. Thank your parent!

Use different Bible verses for Mom and Dad.

(*1 Thess. 2:7 for Mom*)
(*1 Thess. 2:11-12 for Dad*)