

Year C

## The Feast of the Holy Family

### Jesus is lost

#### INTRODUCTION

Every year the Jews celebrated the feast of the Passover and remembered how God had saved them from slavery in Egypt. When Jesus was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph took him with them to Jerusalem.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 2.

#### SORRY

On the Feast of the Holy Family, let us think about our own families. Read the following questions slowly, pausing for thought between each.

Do we show everyone in our family how much we love them by our words and actions? Do we sometimes take them for granted without realizing how lucky we are to feel loved and cared for? Do we always treat our brothers and sisters thoughtfully? Are we obedient and good for our parents?

Sing Sorry Song 1 together.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel say together:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, open our ears and minds

so that we hear and understand your word.

Alleluia, alleluia.

#### GOSPEL (LUKE 2:41-52)

Every year Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, he made the journey with them. After the feast, Mary and Joseph set off for home. But that evening, they realized that Jesus was missing, and at once they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After searching for three days, they finally found Jesus in the temple. He sat listening and asking questions of the Jewish teachers who were

filled with admiration for this child. Mary and Joseph were overcome when they saw him and said, "Son, we have been so worried for three days! Why have you done this to us?"

But Jesus answered, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not realize that I would be in my father's house?" But they did not understand what his answer meant. The family returned to Nazareth, and Mary kept all these things in her heart. Jesus grew in height and wisdom, and he was loved by God and all who knew him.

#### DISCUSSION

Have you ever been lost before? What happened, and how did you feel? How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they lost Jesus in Jerusalem?

In Jesus' time, people often traveled in separate groups and his parents thought that Jesus was with the other group. When they realized that Jesus was missing, they set off at once to look for him, filled with a feeling of panic and concern.

They spent three long days searching before they found him in the temple, sitting with the elders and the teachers, discussing the scriptures. Mary and Joseph were delighted and relieved to have found Jesus safe and well. They had been so worried, but Jesus did not appear to be at all troubled by everything that had taken place.

Jesus had not felt lost because he was perfectly at home in the temple, his heavenly father's house. Mary and Joseph did not understand the special relationship that Jesus had with his heavenly father. But under their guidance and with their love and help, Jesus prepared for his mission of bringing the Good News to the world.

#### ACTIVITY

Using the illustration as a guide, help the children to make a banner depicting the Holy Family.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

We thank you, Lord,

for our families and for each other.

Please bless us and help us

to be loving and forgiving,

and always there for one another

in times of trouble or need.

