



Sunday Activity  
Pages

December 26, 2021  
The Feast of the Holy Family

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## Gospel

Gospel – Adapted from Luke 2:41-52

Every year Jesus's parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went for the festival. When it was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem and his parents did not know it. They thought he was with their group, so they traveled for a day. When they looked for him among their relatives and friends, they could not find him, so they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting with the teachers, listening and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him speak was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this? Your father and I have been looking for you, and we were very worried."

Jesus said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. And his mother pondered these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in age and wisdom

Today is the feast of the Holy Family, and the Gospel recounts a very interesting event. This event, the Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple, is the fifth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, so the Church is telling us that we should ponder it.

The Holy Family has gone up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. When it was time to return, they journeyed with a large group of friends and relatives. Often, during the day, the men would travel ahead to make sure there was no danger, while the women and children followed behind. Jesus was twelve years old at the time, so He could have been with either group. Mary and Joseph probably both assumed that Jesus was with the other group. With such a large group traveling, they may have thought He was walking with one of their friends or neighbors.

After a day, however, both Mary and Joseph realized that Jesus was not with the group at all. He had been left behind in Jerusalem! Jerusalem was a major city. Imagine losing a child somewhere in New York City. That was probably what it felt like. As Mary and Joseph searched for Jesus, they must have become desperate. It wasn't until the third day that they found Him in the temple, speaking with the religious leaders.

Mary and Joseph were very distraught, and Mary asked Jesus what He was doing there. Jesus gave a very interesting response: "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" Jesus hadn't been disobedient, and He certainly hadn't committed a sin. He was right where He was supposed to be. This event was a powerful reminder to Mary and to Joseph just who Jesus is. Not as though they had forgotten it, but they had probably settled into a very normal (although very holy) life.

When the event in today's Gospel occurred, Mary pondered these things in her heart. She went deeper into the mystery of God, and her place in His plan. That is what we are asked to do every time we come across this Mystery when we pray the Holy Rosary. Mary's example of prayer and reflection is a model for us all the time. And Jesus is a model, as well. Although He is God, He went with Mary and Joseph, and was obedient to them.

### 3

## Discussion Questions

Why do you think Jesus stayed behind in the temple?

What are some lessons we can learn for our own lives from today's Gospel?

### 4

## Vocabulary

- **Holy Family** – The Holy Family refers to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. They are a model for all families, as we all try to be holy.
- **Jerusalem** – This was the most important city for the people of Israel. It was where the temple was located, and people went there to offer sacrifice, especially at Passover.
- **Passover** – The Jewish feast that recalls how God saved the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, when their firstborn were saved from death during the tenth plague.
- **Temple** – The people came to the temple to worship God through offering sacrifice. It was the holiest place in Israel.

- 1) The Holy Family had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Jesus, Mary, and Joseph make up the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Mary and Joseph returned to the city of \_\_\_\_\_ to look for Jesus.
- 4) After three days, Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the \_\_\_\_\_.

1) Why had Jesus and his family gone to Jerusalem?

- A) For vacation
- B) For the feast of Passover
- C) To buy a house
- D) To visit relatives and friends

2) How long was the boy Jesus missing?

- A) One day
- B) Three days
- C) Seven days
- D) A month

3) Where was Jesus when his parents found Him?

- A) Playing with friends
- B) The temple
- C) Calvary
- D) Nazareth

# Feast of the Holy Family.

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HOLY FAMILY  
 JERUSALEM  
 JESUS  
 PASSOVER  
 ROSARY  
 TEMPLE





### Fill in the Blank

- 1) Passover
- 2) Holy Family
- 3) Jerusalem
- 4) Temple

### Quiz:

- 1) B – For the feast of Passover
- 2) B – Three days
- 3) B – The temple