

# SABBATH SCHOOL

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## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 1 • Unit 5 • Week 1

### YOUNG JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

#### OBJECTIVE:

To illustrate that Jesus Christ set an example of obeying both His heavenly Father and His human parents.

#### ATTENTION GETTER:

Supplies: Crayons  
Photocopies of "Keys to Getting Along"  
Photocopies of "What Jesus Did"  
Chalkboard or white board  
Chalk or white board markers

Do: Do the "Keys to Getting Along" activity together. Read each word on the keys.

Ask: Are we obeying God and our parents when we are \_\_\_\_\_? [Insert each key word—fighting, lying, hugging, etc.]

Ask: Why or why not? Does it break one of the Ten Commandments? Do you know which one?

#### BIBLE LESSON:

Ask: How many of you have gone on a family trip? Where did you go?

Ask: Have any of you ever been lost from your parents? Was there a time when you couldn't find them (even for a little while)? How did you feel? [If this has never happened to any of the students, ask how they think they would feel if they had been lost from their parents.]

Say: This happened to Jesus when He was twelve years old. His family went on a trip to Jerusalem to keep the Passover. I'm going to read you a story about the trip. Listen carefully to see where Jesus' parents finally found Him.

## JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

by Janice J. Creed

Brightly colored flowers bloomed in Nazareth and birds sweetly sang in the trees as Jesus and His family prepared to take a long trip. They would be traveling to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover holy days. How exciting it must have been for the children to see so many people from many surrounding towns walking or riding on the backs of camels or donkeys.

Jesus, who was about 12 years old, was making the trip with his parents, Mary and Joseph. Jesus and His family rose early to begin the 100-mile journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem. They tied their bundles of supplies upon the little donkey's back.

Clippety-clop! Clippety-clop! Clippety-clop was the sound of the donkey train as it moved slowly on its way. The people sang and talked as they climbed up and down the hills approaching Jerusalem.

At last they reached Jerusalem. The wide-eyed children looked around at every sight. There were the city's stone walls, the big gate, the crowds of people in the streets, the camels, the donkeys and the many market stalls. The sight that brought the biggest smile was the beautiful temple.

The Passover celebration lasted for several days. The family ate unleavened bread and lamb. Although there were lots of things to see and do, the temple was where Jesus liked to be. He listened to the teachers while sitting at their feet. When Jesus asked them questions, they were all amazed that He knew so much even though He was a child.

After the celebration it was time to go home. Once again, early one morning bright and clear, they tied their supplies upon the donkey's back and started toward Nazareth.

As the night drew near, Mary asked, "Did you find Him?"

"No, Mary, I looked everywhere. I asked all those traveling with us. Nobody has seen Jesus since we left Jerusalem," replied Joseph.

"Where would a 12-year-old boy go, Joseph? I thought he was with the other boys," cried Mary. "He must not have left Jerusalem with us this morning. We must return as soon as possible."

Mary and Joseph spent a restless night waiting for the morning sun so that they could return to Jerusalem and search for their lost Son, Jesus. As they hurried back the next day, they tried to think of all the places Jesus might be.

Finally, Mary and Joseph reached Jerusalem. They anxiously searched for Jesus. They asked the people

in the streets and at each market stall, "Please tell us have you seen a 12-year-old boy—about so tall?" But one by one the strangers shook their heads. They returned to the inn where they stayed. Jesus was not there.

On the third day, Mary was afraid Jesus might have been harmed. No matter where Mary and Joseph looked, they could not find Jesus. Suddenly Joseph said, "I think I know where He might be."

And where do you think they found Jesus? In the temple!

And what do you suppose He was doing? He was talking to the oldest and wisest men, telling them about God. He eagerly listened, even though He was only 12 years old! Jesus asked hard questions and told the grown-ups things they had never known before. Everyone who heard Him was amazed at how much He understood.

When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus, they rushed over to Him with joy and relief. "Son, why have you treated us like this?" Mary asked. "We have been so worried."

Jesus answered, "Why did you look for me? Didn't you know My Father's house is where I'd surely be? Don't you know I must be about My Father's work?"

Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus meant by His answer. They headed back to Nazareth thanking God for helping them find their Son. Jesus knew He should obey Mary and Joseph, so He left His Father's house and willingly returned home with them. He knew when He obeyed His earthly parents He was pleasing His Heavenly Father. As years passed, Jesus grew wise and strong becoming more pleasing to God.

Ask: Why do you think Jesus' parents didn't look for him for a whole day?  
[Answer: Jesus' parents knew that He was a very responsible and obedient boy. At that time families traveled together in large groups. Mary and Joseph thought Jesus was with their relatives. This is why they didn't worry about Him until the end of their first day's journey (Luke 2:44).]

Ask: How many days was Jesus separated from His parents?  
[Answer: Three days (Luke 2:46).]

Ask: Where did they finally find Jesus?  
[Answer: In the temple.]

Say: They found Jesus listening carefully and asking questions of the teachers in the temple. The temple was a house of worship where the Jews prayed, brought offerings, and made sacrifices to God. The temple was God's house.

Ask: Why do you think Jesus was in the temple?

[Answer: Jesus loved learning about God's Word. He knew God was His Father and He liked being in the temple because it was His Father's house.]

Ask: Do you think God wants us to feel the same way about going to church? Why?

Say: God loves us so much that He wants us to be part of His family in the Kingdom of God. God wants us to learn how to live His way now. One way we can learn about God's way is to keep the Sabbath day holy.

Ask: What did Jesus mean when He said He had to be about His Father's work?

Say: God's great plan is to help all people to be in His family. Jesus knew His Father's plan and He also knew He played an important role in that plan. That is why Jesus said He had to be about His Father's work—His Father's plan.

Ask: How do we know Jesus was obedient to His parents?

[Answer: Jesus willingly returned to Nazareth with His parents, Mary and Joseph, and continued to be obedient to them.]

Ask: How do we know God wants us to be obedient to our parents?

Say: Jesus set us (you and me) an example by obeying His parents. One of God's Ten Commandments tells us to honor our parents. Jesus obeyed both His heavenly Father and His human parents.

Ask: Jesus wanted to please God and His parents. What are some of the things you can do to please God? [List the students' answers on the chalkboard or white board. Possible answers: Pray daily, read the Bible, obey the Ten Commandments, obey your parents, keep the Sabbath, listen in church, be nice or kind to other people.]

Ask: What are some things you can do to please your parents? [List student answers on the chalkboard or white board. Possible answers: Don't argue, don't fight with brothers or sisters, do what parents ask you to do, help with chores, tell them you love them, make them a card, do well in school.]

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Do: Complete the worksheet "What Jesus Did." Answer the questions in the first part and then color the numbers to discover the hidden word.

**Music:**

Sing "O Be Careful Little Eyes" to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It!" (accompaniment CD: *Sunday School Favorites* ©1998 Everland Entertainment, a division of Word Entertainment).

"O Be Careful Little Eyes"

O be careful little eyes what you see,  
O be careful little eyes what you see,  
For the Father up above is looking down in love,  
So be careful little eyes what you see.

O be careful little ears what you hear,  
O be careful little ears what you hear,  
For the Father up above is looking down in love,  
So be careful little ears what you hear.

O be careful little tongue what you say,  
O be careful little tongue what you say,  
For the Father up above is looking down in love,  
So be careful little tongue what you say.

O be careful little hands what you do,  
O be careful little hands what you do,  
For the Father up above is looking down in love,  
So be careful little hands what you do.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Choose one of the following:

Proverbs 1:8 "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother."

Luke 2:52 "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

Before Class: Print each word of the Bible verse on separate index cards or pieces of construction paper and prepare for use on flannel, bulletin or magnetic board.

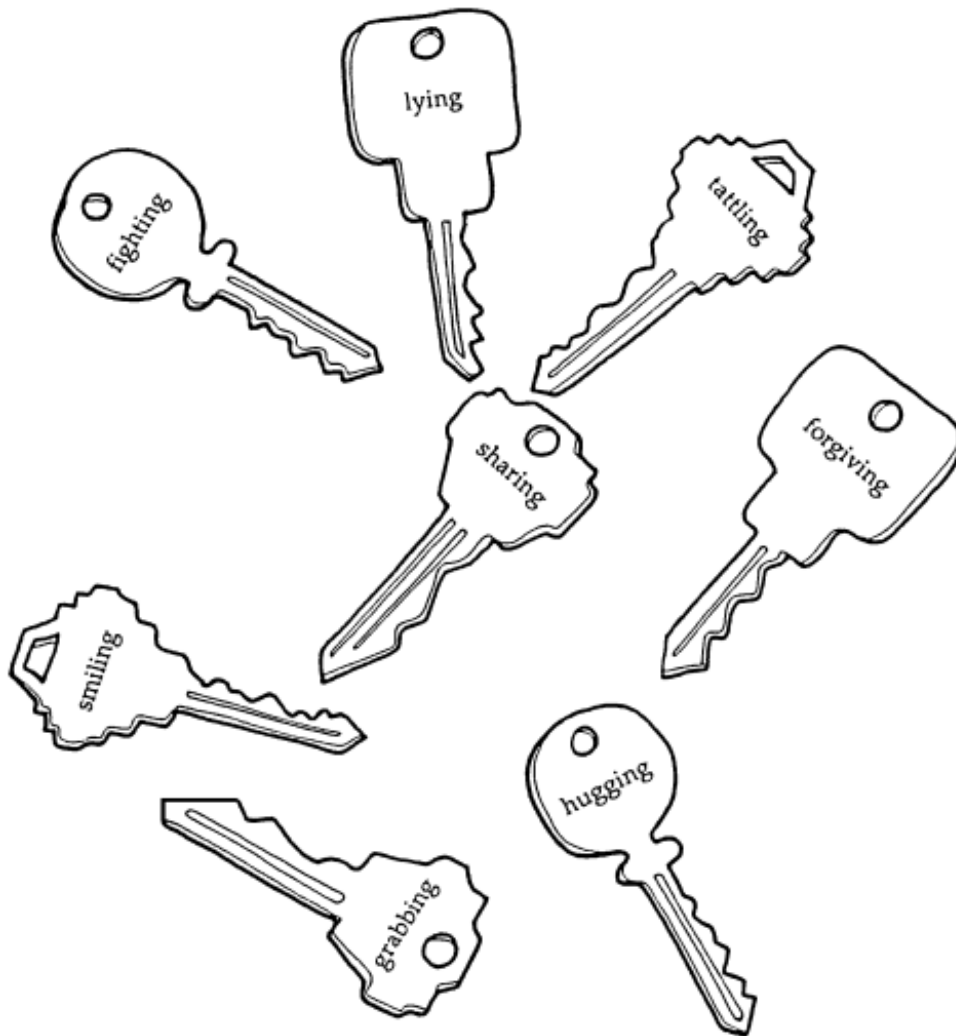
First: Recite the memory verse several times together.

Next: Spread the mixed up words on a table. Ask a student to find the first word of the verse and place it in position on the board. Have the second student find the next word, and so on. Continue until all of the scattered words are in order.

Finally: Recite memory verse together again.

## KEYS TO GETTING ALONG

Color the keys that tell kind ways of getting along in your family and with your friends. Cross out (x) the keys that describe ways that are not getting along as God teaches us.



## WHAT JESUS DID

Complete the following statements based on today's Bible lesson:

Jesus grew up in the town of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Bethlehem (b) Jerusalem (c) Nazareth

When asked to do a household chore, Jesus probably would have answered \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) "I'll do it later." (b) "Yes, I'll be glad to do it." (c) "That's not my job."

Jesus kept the Sabbath by \_\_\_\_\_.

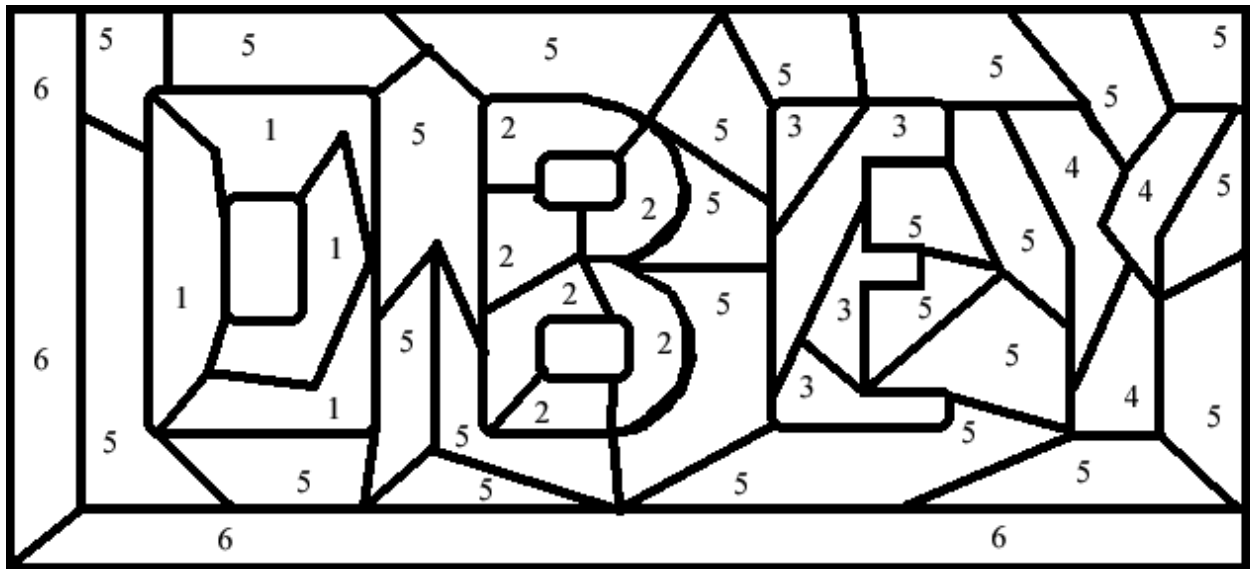
- (a) playing with His friends. (b) worshiping God in the synagogue. (c) helping His parents with chores.

Which are not keys to getting along with others?

- (a) forgiving (b) sharing (c) lying (d) giving (e) grabbing

Color the numbers to find a hidden word that tells what Jesus did.

- 1 Red    2 Blue    3 Yellow    4 Green    5 Purple    6 Pink



# *family activity*

**THE POINT:**

Jesus Christ set an example of obeying both His heavenly Father and His human parents.

**ASK ME...**

What are some of the “keys” to getting along?

Why did Jesus spend time in the temple?

What town did Jesus grow up in?

**FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Discuss what your child should do if he or she was ever lost.

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week’s memory verse on the backside. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson’s memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

-----cut along dotted line-----

(Memory verse on reverse)

(Teacher’s note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)