



STORY: Young Jesus in the Temple

ABOUT THIS CLASS:

The story for this Frolic Faith Class is from Luke 2:41-52. You will read the story "Young Jesus in the Temple" on pages 24-25 in the Frolic First Bible.

Prep Time

Putting the Story in Perspective

The only glimpse we have of Jesus in childhood is in today's story. We know about Jesus in the manger. We also know of Mary and Joseph's flight with Jesus to Egypt. In this story, we see Jesus growing into adolescence. After the Passover celebration, Jesus' family begins the journey home from Jerusalem, but Jesus isn't with them. Three days later, Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the temple. They are surprised and angry, but Jesus reminds them that he is in God's house. Even at twelve years old, Jesus shows divine wisdom and understanding of who he truly is.

A Parent's View of the Story

It's a terrible moment for any parent—turning around after a split second of figuring out dinner, taking an unexpected phone call, or getting the laundry—and discovering their child is not where they left them. A sense of panic sets in, as they scramble to find their child, thinking of every possible horrible outcome. Most parents find their children hiding in the closet or wandering down the cookie aisle. But it took Mary and Joseph three days to find Jesus, three days of worry—only find that Jesus was in God's house talking like a future grown-up with the teachers!

A Child's View of the Story

Instead of traveling home, Jesus takes a journey toward growing up and becoming independent from his parents. Young children begin this separation journey as infants by closing their eyes or turning their heads away to control interactions. Mobility increases young children's ability to move away from parents. The word "no" opens up a whole new world of individuality. Young children recognize Jesus' move toward independence because they are on a similar exploration. On his journey, Jesus goes to God's house, a place of worship, to learn about God. Young children can find their way to God's house to learn about and worship God, too.



Bible Verse

"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.'"

—Luke 2:48



Today's Ritual

Learn about worship in God's house with these words and actions.

We worship, we worship,
(Make prayer hands.)

We worship in God's house,
(Open and raise hands up to the sky.)

Like Jesus, like Jesus, (Touch middle fingers to palms.)

We worship in God's house!
(Raise hands up to the sky.)



Gather Time

If families arrive early:

Encourage parents and children to meet each other.

You can also have music playing in the background and a center available for families to explore together before the class begins. Select the center that best fits your space and available materials.

OR

If you open the door at the start time:

Invite families to sign in, choose an item from the basket, and sit in a circle.

Welcome

Gather together in a circle. **Welcome, Families! We are together today to explore the story of young Jesus in the temple in our lives as caregivers of young children.** Lead families in singing a welcoming song, tracks 1-3 on the Frolic Faith Music CD, while children try on their glasses. Then teach the ritual from page 1.

Share

Lead families to share about a recent unexpected moment when they felt especially tuned into worship in God's house. To start the circle, take the lead in celebrating an unexpected moment, or ask a caregiver who would be comfortable being the first to share. Jot down notes in the space to the right so you remember what to include in later prayers.

Prayer

Dear God,

We give you thanks for all the unexpected moments in our parenting journeys and our children's journeys. We ask for your presence and guidance in our community gathered here today and throughout the week ahead. Incorporate the unexpected events the caregivers named.

Amen.



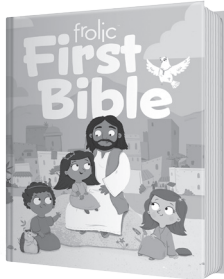
Get Ready

- Print the Welcome sign and post it at the entrance.
- Place the sign-in sheet and nametags near the door.
- Place the basket of large magnifying glasses, eye glasses with no lenses, and plastic sunglasses on the floor.



Prayer Notes

Story Time



Hold up the story basket that contains a Frolic First Bible for every family. Place it in the middle of the circle. Lead the story basket rhyme below.

Group Storytelling

Let's hear a story from the Bible! This story is about young Jesus. It is on pages 24-25. Hold up the Bible Story Poster of "Young Jesus in the Temple" so everyone can see the picture. Read the story from the back of the poster in a lively, animated way.

Ask these questions and encourage toddlers to respond.

- **Point to the pictures of the people searching for Jesus. How do all the people look?**
- **All these people are searching for Jesus. Let's all look for Jesus too.**
- **Where did they find Jesus?**
- **Find Jesus in God's house. Find his mother, Mary, in God's house. Find the teachers in God's house.**
- **Who is Jesus talking to?**

Ask families to point to the sentence on the bottom of page 25. **Jesus was in the temple, the place where people worshipped God. Sometimes we call these places of worship God's house. We worship in God's house too. Let's say that to each other.** Give families a moment to face their children and say these words to them.



Sing Together

Sing this song, track 24 on the Frolic Faith Music CD, to invite families to take a Frolic First Bible from the basket.

**Time for a story.
Come get a book.
Open the pages.
Let's take a look.**

If you want to sing together, sing "Praise God, Praise God," track 17 on the Frolic Faith Music CD.

One-on-One Storytelling

Now it's time for you to read the story together. Give time for caregivers to read the book to their children. Once they've read the story "Young Jesus in the Temple" together on pages 24-25, offer these tips.

For Infants

Look at the pictures. Point to and name Jesus. Then ask your child where Jesus is.

For Toddlers on the Move

Jesus' parents had to look for him. Look for Jesus in your room. Is he behind the chair? Is he under the table? Jesus is in our Bibles!

For Talkative Toddlers

Ask your child to find the outside picture with the flowers in today's story. Then ask your child to find the inside picture with Jesus in today's story.



Caregiver Conversation

Ask parents about what connects them to God's house. Maybe worship music is a big connector to some. Others may love the feeling of community. Still other parents are connecting to God's house during Frolic Faith Classes.



Transition to Play Time

Choose an instrument such as a tambourine or chime and play it to get the children's attention. You can also say or sing the song at right.



Sing Together

Sing this song, track 25 on the Frolic Faith Music CD, to transition to Play Time.

Time to explore!
Time to play!
Find a center
About God today.

Play Time

Time to play! Choose the centers that best fit your space and materials. Make photocopies of the center descriptions on pages 8-15, fold them in half, and post them near the materials for parents to reference. Caregivers and children can explore the centers at their own pace. Caregivers may also use this time to connect with each other while their children play and discover.

1 Let's Color Together

This center supports **coloring skills**. *For toddlers.*

Supplies: Young Jesus in the Temple Coloring Page on page 16, crayons, and blank paper
Make copies of the Coloring Page and place on a low table with crayons and blank paper.

2 Let's Read Together

This center supports **early literacy**. *For infants and toddlers.*

Supplies: Frolic First Bible, Frolic books, board books, letter blocks, and cushions or pillows
Create a cozy reading nook with pillows or cushions. Display the Frolic First Bible and other books. Place letter blocks nearby. Point out that *J* is for *Jesus*.

3 God's House

This center supports **learning to worship**. *For infants and toddlers.*

Supplies: Frolic First Bibles, rhythm instruments, toddler chairs, toddler table, cloth, cross, basket, and an electric candle

Create a worship space. Set up the chairs facing the table. Place Bibles on the chairs. Cover the table with a cloth. Place the cross, candle, and basket on the table. Turn on the candle. Make a music area next to the table for worship musicians.

4 Looking for Jesus

This center supports **physical activity** and **togetherness**. *For infants and toddlers.*

Supplies: Pictures of Jesus

Print a few copies of the Young Jesus in the Temple Coloring Page on page 16 and cut out Jesus. Hide the pictures of Jesus.

Play Time

continued

5 Travel Food

This center supports **small and large motor skills** and **creative play**. *For infants and toddlers.*

Supplies: Toddler finger food such as oat "O" cereal, plastic containers with lids, picnic baskets, picnic tablecloths, and napkins

Place all items on a table.

6 Head Gear

This center supports **imitation** and **creative play**. *For infants and toddlers.*

Supplies: Head scarves, hats, crowns, mirrors, and a Frolic First Bible open to "Young Jesus in the Temple"

Create a dress-up corner in your learning space.

7 Worship Windows

This center supports **creativity** and **learning the colors**. *For infants and toddlers.*

Supplies: Multiple colors of tissue paper, two baskets, large glue sticks, and a window or glass door

Cut tissue paper into 4 x 4-in. pieces. Place pieces in a basket under a window along with a basket of glue sticks.

8 Travel Toys

This center support **knowledge of our world**. *For infants and toddlers.*

Supplies: Toddler toy buses, trains, cars, and airplanes, shoes, and sandals

Spread out toys and footwear on the floor.

Send Time

Prior to the end of Play Time give the children a 2-minute notice that it is almost time to stop playing. At the end of 2 minutes play the same instrument that you played at the beginning of Play Time to get the attention of families.

Summing It Up

Thank you for reading and playing with us today! It was so much fun to learn about young Jesus in the temple. We can remember that Jesus visited God's house. We visit God's house too! What will *you* remember about today?
Invite any children and caregivers to respond.

Closing Ritual

Invite caregivers to engage in the ritual from page 1 with their child. Then lead the group in a closing song such as "Jesus Loves Me," track 16 on the Frolic Faith Music CD.

Prayer

Lead families in this simple prayer. Add other prayer topics and concerns that may have come up during your time together. For very young infants, caregivers can lay their child on their lap or in front of them. Begin today's prayer with prayer hands. Add the ASL sign for "Jesus" by touching middle fingers to palms. For added fun, grow today's prayer from a whisper to a shout.

**Dear God,
Thank you for Jesus,
Thank you for Jesus,
Thank you for Jesus!
Amen.**



Sing Together

Sing this song, track 26 on the Frolic Faith Music CD, to call everyone back to the circle.

**Play time is over
For you and me.
Come back to the
circle—
One two three!**



Prayer Notes



Make copies of the Coloring Page and place on a low table with crayons and blank paper.

For Leaders

Young Jesus in the Temple Coloring Page on page 16, crayons, and blank paper

Supplies

This center supports coloring skills. For toddlers.

Let's Color Together

STORY: **Young Jesus in the Temple**



STORY: **Young Jesus in the Temple**

Let's Color Together

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Encourage your child to color the images from the book. Delight in their colorful creations!

Your child is learning this!

- When I color, I develop my fine motor skills.
- Using crayons helps me learn the names of colors.
- **When I color pictures from this story, I remember the story of young Jesus in God's house.**





Create a cozy reading nook with pillows or cushions. Display the Frolic First Bible and other books. Place letter blocks nearby. Point out that / is for Jesus.

For Leaders

Frolic First Bible, Frolic books, board books, letter blocks, and cushions or pillows

Supplies

This center supports **early literacy**. For infants and toddlers.

Let's Read Together

STORY: **Young Jesus in the Temple**



STORY: **Young Jesus in the Temple**

Let's Read Together

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Enjoy reading together. Point out letters on the blocks. Spell your names and other words together.

Your child is learning this!

- When I hear you read, I learn about letters, sounds, and words.
- When I handle books, I am learning about features of books and print.
- When I see letters that I can manipulate, I am learning about letter sounds and words.
- **When I see and hear stories about young Jesus in the temple, I learn that Jesus wanted to learn about God.**





Create a worship space. Set up the chairs facing the table. Place Bibles on the chairs. Cover the table with a cloth. Place the cross, candle, and basket on the table. Turn on the candle. Make a music area next to the table for worship musicians.

For Leaders

Frolic First Bibles, rhythm instruments, toddler chairs, toddler table, cloth, cross, basket, and an electric candle

Supplies

This center supports learning to worship. For infants and toddlers.

God's House

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STORY: **Young Jesus in the Temple**

God's House

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Worship together today! Look for stories in the bible. Take the offering. Be the praise band. Point out and name worship items.

Your child is learning this!

- Creating my world through play helps me understand my environment.
- When I play "worship," I am learning about worship!





Print a few copies of the Young Jesus in the Temple Coloring Page on page 16 and cut out Jesus. Hide the pictures of Jesus.

For Leaders

Pictures of Jesus

Supplies

This center supports physical activity and togetherness. For infants and toddlers.

Looking for Jesus

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STORY: **Young Jesus in the Temple**

Looking for Jesus

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Look for and find Jesus together. Walk around the room. Carry non-mobile infants.

Your child is learning this!

- Walking is good for my body. Being together is good for my heart.
- Mary and Joseph looked for Jesus in our story today.





Place all items on a table.

For Leaders

Toddler finger food such as oat "O" cereal, plastic containers with lids, picnic baskets, picnic tablecloths, and napkins

Supplies

toddlers.

This center supports small and large motor skills and creative play. For infants and

Travel Food

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STORY: **Young Jesus in the Temple**

Travel Food

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

With your child, pack a picnic basket for your trip to Jerusalem. Along the way, stop for a picnic.

Your child is learning this!

- I can help get ready for our trip.
- I am learning about a place in the Bible called Jerusalem. It is an important place for Christians.





Create a dress-up corner in your learning space.

For Leaders

Temple"

Head scarves, hats, crowns, mirrors, and a Frolic First Bible open to "Young Jesus in the

Supplies

This center supports **imitation** and **creative play**. For infants and toddlers.

Head Gear

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STORY: **Young Jesus in the Temple**

Head Gear

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Try on all the scarves and hats with your child. Look in the mirror. See what the people in today's story are wearing on their heads. For infants, wave scarves together. Put them on your heads.

Your child is learning this!

- I can learn things about the world from books.
- I am learning how people dressed in Jesus' time on earth.





Cut tissue paper into 4 x 4-in. pieces. Place pieces in a basket under a window along with a basket of glue sticks.

For Leaders

Multiple colors of tissue paper, two baskets, large glue sticks, and a window or glass door

Supplies

This center supports **creativity** and **learning the colors**. For infants and toddlers.

Worship Windows

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STORY: **Young Jesus in the Temple**

Worship Windows

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Glue tissue paper to the window together. Talk about the special windows found in many of God's houses. Together, name the colors, feel the tissue's texture, and peek out the window.

Your child is learning this!

- I am making something with my hands.
- I can help make God's house a special place.





Spread out toys and footwear on the floor.

For Leaders

Toddler toy buses, trains, cars, and airplanes, shoes, and sandals

Supplies

This center supports knowledge of our world. For infants and toddlers.

Travel Toys

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Travel Toys

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Together with your child, find all the different ways you travel home. Find what Jesus used to travel home from Jerusalem. Make sounds to match each way of traveling. Have a race.

Your child is learning this!

- When I explore different ways to travel, I learn about my world.
- When I walk, I use my legs and feet to travel like Jesus did.



They saw Jesus in the temple.
He was talking with the teachers.

