THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE
Unit A4 Luke 2: 41-51

YOU WILL NEED
- Basket, Bible, book stand, candle
- Beige felt underlay
- Brown felt road
- Blocks to make Jerusalem - ensure there is a doorway
- 3D figures
  - Jesus as a boy
  - Mary
  - Joseph

PREPARATION - Invite the children to enter the storytelling space, have them seated in a semicircle, ready to listen to the story. Ensure that all materials are prepared in a basket and that a Bible is in close proximity, elevated off the floor on a book stand.

TELLING THE STORY - Story is a key part of our faith tradition. Young children, with their capacity for intuitive learning, are particularly able to find meaning through story.

Hold the Bible in your hands.

This story comes from our Sacred Scripture, the Bible. We find this story in the New Testament, in the Gospel of Luke, so we know that this story is centered on the life and teachings of Jesus and the early Christian community. Because this story is from the Bible we will light the candle as we listen to the story.

Place the Bible back on the stand.

Lay the road vertically in front of you. Place the boy, Jesus, Mary and Joseph on the side of the road near you.
Jesus grew up with Mary and Joseph in a town called Nazareth.

Place Jerusalem half way down the road, off to one side. Move the family down the middle of the road, and then off to stand in front of Jerusalem.
When Jesus was twelve years old, his family and relatives went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover.

Walk Jesus through the doorway to stand behind Jerusalem. Move Mary and Joseph along the road back towards you.
When the feast was ended, they started to return to Nazareth.

Turn Mary and Joseph to face each other.
On their way home, Mary and Joseph saw that Jesus was not with them.

Move Mary and Joseph back to Jerusalem. Place them on one side of the doorway to Jerusalem.
They went back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus.

Move Mary and Joseph to the other side of the doorway.
They could not find Jesus for three days. They looked everywhere.

Move Mary and Joseph to either side of the doorway to Jerusalem. Move Jesus from the back of Jerusalem to the doorway.

Then at last Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple. They asked him why he had made them worry so much. He said to them, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

WONDERING - Following the story, "I wonder" statements engage children with the story and invite reflection. Wondering together teaches the art of dialogue, of listening to others, accepting and learning from others' ideas and contributions.

Sit back, pause for a moment, look up at students, and then wonder about the story together.

I wonder…
- why Mary and Joseph didn't know that Jesus was missing until they were half way home
- how Mary and Joseph felt when they were looking for Jesus
- why Jesus spent this time in the Temple

Carefully pack the story materials back into your basket. Ensure that children are watching so they know how to pack the materials away should they choose to engage with the story during exploring.

EXPLORING - Provide an opportunity for individual/small group exploration in order to respond to the story. This provides students with time to focus on and explore the story or aspects of it, which have significance for them. For this reason, students choose from a variety of materials and types of work. This is an opportunity for students to respond to what they have heard in whatever way they choose, it should be seen as a prayerful opportunity for dialogue between the student and God.

PRAYER - Conclude the session with prayer. Children come closer to God through the experience of prayer. Teachers help students to pray by praying with them, providing a variety of prayer experiences. These may include laying of hands over students' works, spontaneous prayer, prayer related to the Scripture, prayers found in KWL, informal or formal prayers, or a hymn.

Carefully pack story materials back into your basket. Ensure that children are watching so they know how to pack the materials away and where to find them.