

Lesson 11.

THE CHILD JESUS VISITS JERUSALEM January 14, 1900

Luke 2 : 41-52—Memory Verses, 49-52

Golden Text—And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.—Luke 2 : 52.

41 Now his parents went to Jeru'salem every year at the feast of the passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jeru'salem after the custom of the feast.

43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Je'sus tarried behind in Jeru'salem; and Jo'seph and his mother knew not of it.

44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among *their* kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jeru'salem, seeking him.

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting

in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51 And he went down with them, and came to Naz'areth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Joseph was a carpenter and often the little boy Jesus helped him at his work.

While they were busy in the shop Jesus learned from Joseph and His mother a great deal about his Heavenly Father, and when He went to school He could say long pieces out of the Old Testament by heart.

When he was twelve years old, and quite a tall boy, He went with His parents to Jerusalem to the Passover. This was a great feast to which the people came from all parts. Jesus had never seen the Temple or so many people before. The people all stayed a whole week, living in tents or booths made of branches, and going to the Temple every day to worship.

On the last day of the feast Mary and Joseph started for home. When they had gone part way, they found that Jesus was not with them. They thought, "He is walking with some of our cousins perhaps." So they asked everybody they knew, but could not even hear of Him. Then they were afraid and started back for Jerusalem. They spent three days searching for the boy and then found Him sitting in the Temple listening to the teachers and asking them questions about His Father in Heaven. These learned men were surprised to see how much Jesus knew, but Mary began to tell how frightened she and Joseph had been. Jesus said, "Didn't you know, mother, that I would be in my Father's house?"

