

WEEK TWO: Sharing Our Hearts

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 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. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

REFLECTION

When Jesus was twelve years old, he was traveling with his parents. They became separated after the Passover festival. Jesus' parents searched for him for several days. They were worried and anxious because they loved their son, Jesus, very much. He was their treasure. When Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus, he was sitting in the temple talking to the teachers and asking them questions. Mary was probably frustrated when she asked, "Why have you treated us like this?" She wanted Jesus to be safe, always.

Jesus treasured his parents, but Jesus also had another treasure. He liked to be in the temple, talking about God. He called God his "Father." Of course, we know Jesus would spend his whole life talking about God and teaching others about God's love. But Mary and Joseph did not understand this at the time. Sometimes parents and children do not understand each other's treasures. That is okay. It happens a lot.

But Jesus and his parents figured it out together. Jesus followed their directions and went home to Nazareth with them. Mary took Jesus' thoughts very seriously, even though they were mysterious. That's what we do for each other when we love each other. We take each other seriously, even if we don't understand or even sometimes agree.

The key to sticking together, even when people do not understand one another, is curiosity. Curiosity helps us remain open to each other, continue learning about each other, and respect each other. But it doesn't work very well unless everyone is curious. Grown-ups have to start because they are older with more experience. They show curiosity about their children's ideas. Children can be curious too. They ask questions and try to learn about their parents' ideas. When everyone is curious, we learn about each other's treasures and understand one another a little bit more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been lost or separated from a family member in a public place? Tell the story of what happened.
- What is something your family member treasures or cares about that you don't totally understand? **Bonus:** Ask a curious question about that!
- Is there something you treasure that you wish your parents, children, grandparents, grown-ups, or peers would be more curious about? If so, share!

ACTIVITY

When you live with someone, it is easy to assume you know everything about them and how they think. But just as Mary and Joseph learned new things about Jesus, we can learn new things about each other.

Make a "curiosity" seat in your living space. Invite each family member to take turns to sit in the curiosity seat and answer three or more questions about themselves. You can make up your own questions, or you can use these suggestions.

- What is the last thing you were excited about?
- What is your best travel memory?
- Which friend do you trust with your thoughts and ideas?
- If you could choose a family activity we would all do together tomorrow, what would it be?
- When you finish, share what you learned or what surprised you about the experience.

PRAYER

God,

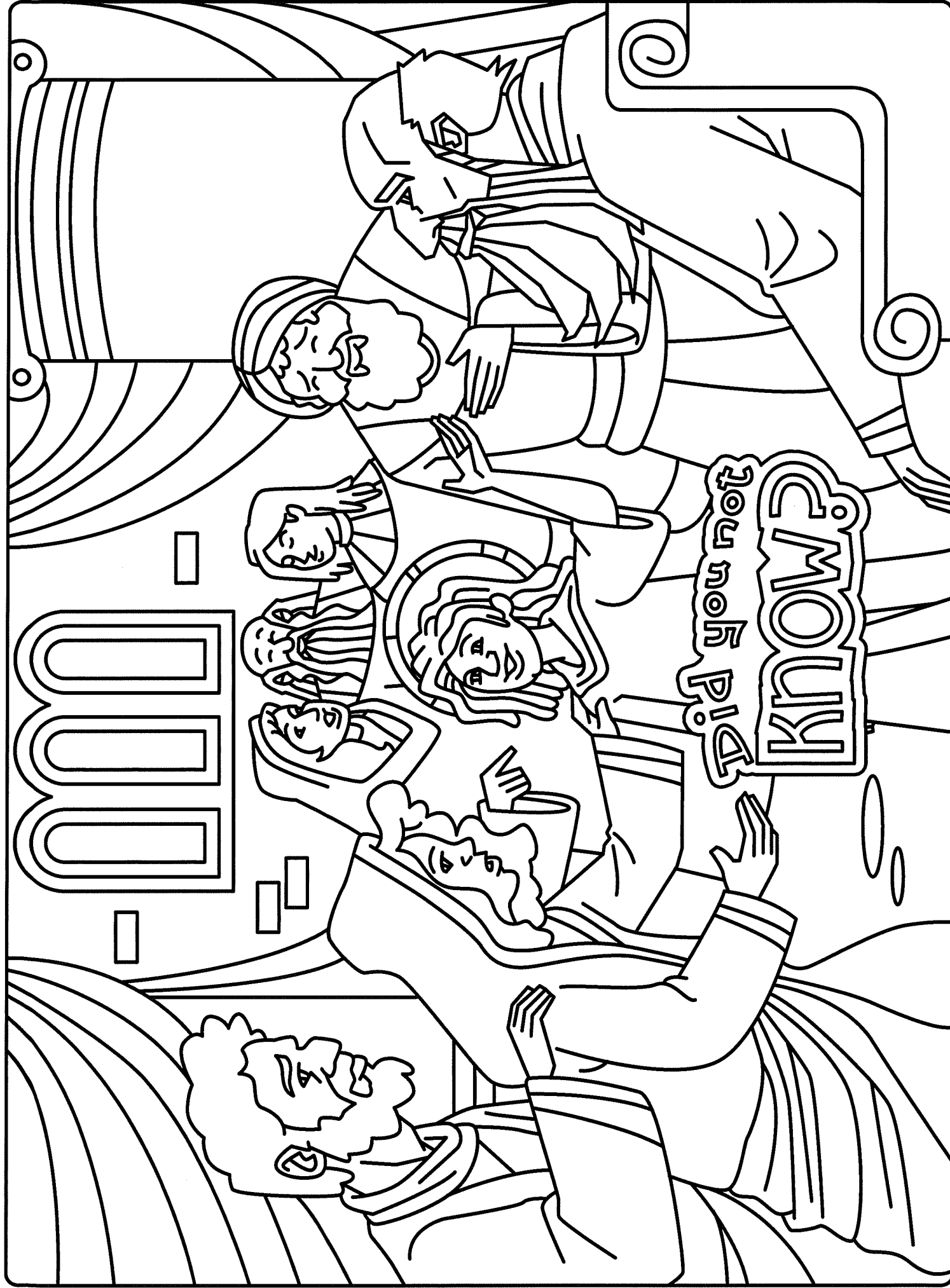
You know our minds and hearts.

You understand our treasures, even when no one else does.

No matter how silly we feel, you always take us seriously.

Help us love each other and be curious about our differences.

Amen.



Did you not
know?