

**Game: Hide and seek**

Choose one person to be the seeker, they walk out the room to count to 100. Everyone else should find somewhere to hide in the house. The seeker comes in and seeks for the hidden family members. The last person to be found is the winner and the next seeker.

**Watch:** Jesus in the temple [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho\\_3gvlWzbw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho_3gvlWzbw)

**Story:**

Once a year the Jewish people celebrated Passover, where they remembered God delivering them from Egypt. Many Jews travelled to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast there and to go to the Temple to make sacrifices. Mary and Joseph often went, when they could afford it. The year that Jesus turned 12 he was allowed to go to. A large party of family and friends set off from Nazareth. It was safer to travel together because of bandits in the hills. It took several days to walk, so the people camped over night in different locations. At last they got to Jerusalem. The city was huge and busy. The people looked around like tourists before they went to the Temple. And they went to the Temple to worship God and to sacrifice their offerings. When it was time to go home the Nazareth party joined up again and started off together. They were all happy because they had spent a good time worshipping God. That evening they settled down to eat. Mary and Joseph wondered who Jesus was eating with – a lot of the children were sitting with other relatives, and they hadn't seen Jesus all day. But then they began to worry – Jesus didn't come and find them. So they went around their friends asking if anyone had seen him. Nobody had! Mary and Joseph packed up and headed straight back for Jerusalem. It took them all night, and then they started to search everywhere. Mary and Joseph looked everywhere. They stopped and asked people. They spent three days searching every corner. Eventually they went to the Temple. And there was Jesus! He was sitting with a group of priests, talking to them, asking questions and answering the questions they asked him. The men he was talking to were amazed at his understanding of God! "Son, we've been worried! Where have you been?" Mary asked him. "We've searched everywhere!" added Joseph. Jesus was surprised. "But surely you knew I'd be in my father's house," he said. "I have to do my father's business." Mary and Joseph took Jesus home with them.

**Questions**

- Why do you think Jesus stayed in Jerusalem?
- Was this a naughty thing for Jesus to have done?
- Why was Jesus surprised that Mary and Joseph didn't guess where he was?
- Why do you think the priests were so amazed by Jesus' knowledge?
- What does this passage tell us about Jesus as a child?

**Quiz**

- What was the name of the big city that Jesus' family went to every year? [Jerusalem]
- What did they celebrate there? [Passover]
- How old was Jesus in this story? [12]
- When did Mary and Joseph realise Jesus was lost? [On the way home]
- What did they do? [They went back to Jerusalem]
- How many days did it take to find Jesus? [3]
- Where did they find him? [In the temple]
- What was he doing? [Talking to the teachers]
- Why did Jesus say he was there? [Because it was his Father's house]
- Who was Jesus' Father? [God]

**Prayer:**

Dear God, thank you for the gift of your Son. Help us to keep him at the center of our lives and may we never leave him behind. Amen.