

# Missing Child - Jesus

Luke 2:41-52

Grade 2,3

## Large Group (Where we all meet together and introduce the lesson)

Materials needed - TV or computer, soccer ball

- Greet all the kids as they come in. Ask them how they are doing, and chat with them about their week. Pray together, ask anyone if they have any prayer requests.
- Our memory verse for the month is Matthew 5:8. Play this video while singing along, or have a little dance party. (<http://www.worshiphousekids.com/kids-worship-song-tracks/55959/they-will-see-god-matthew-58>)
- Before we start our main lesson, lets as one of the older boys in the group to pretend to be Jesus for our next activity. Let's play a game of soccer with everyone in the group playing at once. (It should seem like the room is full with a bit of confusion). During the soccer game, ask the kid who is pretending to be Jesus to sneak out without anyone noticing. Ask them to go into the church sanctuary and wait. Finish up the soccer game. Start looking for the kid who is hiding in the sanctuary, ask the kids if they could help you find him. After some time of searching, have the hiding kid come back, let the kids ask him where he was, the hiding kids response should be "I was in my father's house". Let the hiding kid explain, that God is his Father, and he was in the church learning about him.
- Let's watch this video together - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T908tgPIHFc>

## Break up into small groups

### Review The Story (a chance to review the bible passage with the small group)

Materials needed - picture sheet, pencils and paper

- Greet everyone in your small group, make sure everyone knows each others names. Say a prayer together either by repeating after one of the teachers or just letting them pray.
- Ask the kids if they have ever been lost? How did they feel? Who found them? How did they find their way back to their parents? Tell the todays story is about a missing child as well.
- Read the story in the bible with the kids (Luke 2:41-52). Ask them questions...What did you find interesting? How long did it take Mary and Joseph to figure out Jesus was missing? Do you think it's strange that it took them that long? Why do you think Jesus stayed in Jerusalem?
- Using the pieces of paper for the picture game (cut up the pieces, fold them and put them in a container). Have one kid at a time pick a piece of paper and draw what is written. They are not allowed to talk or make gestures, as they are drawing let the other kids guess the picture. When the picture has been guessed, write the answer on the picture. Do the same with all the other pieces of paper and pictures. Once the whole story has been drawn, ask the kids to put the pictures in order. Get them to tell the story in their own words with the pictures in order.

## Life Application (an opportunity for kids to apply the lesson to their own lives)

Materials needed - a lot of tape, bibles,

- Before the lesson begins, use tape to create a large maze on the floor that kids could walk through. Mark the start of the maze, and at the end write out the word Jesus in tape. In the maze put a few bibles along the path, put down a signs that say "time to pray", "time to worship" and "talk with others".
- Ask the kids to go through the maze, tell them that they are looking for Jesus. As they go through the maze if they stop at a bible they need to read it, if they stop at a sign they need to do what it says as well. When they get to the end they would have found Jesus.
- Have a discussion with the kids. Explain that Mary and Joseph were looking for Jesus and sometimes in our lives we need to look for Jesus too. We can do that by doing the different things we did in the maze (reading our bibles, praying, talking with others about God etc)

- Hand out the welcome to God's house pages to the kids. Ask them to draw things that we can do to bring us closer to God, or find God. They should be drawing the same things that were in the maze (bible, praying, talking with others)
- When the kids have finished, take their drawing and tape them to the front door of the church.

## Memory Verse (a way to introduce and reinforce this months memory verse)

Materials needed - memory verse sheets and tape

- Tell the kids the memory verse and have them repeat it for you. Ask them to say it in different ways, quiet, loud, fast, slow, while jumping up and down, standing on one foot, laying on their backs, etc.