

# Missing Child - Jesus

Luke 2:41-52

Kindergarten and Grade 1

## 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 - Boxes, blocks, sheets, bible, musical instruments, stuffed animals

- 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 kids that todays story is about when Jesus went missing, but he wasn't the one who was scared, it was his parents!
- Build a fort with the kids (use blocks, boxes etc). Tell the kids, the fort with be a church. Think of things together that need to be in a church or things that we do in a church so we can be closer to God. Put bibles in the fort, sing a song, pray, have someone tell a story. Ask the kids if we need our fort to be close to Jesus and learn about him? Ask them if we need people to be close to Jesus and learn about him?
- Using the fort as the temple, act out the story of Jesus going to the temple, choose kids to be Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the rest of Jesus' family and teachers of the law. Act out the story a few times getting different kids to be the people in the story.

## 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.