

Explore It TOGETHER

AUGUST
SESSION 01

GROWING AS A CHILD OF GOD

 Luke 2:41-52 Jesus in the Temple

Here are some ideas and activities you could do as a family



Investigate

Consider some big questions that you would like to ask God. Is there someone from your church that you could chat to who would be able to answer your questions? If not, research together to find the answers.



Share

Passover is a time of celebration where Jewish families and friends from different areas come together to observe this festival. Jesus, his family and many others were all celebrating Passover when this story takes place. Eat a representation of the Passover meal together as given below. Talk about how Jesus had travelled with his family for the Passover celebration and how this was the meal they would have shared together. Talk about each element and what they represent, giving the children the opportunity to taste them. You will need:

- a plate
- parsley (Karpas) - representing hope, the parsley is dipped into salt water and symbolises the tears of the Hebrews
- some roast lamb (Zeroah) - the Paschal Lamb (Passover sacrifice)
- bitter herbs, eg romaine lettuce (Maror) - symbolising the bitterness and harshness of the Hebrews being slaves in Egypt
- apple sauce (Charoset) - representing the mortar and straw the slaves used for building
- a hard-boiled egg (Beitzah) - symbolising the sacrifices made at the Temple
- savoury biscuit (Matzah) - representing the unleavened bread eaten by the Jews when they left Egypt in such haste that there was no time for the dough to rise



Create

Find a space where you can create a family height chart. Add together the heights of all members of your family. You could add any friends or neighbours that come to your house. Discuss together: Do we just grow in our height? How else do we grow?



Build

Construct a building or a model out of junk or building bricks (Lego) that represents your favourite place. It could be your home, school, church, grandparents' house or another place. Discuss why this place is your favourite. From the Bible story we know that Jesus felt safe at home and at the Temple. He was surprised that Mary and Joseph didn't know that he would be in 'his Father's house'. What did he mean by 'my Father's house'?



Pray

Prepare a paper plate with the centre cut out and holes punched around the edge. Tie a long piece of wool through a hole. Think and talk about all the people who help you grow physically (family), mentally (family and teachers), in your wellbeing (family, friends, teachers, church family) and spiritually (family, friends and church family). Say their names and thank God for them, and as you do so thread the wool in and out through the holes to make a pattern.



Memorise

Challenge your family to memorise Luke 2:52: **'Jesus became wise, and he grew strong. God was pleased with him and so were the people'** (CEV).