

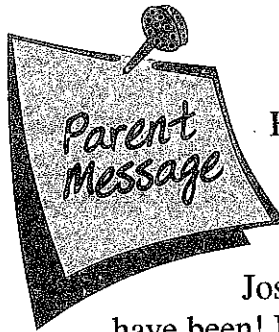
they looked and looked. Finally, after three days, they went to the temple. And there in the temple court they found Jesus! He was sitting with the teachers of God's Word. Jesus listened as the teachers spoke God's Word, and he asked them many questions. The people who heard Jesus thought, "How wise this young boy is!" They could hardly believe that a boy his age could understand God's Word so well.

When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus, they were surprised. Mary said to him, "Son, why did you do this? We've been looking everywhere for you. We've been so worried about you!"

Jesus answered, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know I had to be here doing the work my Father has given me to do?" But Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus meant.

Then Jesus went home to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. He loved them and always obeyed them. His mother remembered all the things that had happened and thought about them often.

As Jesus grew older, he became taller and wiser. God, his heavenly Father, was pleased with him, and all the people who knew Jesus loved him.



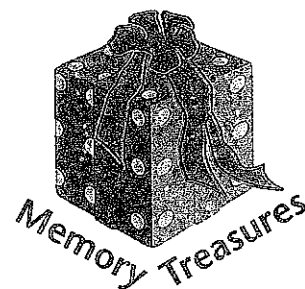
Jesus was no ordinary boy. He was the holy Son of God. As parents it is difficult for us to imagine raising a sinless child. How easy Mary and Joseph's job of parenting must have been! But we shouldn't consider our Savior's perfect life lightly. He led a perfect life for you, your child, and all people. He did what we couldn't so that we might be saved.

When your child disobeys you, lovingly remind him that he has also sinned against God. Then reassure your child that his sins have been forgiven because Jesus earned that forgiveness for him. Remind him that when he obeys God, he is showing God love and also saying thank you for giving him a Savior.

To help your child understand that he can show thanks by obeying, think of a time when you gave him a special treat and your child's obedient actions showed his thankfulness. Tell him that you knew he was thankful because of something that he did or didn't do. Perhaps he went to bed the first time you asked or ate his vegetables without complaint. We show our love and thanks to God for his precious gift of a Savior in the same way—by gladly doing what he has commanded.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for sending Jesus to keep your commandments perfectly for us. Help us say no to Satan when he tempts us to disobey you. We love you and want to keep your commandments. Amen.



**** Ephesians
6:1**

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

* The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.