

Script – Boy Jesus Visits the Temple

[Opening scene, at home in the carpentry shop with Joseph and Jesus]

Joseph: Soon it will be time to go to the temple for the Passover feast.

Jesus: [with excitement] This year, I may go!

Joseph: Yes, you are old enough to go this year.

Narrator: As Jesus help Joseph in the carpentry shop, He asked Joseph many questions about the services at the temple.

Joseph: It is big! It can hold over 200,000 people.

Narrator: Jesus had never seen that many people. That night Jesus thought about the trip. He knew it would take three or four days to travel the 90 miles to Jerusalem. He tried to remember everything that Mary and Joseph had told him about the temple.

[Scene change to outside, along the road to Jerusalem]

Narrator: At last they were on their way. Many people were going to Jerusalem. Sometimes the boys walked ahead with the men and listened to their talk. Sometimes they lagged behind with the women and teased the girls. As people walked along, the people chanted words from the Psalms.

Person 1: My help comes from the Lord. My feet shall stand within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Narrator: The children talked about the wonderful sights of the city.

Person 2: [excited and pointing forward] Look!

Narrator: There in the distance, on a hill was Jerusalem, and there was Jerusalem. Its white walls shown bright in the sunlight and the gold trim of the temple glistened. For a moment, the people stood still and looked in awe, and then they walked on to the city. Inside the temple, the people saw the large pillars supporting the roof and along the inner wall.

Joseph: The scribes have schools here. Sometimes there are debates here about the law.

Narrator: Walking up the steps to the east gate of the court, Jesus could see the beautiful doors made of brass, gleaming in the sunlight.

Joseph: [to himself] How beautiful God's house is.

Narrator: They were eager to go inside. For two days the people attended services at the temple. The priest unrolled a large scroll and read the story of the first Passover. Jesus listened carefully, even though he knew the story by heart. Later on, Jesus looked into rooms, halls and porches. In one room, he saw some wise teachers talking about God. Jesus stopped to listen. He became so interested that He walked in and sat down.

Joseph: [speaking to Mary] We had better start back home.

Narrator: Their friends and relatives were ready to go too. The children ran and played together. The women walked more slowly behind. Then they stopped for the night.

Joseph: [to Mary] Where is Jesus?

Mary: [concerned] I thought He was with you.

Narrator: They asked friends if Jesus was with them, or had they seen Jesus. No one had seen Him. Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem to find Him. They looked in the shops by the streets. They went back to the place where they had stayed. They looked in the temple courtyard, but they could not find the Boy. Finally they went into the Temple. They looked into the courtyard and then in one of the rooms, they found Him! He was talking to the lawyers and teachers. He was answering hard questions. The men were surprised to hear that Jesus knew so much about God's laws. They had never seen a boy like Him.

Mary: [concerned and worried] Jesus, we have been looking all over for you!

Jesus: Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?

Narrator: Jesus did not want to worry His mother, but He was learning to do His Father's work.

The End