



Missing Boy Found in Temple



Aim

To help teenagers and pre-teens realize that Jesus knows what it's like to be their age and to think about how it might help them to deal with misunderstandings with their parents.

Note

Please feel free to adapt some the wording to suit your own group/culture. It needs to sound like normal everyday language.

Story

He's 12, it's a big event and he's a typical boy (or is he?). He's drawn to what fascinates him the most – in this instance, the scriptures; the holy writings so special to his nation. He is totally absorbed by them. They have snippets back home but not the whole set.

He is mesmerized by them. Why shouldn't he be – after all they're in his blood? They flowed from him throughout the centuries and now they are reconnecting with his human brain and fireworks are exploding all around his head. It's like putting a 3D intergalactic jigsaw together. And the questions! They are shooting up so fast it's hard to keep up with answering them. Each answer sparks another set of questions.

The *rabbis* find him amazing. Never have they met someone who was such a joy to teach. They're only too pleased to include him in their meal breaks and offer a spare camp bed for the night in the living quarters within the Temple.

He's so excited; he only catches a few hours sleep before he's up again, eager for more.

Time flies! It's not sunset again already is it? Ah well, Mum and Dad are around somewhere – not to worry. They'll find him when it's time to go home.

Another day flies by – then towards evening, two tired, anxious faces appear. What do they mean; they didn't know where he was? Where else would he be? He's hardly likely to be hanging out in the *market place / shopping mall* now is he? Come on!! Then comes the guilt trip bit. 'How could you do this to us?' But he hadn't done anything! Deep breath – chill!

Ok, well, he's sorry! Not that it's his fault of course but they're both a bit emotional and it's better to take the rap and calm things down than to argue about who's to blame. Sometimes it's more important to find a way to bring peace to a storm than to win the argument! Perhaps on the way home, when they've had time to cool off a bit, they might realize that they had been over-reacting just a bit.

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