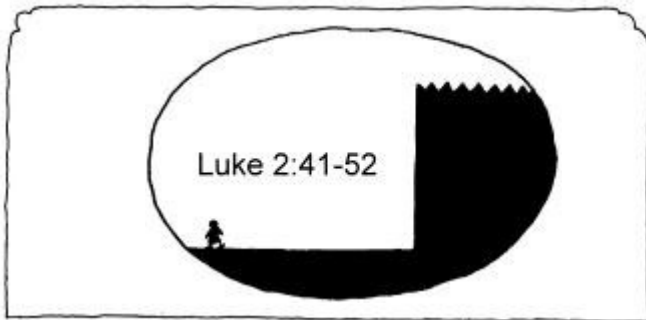


WHEN Jesus was twelve

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Illustrated by Richard Gunther



Every year at Passover Joseph the carpenter took his family to the Temple at Jerusalem. This was a special year because at 12 years of age Jesus was old enough to sit in with the men.



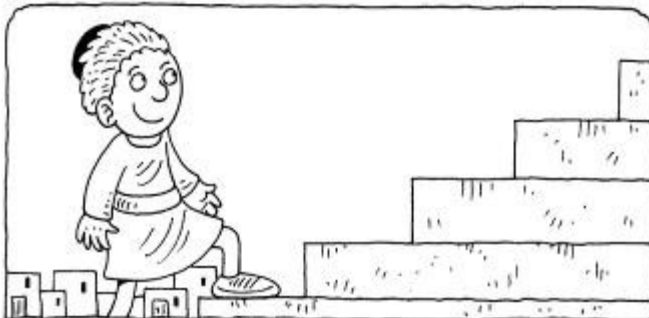
When Jesus was twelve years old he went with Joseph and Mary to the temple at Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Passover.



It was a special time to thank God. Jesus walked along with his family and friends. Jesus loved going to the temple.



Afterwards, everyone walked home together. But the next day, Joseph and Mary couldn't find Jesus. They hurried back to look for him.



Jesus had gone back to the temple, by himself to hear the wise men and teachers reading and talking about God's words.



Jesus talked to the teachers. They were surprised how much he knew about God, but they didn't know Jesus was the Son of God!



At last Mary and Joseph found him in the Temple talking to the priest and teachers. "We thought you were lost," Mary said. "I am here in my Father's house," Jesus told her.



Jesus went straight home with them. Mary never forgot how much Jesus loved God's Word, even when he was a boy.