

# JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Luke 2:21-38; Luke 2:41-52

**KIDS**  
**3RD-6TH**

NL

**Key Verse:**

“...for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.”

Luke 2:30-31

[Jesus] said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

Luke 2:49

**The Point:**

At the temple, Jesus is announced as the savior of the world.

**Making Connections:**

Revelation of the Son of Man

**Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

Jewish Religious Leaders

**Spiritual Practice:**

Worship



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# BACKGROUND

## Note for leaders about this extended lesson:

As many congregations do not hold Christian education the week after Christmas, this Leader's Guide has been extended, or lengthened, and is designed to be used flexibly. If you do not meet during that week, this lesson is to be used the following Sunday. As usual, you will not be able to cover all components, but you can pick and choose what you can accomplish in the time frame you have. If you do meet the week after Christmas, there are enough components, and the components are slightly more involved, so they will easily extend over two weeks.

- For the Into the Story and Living the Story, there are two stand-alone options. If you meet for two weeks, use both; if you meet for one week, choose one.
- For Learning the Story, it is noted in the activity where a good break time is, should you be meeting over two weeks.
- For the Additional Activities, there are two activities more tailored toward the first part of the story, and two activities tailored toward the second.

## Making Connections

This is the season of Epiphany: the season when we celebrate how God is revealed through Jesus, and the season when we focus on Jesus' life here on earth. The previous reading was from the first part of Luke 2 on Christmas, the familiar story of shepherds and angels, and we were left with Mary pondering these things in her heart. For this extended lesson, we join Mary in pondering it all. We focus specifically on Jesus' presentation in the temple, and on his special behavior in the temple as an older child.

## Story Summary:

### *Jesus in the Temple*

Mary and Joseph faithfully take their baby to the temple to be circumcised, obeying the Torah, and name him Jesus, obeying the angel. First, Simeon, who was told by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Messiah before he died, meets Jesus with recognition and blessings. Taking the baby in his arms, he prophesies that Jesus is a sign of the restructuring of power. Then Anna, a widow who had been faithfully worshipping in the temple for many years, recognized Jesus. Anna began to praise God and speak about the child as the

redemption of Jerusalem. Simeon and Anna both recognize Jesus and proclaim the wonder of Jesus as the salvation for all people.

About 12 years later, Jesus and his family travel to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. When Mary and Joseph started their trip back to Nazareth, they did not notice that Jesus was not among the crowd with whom they were traveling. They could not imagine that he would stay behind in the temple, not only to learn from the teachers but to teach them as well.

After three days searching Jerusalem, Jesus' parents finally found him in the temple. They had been worried, searching everywhere, but Jesus simply replies that this is where he is meant to be. "Did you not know that I would be in my Father's house?" (verse 49). Jesus reveals his deep connection with God, but it is more than his frantic parents are able to understand.



## The Point

**At the temple, Jesus is announced as the savior of the world.** Throughout this unit, we are looking at how Jesus reveals God to us. One of the first steps in understanding these revelations is recognizing Jesus as a legitimate avenue for us to encounter God. The point of this lesson's Scripture is for us to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Simeon and Anna both reveal him as such, and remind us that he comes for the salvation of all!

## Bible Nuts & Bolts:

### *Jewish Religious Leaders*

The Jewish religious leaders we read about in the Gospels are not always well understood in our churches today. When we know more about each type of key religious leader in the Bible, we can better understand what is going on in parts of the Gospels. Priests led worship in the temple by making sacrifices and other offerings. One of these priests was appointed every year by the Roman governor to be the leader of the priests called the high priest. The chief priests were priests from the most respected priestly families and acted under direct order of the high priest. The Sanhedrin in Jerusalem was a ruling council made up of the high priest, chief priests, scribes, and elders. Scribes were well educated and made copies of holy scrolls like the Torah.

These leaders generally belonged to one of two groups, somewhat like Christian denominations today. The Pharisees believed that the most important thing to do was to follow the Law found in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). The Sadducees focused more on worship in the temple and, during Jesus' time, were more accepting of Roman rule.

## Spiritual Practice: Worship

In the two parts of the lesson, we see the importance of a community of faith coming together. Worship can be a powerful connection point for a community of faith. In worship, we have rituals that united us and reinforce our connections. These Scripture readings show Jesus as part of a community that values these rituals. While some of our worship rituals may have changed, the importance of coming together as a community of faith to worship has not.



# WORD SEARCH



- AMAZED
- ANGEL
- BETHLEHEM
- FIELDS
- FLOCKS
- GLORY
- MANGER
- MESSIAH
- PEACE
- PRAISING
- SAVIOUR
- SHEPHERDS



# JESUS VISITS THE TEMPLE

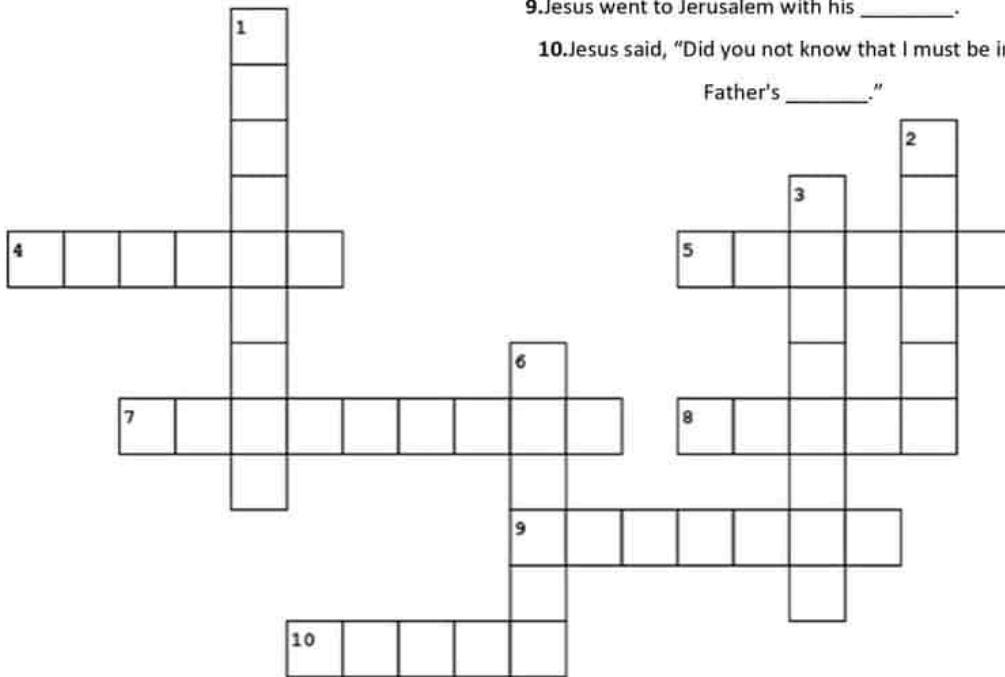


## Down

1. Jesus and his parents went to celebrate the feast of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus was \_\_\_\_ years old
3. Jesus returned to here with his parents
6. They found Jesus in this building.

## Across

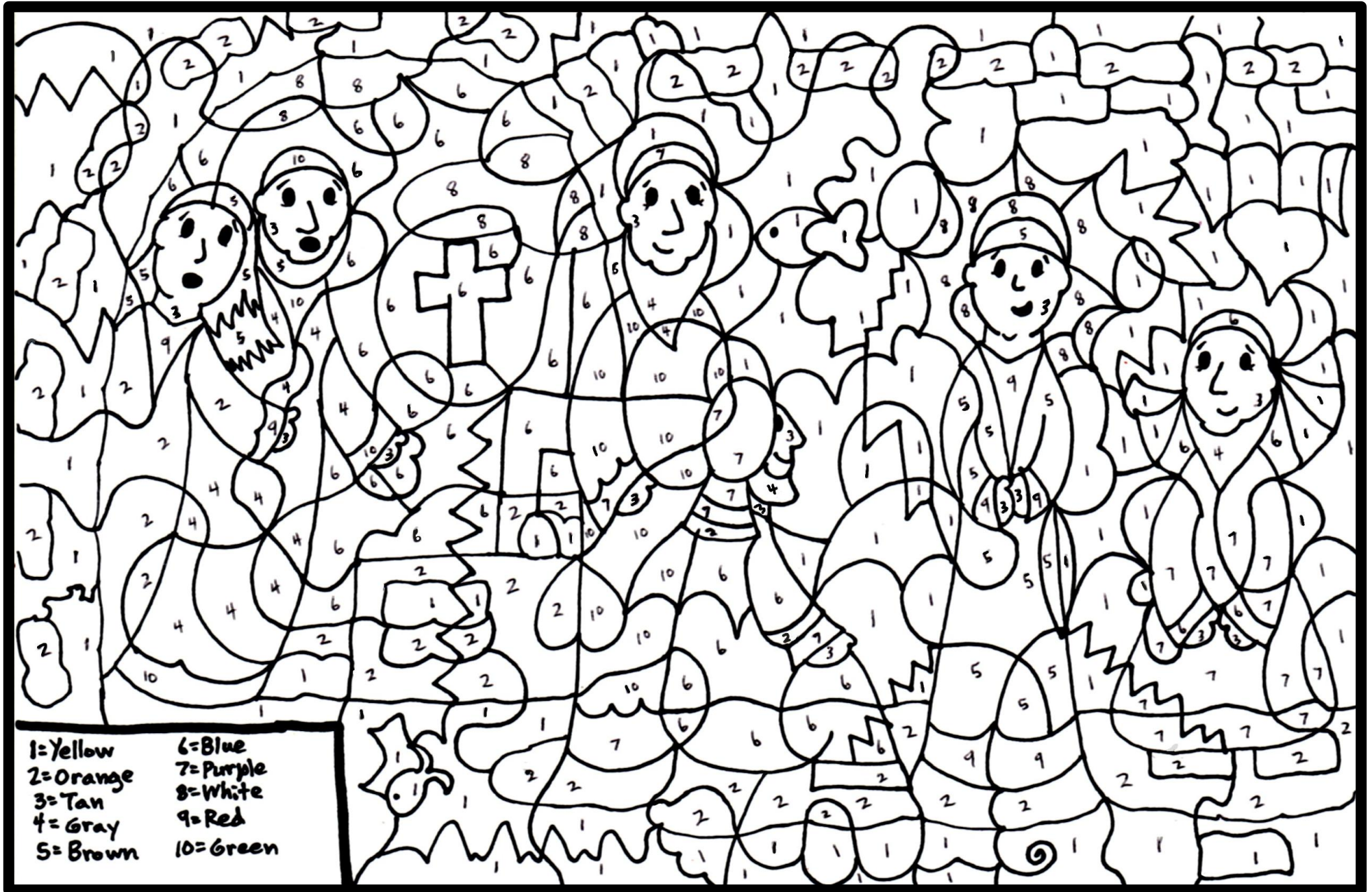
4. Jesus increased in \_\_\_\_\_ and in stature.
5. Everyone was \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus understanding and answers.
7. The name of the city they visited.
8. The number of days Jesus' parents searched for Him.
9. Jesus went to Jerusalem with his \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Jesus said, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's \_\_\_\_\_."



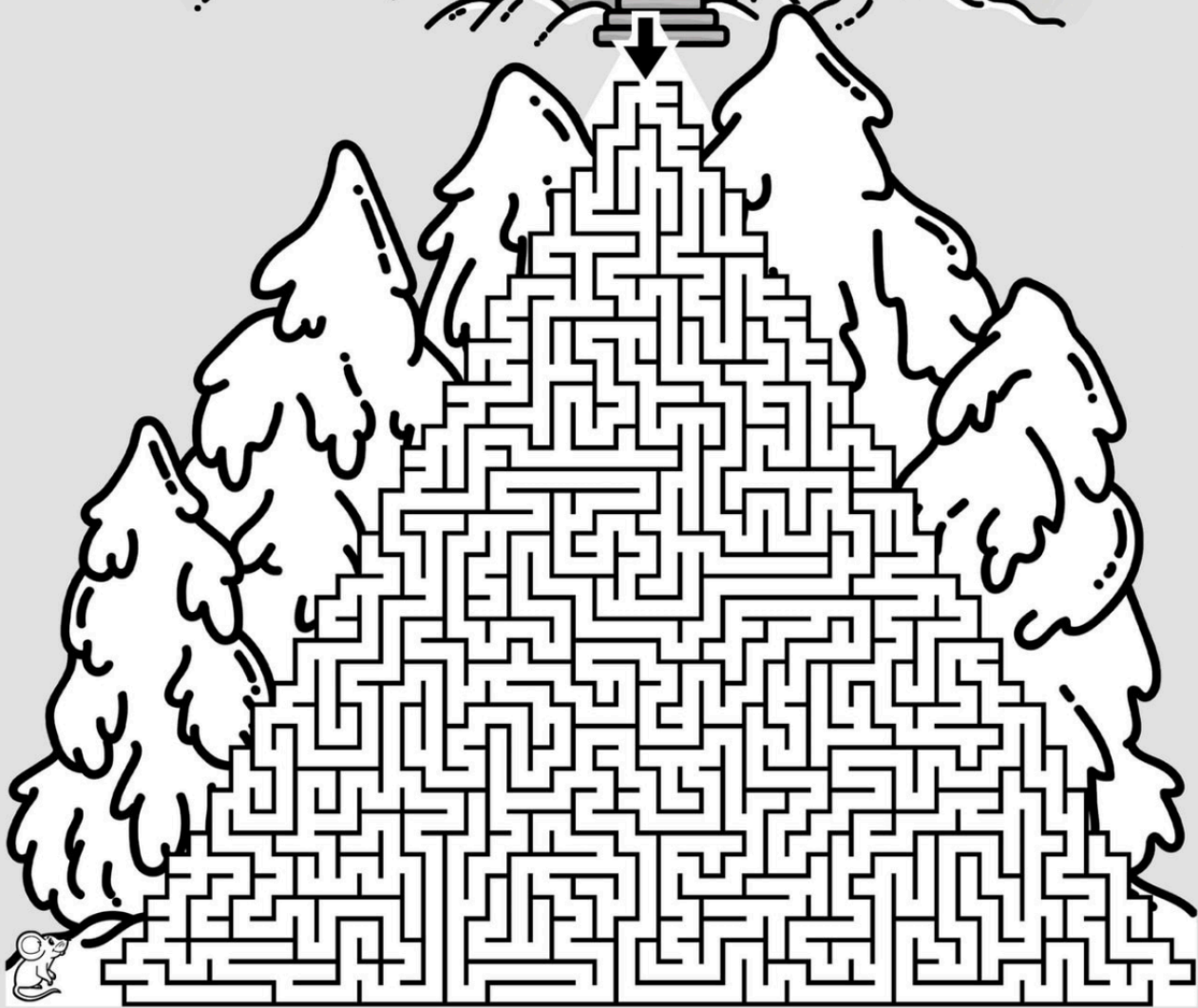


# Young Jesus at the Temple

a color by number

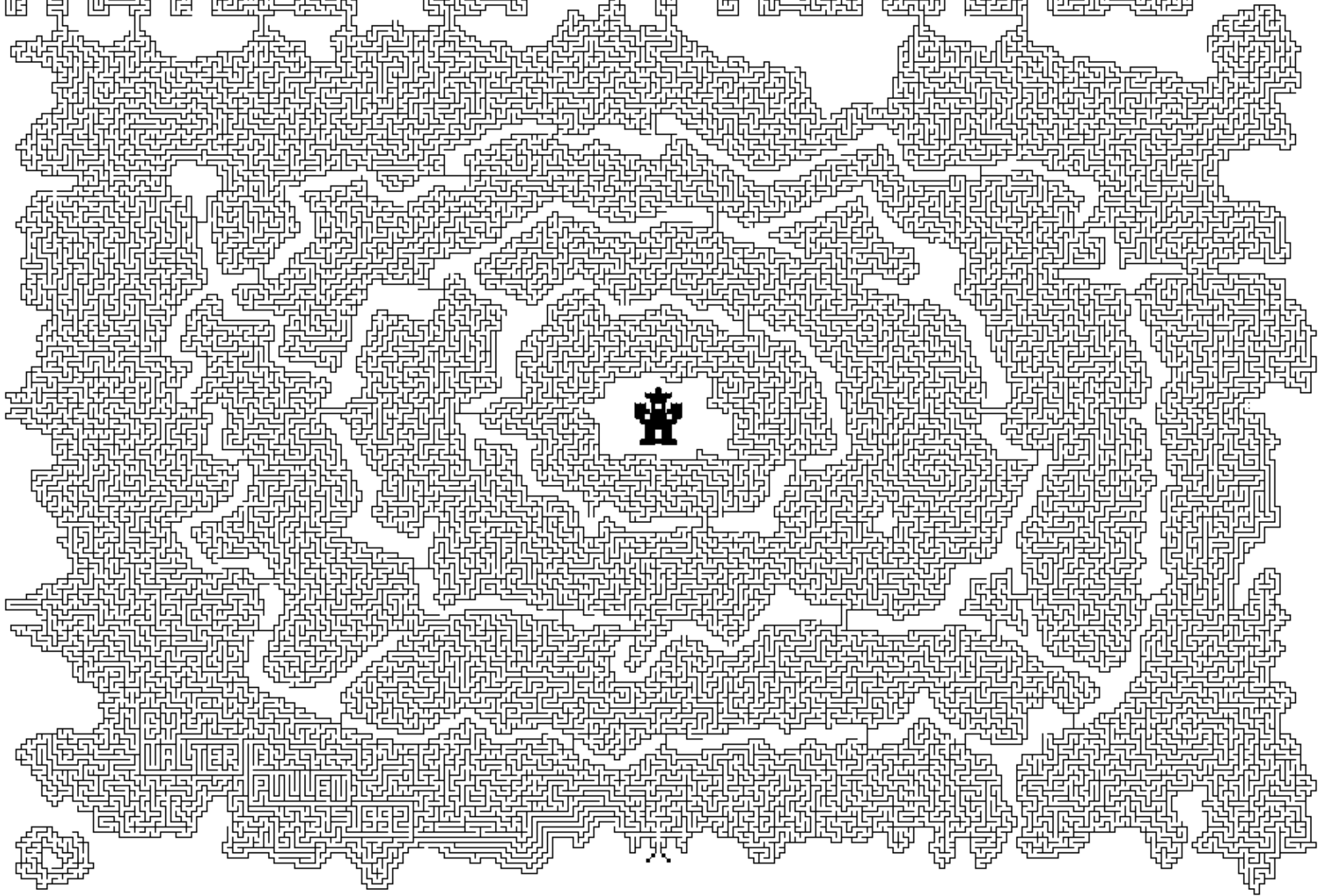


SEE THE SNOW FROM THIS WINTER CABIN





# MAZE OF THE EAST



WALTER POWELL 1992





# THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS  
3RD-6TH**

**NL**

## Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2024-2025)

Luke 2:21-38; Luke 2:41-52

### LAST WEEK

God chooses Mary to be the bearer of the Messiah, and she goes to her cousin Elizabeth's home. Mary sings her gratitude in a song (Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]). On Christmas, the Messiah arrives, born of Mary in the town of Bethlehem. He is heralded by angels and visited by lowly shepherds (Luke 2:1-20).

### THIS WEEK

When he is eight days old, Jesus' parents bring him to the temple, and they encounter Simeon and Anna. Later, when he is 12, he returns to the temple to learn from the teachers there. (Luke 2:21-38; Luke 2:41-52).

### THE POINT

At the temple, Jesus is announced as the savior of the world.

### STORY SUMMARY

#### Jesus in the Temple

Mary and Joseph faithfully take their baby to the temple to be circumcised and named. A man named Simeon and a woman named Anna recognize Jesus as the Messiah. They praise God and prophesy about his significance. About 12 years later, Jesus and his family travel to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. When Mary and Joseph traveled back toward Nazareth, they did not notice that Jesus was not with them. After three days searching Jerusalem, Jesus' parents finally found him in the temple. Jesus reveals his deep connection with God, but it is more than his frantic parents are able to understand.

### BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

#### *Jewish Religious Leaders*

It is useful to learn more about the Jewish religious leaders we read about in the Gospels. Priests led worship in the temple by making sacrifices and other offerings. One priest was appointed to be a leader called the high priest. Scribes were well educated and made copies of holy scrolls like the Torah. Leaders were usually Pharisees or Sadducees. Pharisees believed that it was most important to follow God's Law. Sadducees focused on worship in the temple.

### PRACTICE: WORSHIP

Worship is a powerful connection point for a community of faith. In worship, we have rituals that unite us and strengthen our faith. More importantly, in worship we have opportunities to encounter God together. As a family, take time to worship together, in your church or in your home.

### NEXT WEEK

Jesus encounters his cousin, John the Baptist, and Jesus' public ministry begins (Luke 3:1-22).

# TRY IT @ HOME

## Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✝ Where do you see the message that "It is GOOD" in this Scripture?
- ✝ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✝ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

## Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

### Sunday—Read Luke 2:41-52

In Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover, twelve-year-old Jesus gets separated from his parents and stays behind in Jerusalem. Do research together about the Festival of Passover.

### Monday—Read Genesis 17:9-14

God explains that circumcision is a sign of the covenant between Abraham, his descendants, and God. Sing and do the actions for the song "Father Abraham."

### Tuesday—Read Exodus 13:1-2

The Lord commands Moses to consecrate the firstborn male of each family. We are all a part of God's family. Say a prayer of thanks for each member of your family.

### Wednesday—Read Leviticus 26:3-6

God promises peace to all the land. Pray together for people or situations that are in need of peace.

### Thursday—Read Leviticus 26:7-13

The Lord promises to be with the people of Israel, to keep them safe and provide for them. Go on a walk with your family. Take time to notice the details of God's creation.

### Friday—Read Malachi 4:4-6

Malachi prophesies that the prophet Elijah will return. Make a heart shape with your hands. "Pass" the heart around to each member of your family and share one thing that you love about that person.

### Saturday—Read Isaiah 62:10-12

God promises to bring God's people back to Jerusalem. Use blocks or train or car tracks to build a road together as you read this passage.