

Jesus at Twelve Years Old

Luke 2:41-52

The Infancy Gospel of Thomas (First Greek Form)

The Arabic Infancy Gospel

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When Jesus was twelve years old, he and his parents went to Jerusalem for Passover, as they did every year. When the week-long Passover celebration was finished, they left for home, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, only his parents didn't know that. They were traveling with a large group of people and they assumed he was somewhere among their entourage. They journeyed for a full day. Then Mary and Joseph started looking for Jesus among friends and relatives. But they couldn't find him, so they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

Three days later they found Jesus sitting in the Temple, listening to the teachers and asking questions. He was explaining the Law, the prophets, and the writings. The teachers were all quite taken with him. They were impressed with his insightful questions and with the depth of understanding he displayed in his answers to their questions. He seemed to understand the scriptures better than they did themselves.

His parents, on the other hand, were not impressed. They were upset. Mary said, "Well, young man, what do you have to say for yourself? Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you."

Jesus answered, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know I would be here, in my Father's house?" By this time Mary and Joseph were so flustered, they had no idea what he was talking about.

The teachers asked Mary, "Are you the boy's mother?" She indicated she was, and they said, "God has truly blessed you, giving you such a son."

Mary and Joseph took Jesus and left for home. Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents and was obedient to them.