



Hearts for
JESUS



Chapel talk: Through Education “The Boy Jesus in the Temple” Text: Luke 2:41-52

Prop: A wrapped gift containing school books and a Bible with tag reading “To: My Dear Child From: God With Love”

Say: Today I have some special gift that I want to give. Who will come up and receive it?

Open the gift and show it.

This is a gift that all you are already receiving, the opportunity to go to school and learn of our Loving God. Our Bible reading tells us that Jesus received that gift when He was a child in Nazareth. It also tells of how Jesus treasured this gift of learning when He was 12 years old.

Jesus was in Jerusalem with His parents, relatives and friends to celebrate the Passover. When the festivities had ended, Joseph and Mary left town to go back home with their group. They thought their twelve year old son was traveling with His friends and would find them when they camped at night. But Jesus was in the temple talking to the teachers of religion called Rabbis in one of the rooms set aside for teaching. He was

listening and asking questions.

That night He could not be found in the camp and nobody had seen Him all day. Joseph and Mary started back to Jerusalem immediately. Their son was missing and they were tormented thinking about what might have happened to Him. Was He lost? Was He hurt? Had Herod's soldier realized this was the boy they were ordered to kill when He was a baby living in Bethlehem and He was their prisoner? How terrified they were!

So when they found Him sitting with the Rabbis they were both relieved and upset. His mother said to Him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." Jesus answer to His mother and father has much to teach us. He said, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

They did not understand what He meant when He said, "I must be in my Father's house," and we are blessed to know what He meant now because the Bible tells us. The Bible tells us that Jesus was sent to take our place in full obedience to God's will for us. As we begin the season of Lent, we are especially mindful that He was sent to do for us what God requires. We cannot do what God requires because of our human weakness called our sinful nature. This means that no matter how hard we try we cannot

please God who expects us to be perfect. That is why Jesus was celebrating the Passover and why He went to Rabbi School to worship and learn. He was in his Heavenly Father's House, doing what we should always be doing: worshiping and learning.

Also, Jesus obeyed His parents and was “submissive to them” and went back to His home town of Nazareth. In Nazareth, we can be sure He was a model son and everyone respected Him as He grew to become a man. He worked with Joseph, who served as His earthly father in his carpenter shop making farm implements for the farmers in the countryside.

He worked as a carpenter until He gathered his disciples and began teaching and healing and helping people with their problems. After a time the Rabbis turned against Him and had Him crucified. The Rabbis were angry with Jesus, the perfect man and obedient son, who criticized their practices of religion. The Bible tells us his death was also a part of His love for us, because He took our place and took the full punishment for all the wrongs that human beings do to one another including us. Now we can be sure we are on God's side, and He loves us and cares for us all the time.

“Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world”—He even went to school and gave His whole life until His horrible death to teach

us that He loves us and cares for us. There are many children in the world today who now know about Jesus' love because of an organization called Children's Christian Concern Society. This Society gives scholarships to children all over the world so that they can go to school and learn about Jesus. The money that you give is like this gift that we just opened. You are giving children the gift of education, especially the opportunity to learn that Jesus died on the cross for their sins. Some of the children who come to the schools don't have good clothes and are hungry, so they get clothes, some food and are taught about the love of Jesus. Some children have to walk many miles to get to school that will also teach them about the love of Jesus. What a blessing it must be for them! We can help children all over the world in places that are not always safe with our gifts that help children go to school. It is a great privilege to know Jesus and a privilege to help boys and girls all over the world.