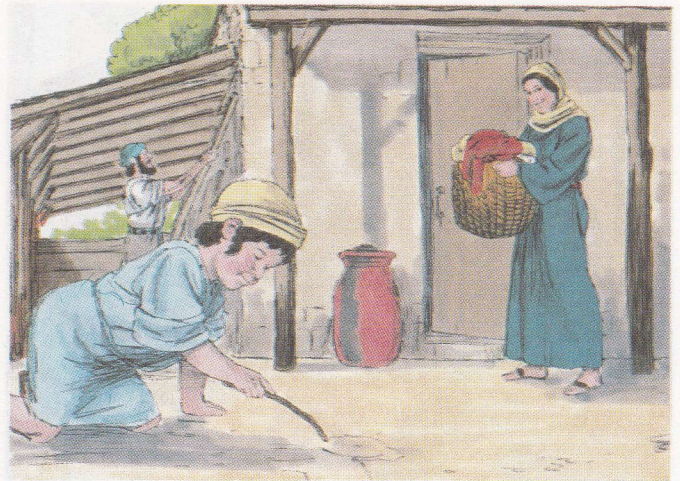


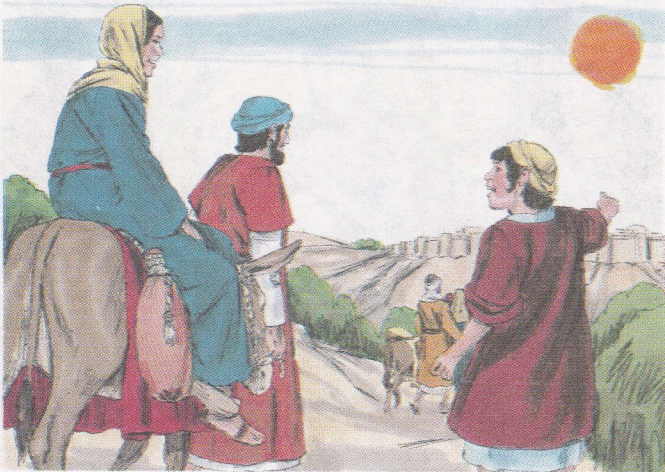
# The Boy Jesus



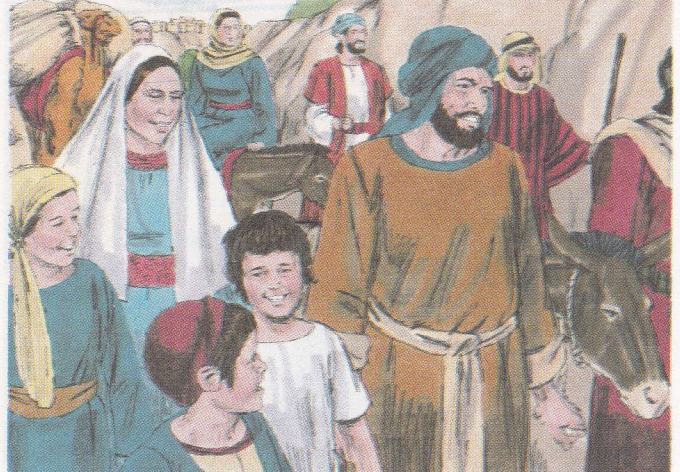
**1** King Herod wanted to kill the child born to be “king of the Jews,” so Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt for a while. After Herod died, they returned to the land of Israel and settled in Galilee.



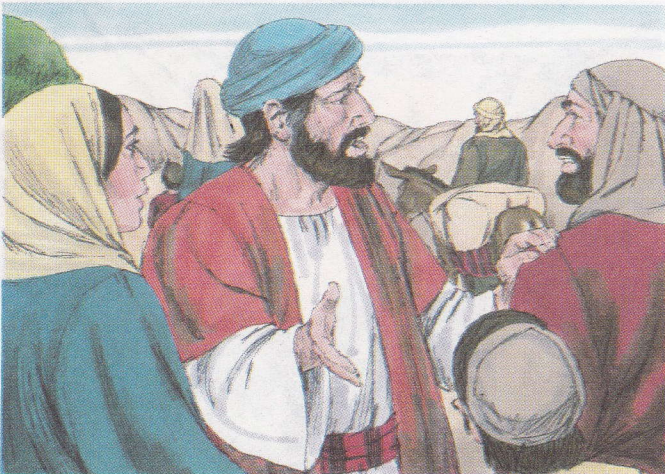
**2** Thus Jesus grew up in the town of Nazareth with his mother Mary and her husband Joseph. The boy became strong and wise. And he was blessed by God.



**3** Now, each year Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem in order to celebrate the Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, they took him with them on the long trip to Jerusalem.



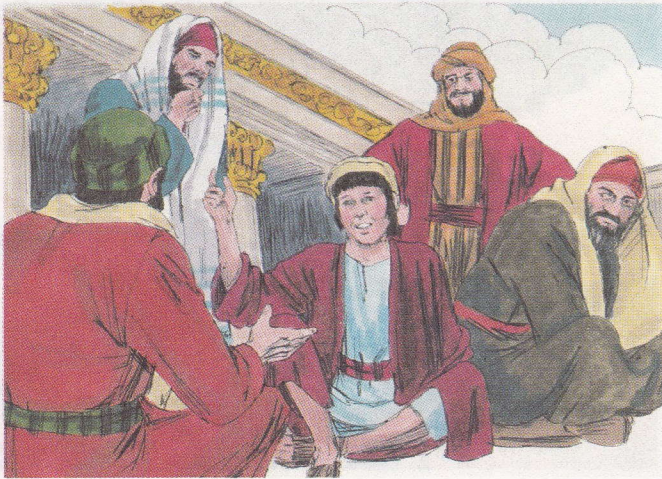
**4** When the feast of Passover was ended, Mary and Joseph left for home. They thought Jesus was with the others in their group. They did not know that he had stayed behind in Jerusalem.



**5** They traveled for about a day before they missed Jesus. They checked with all their friends and relatives, but no one had seen the boy. So they turned back to Jerusalem.



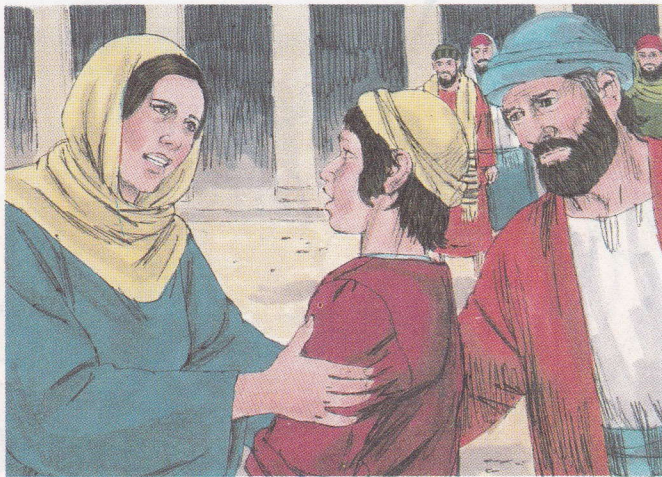
**6** Joseph and Mary searched all over the city for Jesus. Then, after three days, they found him. He was in the Temple!



**7** Jesus was sitting among the teachers of the Law, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone there was amazed at how much he understood and how well he answered.



**8** Mary and Joseph were quite surprised to find their son there.



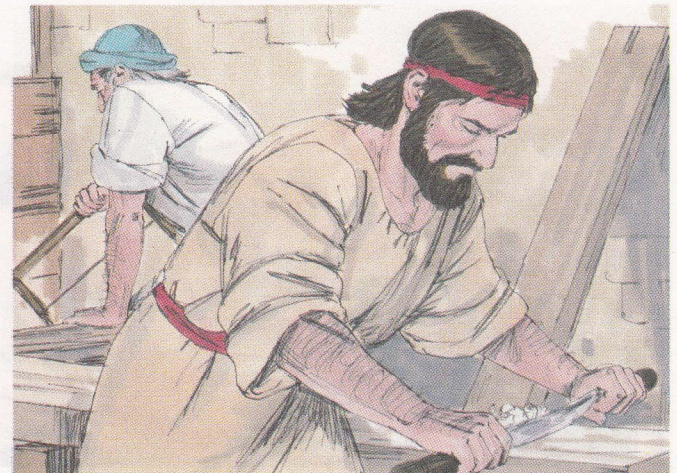
**9** "My son, why have you treated us this way?" Mary said to him. "Your father and I have been very worried about you! We've looked everywhere for you!"



**10** Jesus replied, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?" Joseph and Mary did not really understand what Jesus meant by these words.



**11** Then Jesus went back to Nazareth with his mother and Joseph. He was always obedient to his parents. His mother remembered all these things.



**12** Jesus grew in mind and body. And he grew in favor with God and man.