

Children and family talk for Sunday 19th June 2022, Father's Day.

Good morning!

Today is a day when we can show our love for a father figure in our lives, which may be your Dad, an uncle, your grandad, an older brother, your mum, or someone else who you feel you can look up to. We're going to read about Jesus and his family, from Luke 2 verses 41 to 52.

Jesus As a Boy

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. ⁴² When Jesus was 12 years old, they went to the feast as they always did. ⁴³ When the feast days were over, they went home. The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Joseph and Mary travelled for a whole day. They thought that Jesus was with them in the group. Then they began to look for him among their family and friends, ⁴⁵ but they did not find him. So they went back to Jerusalem to look for him there. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him. Jesus was sitting in the Temple with the religious teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and wise answers. ⁴⁸ When Jesus' parents saw him, they were amazed. His mother said to him, "Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I were very worried about you. We have been looking for you."

⁴⁹ Jesus asked, "Why did you have to look for me? You should have known that I must be where my father's work is!" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand the meaning of what he said.

⁵¹ Jesus went with them to Nazareth and obeyed them. His mother was still thinking about all that had happened. ⁵² Jesus continued to learn more and more and to grow physically. People liked him, and he pleased God.

In our reading today, we hear about Jesus visiting the temple with his parents for the special festival of Passover, a Jewish festival held each year to remember the time that God saved his people from death before Moses led them away from the slavery in Egypt. You can find this story in the Old Testament, Exodus 11 and 12.

Jesus was 12 years old at the time of our passage today, and was old enough for his parents, Joseph and Mary, to allow him some freedom, so that they didn't notice when he wasn't with the rest of the group as they started for home. But by the time evening came, they started to look for him among their friends and relatives and couldn't find him. Where could he be? So, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. How worried they must have been, it wasn't until three days later that they finally went to the temple and found Jesus sitting among the religious teachers listening to them and asking questions.

Can you imagine what your parent or parents might have said and done if you had been missing for three whole days?

Naturally, Mary has a word or two to say, she had been frantic with worry as had Joseph. But Jesus is surprised that they didn't look in the temple for him to start with. Of course, he would be in his Father's house, he tells them. Mary and Joseph don't understand what he means, but we do, don't we? Jesus is God's son, and the temple is God's house, so Jesus was in his Father's house.

We are told that Jesus returned with them to Nazareth where he did what he was told and grew both in wisdom and physically; and people liked him.

We too have more than one father, or Dad, if we are Christians. We have a biological Dad, and we have our Father God. God is an ever-loving parent who will be with us no matter what happens, and God has a special plan for each of us, God protects and looks after us, so let's say thankyou to our Father God now.

Parent God,

You are ever-loving, ever-forgiving and always there when we need you.

Thankyou that we can always rely on you.

Help us when we do wrong, to realise our mistakes and to turn things around.

We are sorry for the wrong things we have done this week,

Help us to better people and to show your love to others. Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here's a link for the children's sheet: [6198 - Roots C-Yp 26 Cover AW \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/6198-Roots-C-Yp-26-Cover-AW)

And here's a worship song from Chris Tomlin: Our God: <https://youtu.be/NJpt1hSYf2o>