

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening

Week 4: When Jesus is 12-years-old, his family travels to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. When they leave, Jesus chooses to stay behind. His family does not realize.

listening to
them and
asking them
questions

Choose the reflective questions
that suit your family:

Ages 3-6
Jesus sits in the Temple, in God's house. But Jesus says he must be in his *Father's* house. So God must be his Father. What happens when Jesus goes home with Mary? If Jesus **MUST** be in God's house, does God's house go home with him, too? Maybe God's house is wherever Jesus makes his home. Where does Jesus make his home now?

Ages 6-9
We hear that Jesus listens to the teachers in the Temple and asks questions about God. This shows us that Jesus wants to learn. He wants to understand. We have questions about God, too. What do we want to understand?

After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

Luke 2:46-50

Ages 9-12
Jesus chooses to remain behind to listen and ask questions. This is the Jewish approach to scripture. Why does it say this word and not another? What does it mean? Asking questions helps us grow closer to God. Jesus takes ownership of his relationship with God. How can we do that?

Teenagers
We notice that this family is not perfect. Jesus does not ask to remain behind. His parents do not understand him. Can this knowledge help our own family?

Read the scripture.

Ask questions.

Listen to each other's answers.

Then pray the prayer together on page 2.

Listen Prayer

One person leads and everyone else responds (R.)

Lord, our God,

We praise you for the wisdom of your will that unfolds all around us. We desire to enter more profoundly into this mystery, to root ourselves firmly in your will, to listen ever more deeply to you.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen closely to your Word—to the words on the page and the meaning they invoke, to the human author and to the divine, to the spaces between the letters where your Spirit dwells.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen attentively to Creation—to the voice of the earth, to the whispering of wind and waves, to the silence of the rocks and soil and swarms of voiceless creatures.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen respectfully to the culture that surrounds us—to its wisdom and its folly, to the loud voices and the quiet, to that which can teach us and form us and expand our thinking.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

And teach us, Lord, to listen deeply to one another—to what we speak aloud and to what we leave unsaid, to our needs and to our concerns, to the love and the longing and desires of our hearts.

**R. We come before you.
We make ourselves still.
We listen to understand.
Amen.**

