

The Story of the Boy Jesus in the Temple

An Echo Pantomime Drama by Jeffrey E. Burkart

Luke 2:40-52 (Series C – 2nd Sunday after Christmas)

Leader/Storyteller Script:

The Lord be with you! (*Some congregations will automatically respond: “And also with you!”*) Today we’re going to tell the story of when Jesus and his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. We’re going to do an echo pantomime where I’ll tell the story in short phrases and gestures. After I say the words and do a gesture, you’ll repeat what I’ve said and done. The children with me will help you to repeat what I say and do. Let’s all stand, if you can, and rehearse so you can get the idea.

(*Pause as they stand and spread out a bit so as not to bump into one another.*) For example, if I said...“Good morning everyone (*wave good morning*) – you’d repeat what I said and did. Let’s try it!

“**Good morning everyone** (*Wave good morning*) – all children helpers echo and gesture with the congregation.

“**Would you like to hear a story?!** (*Questioning gesture*) – children echo and gesture.

“**Yes!!** (*Both hand make fists and raise up to the air enthusiastically as you go right into the story.*)

NOTES to the Leader/Storyteller: *If you need to do the above dialog over so people get the idea, that’s okay. Do not rush the echo pantomime. If you make a mistake it’s okay; just pick it up where you left off. You can use cue cards, an enlarged version of the text, or project the text on the back wall of the church with a digital projector.*

No need to memorize the text, but rehearse it a couple of times with the children so things go smoothly.

ECHO PANTOMIME

Words:

1) One day...

2) Mary...

3) And Joseph...

4) Brought Jesus...

5) To Jerusalem...

6) To celebrate the Passover...

7) Jesus was twelve years old...
fingers

8) After awhile...

9) Mary and Joseph...

10) Went back home...

11) But Jesus...

Actions/Gestures:

Point index finger up

Make praying hands gesture

Make muscles with arms

Make “Jesus sign” (touch both palm with fingers)

Make wide sweeping gesture with both hands

Move both hands over your head

“Jesus sign” – then hold up 10 fingers of both hand – then 2

Move one hand from right to left to signify time passage

Praying hands and muscles again

Walk in place

Make “Jesus sign”

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| 12) Stayed in the temple... | <i>Make a steeple over your head with your hands</i> |
| 13) Mary and Joseph... | <i>Praying hands and muscles again</i> |
| 14) Thought... | <i>Tap index finger to forehead</i> |
| 15) Jesus... | <i>Make "Jesus sign"</i> |
| 16) Was with relatives... | <i>Clasp both hands</i> |
| 17) Back they went... | <i>Point with thumb back over your shoulder</i> |
| 18) To Jerusalem... | <i>Make wide sweeping gesture with both hands</i> |
| 19) And after three days | <i>Hold up three fingers</i> |
| 20) They found him in the temple | <i>Steeple gesture over your head with your hands</i> |
| 21) Jesus... | <i>"Jesus sign"</i> |
| 22) Was listening... | <i>Cup both hands behind ears</i> |
| 23) And asking questions... | <i>Palms up and tilt head in "question gesture"</i> |
| 24) And talking with the teachers... | <i>Make talking gesture with hands</i> |
| 25) Everyone who heard him... | <i>Cup both hands behind ears -</i> |
| 26) Was amazed... | <i>Wiggle both hands above your head</i> |
| 27) At his understanding... | <i>Point index finger to your temple</i> |
| 28) And his answers... | <i>Both palms up and out in "giving gesture"</i> |
| 29) His parents were astonished | <i>Wiggle both hands above your head</i> |
| 30) Mary said... | <i>Praying hands gesture</i> |
| 31) Why have you treated us so? | <i>Shrugging gesture – palms extended</i> |
| 32) We've been searching for you... | <i>Searching gesture - move head from side to side</i> |
| 33) We were very distressed... | <i>Hold both palms to heart</i> |
| 34) Jesus said... | <i>"Jesus sign"</i> |
| 35) Why... | <i>Shrug gesture, look gesture, thumb points to self</i> |
| 36) Were you looking... | <i>Searching gesture - move head from side to side</i> |
| 37) For me? | <i>Both thumbs points to self</i> |
| 38) Didn't you know... | <i>Point index finger to your temple</i> |
| 39) I must be... | <i>Both thumbs points to self</i> |
| 40) In my Father's house? | <i>Index finger points up - Steeple gesture</i> |

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| 41) They didn't understand... | <i>Shake head side to side with puzzled look</i> |
| 42) What Jesus said... | <i>"Jesus sign" – palm to chin then forward</i> |
| 43) They all went back home... | <i>Point with thumb back over your shoulder</i> |
| 44) And Jesus obeyed his parents... | <i>Palms together – bow slightly</i> |
| 45) And Mary... | <i>Praying hands</i> |
| 46) Treasured all these things... | <i>Folded hands</i> |
| 47) In her heart... | <i>Both palms over heart</i> |
| 48) And Jesus grew... | <i>Hand lifts up to show growth</i> |
| 49) In wisdom... | <i>Point and tap index finger to your temple</i> |
| 50) And in stature... | <i>Growing gesture – lift hands above head</i> |
| 51) And in favor... | <i>Thumbs up gesture</i> |
| 52) With God... | <i>Point to sky</i> |
| 53) And with people... | <i>Sweeping gesture with hand to congregation</i> |
| 54) All praise to the Father... | <i>Point up to sky with right hand (here we start to make the sign of the cross)</i> |
| 55) All praise to the Son... | <i>Point down with right hand</i> |
| 56) All praise to the Spirit... | <i>Point with right hand – side to side</i> |
| 57) Three... | <i>Hold up three fingers</i> |
| 58) In one! | <i>Hold up one finger.</i> |
| 59) Amen! | <i>Both hands gesture up slightly</i> |
| 60) Amen! | <i>Both hands gesture up higher</i> |
| 61) A....MEN! | <i>Both hands gesture up higher and bring them down as you bow to the congregation slightly.</i> |