



Faith Together at Home

The Church Is Our Home

**Be the
Church**

Gather Together

Gather together in a comfortable place in your home. Build a little altar together by placing a Bible, cross, and candle on a small table or box covered with a cloth. Begin by lighting the candle and asking everyone to sit quietly for a few moments, welcoming God's presence.

Read the story of Boy Jesus in the Temple from Luke 2:41-52 in your Bible. Use three action figures or dolls to act out the story. Three people go from home to the temple. Two journey toward home while the third stays at the temple. Two return to the temple, looking for the third. Finally, all three return home.

Discover Together

When Jesus was a young boy, he could listen carefully and converse openly about scripture with the older rabbis (teachers). Jesus showed his parents that the temple was his home, his "Father's house." Hold a "press conference" with Jesus in your living room. Have someone play the twelve-year-old Jesus. Let everyone ask them questions (Why did you wander off? Were you afraid? How did you feel when your parents found you again? What did you learn at the temple? What did you talk about on your way back home?).

Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other:

- Do you think Mary and Joseph were happy with Jesus when they found him again? Unhappy? Both? Share your thoughts.
- What do you think is the main message of today's Bible story?
- Where is "home" for you? Practice some prayers to use when family members are going away and coming back home.

Explore Together

If possible, walk to church, like Jesus and his parents walked to the temple. Bring along a camera and ask someone to take pictures of your family in some of your favorite places in or around the church. Display the pictures in your favorite rooms at home. Let the pictures remind everyone of your church "home" while you eat, wash, and rest in your family home.

Serve Together

Who are the twelve- and thirteen-year-old children from your church? How can your family support these young members? Consider offering prayers for them and sending cards for their birthdays, holidays and other special events in their lives (school activities/accomplishments, Confirmation day, community involvement). Invite other families to join you in supporting the youth of your church.

Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **We are searching for you, Jesus. Bring us home to you. Amen.**