

# A Boy in the Temple

BASED ON MATTHEW 2:19-23; LUKE 2:39-52

# PIX

Summer Les. 03

WHEN KING HEROD DIES, AN ANGEL VISITS JOSEPH AGAIN IN A DREAM.

GET UP!  
TAKE THE CHILD  
AND HIS MOTHER  
AND GO BACK HOME TO  
ISRAEL. THE ONES WHO  
WERE TRYING TO KILL  
THE CHILD ARE  
DEAD.

JOSEPH TAKES THE FAMILY BACK TO NAZARETH, WHERE HE SETS UP HIS CARPENTER SHOP. JESUS GROWS UP STRONG AND WISE AND FILLED WITH GOD'S GRACE. EACH SPRING, MARY AND JOSEPH TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM TO ATTEND THE PASSOVER FEAST. THEY THANK GOD FOR DELIVERING HIS PEOPLE FROM SLAVERY IN EGYPT HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO.

ONE YEAR, WHEN JESUS IS 12, THE FAMILY GOES TO THE FEAST AS USUAL.





IN JERUSALEM, JESUS SPENDS HIS TIME IN THE TEMPLE WITH THE WISE MEN AND TEACHERS.



AFTER THE FEAST IS OVER, MARY AND JOSEPH SET OUT FOR HOME. THAT NIGHT WHEN THEY MAKE CAMP ...

JOSEPH, WHERE IS JESUS?

HE MUST BE WITH HIS FRIENDS. I'LL FIND HIM.



BUT NO ONE HAS SEEN JESUS. FRANTIC, MARY AND JOSEPH GO BACK TO JERUSALEM. THEY LOOK FOR JESUS NEARLY EVERYWHERE IN THE CITY.


FINALLY, THEY FIND HIM IN THE TEMPLE. JESUS IS SITTING WITH THE TEACHERS.

JESUS! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU. WE WERE SO WORRIED.

WHY WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME? YOU KNOW THAT I NEED TO BE IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE.



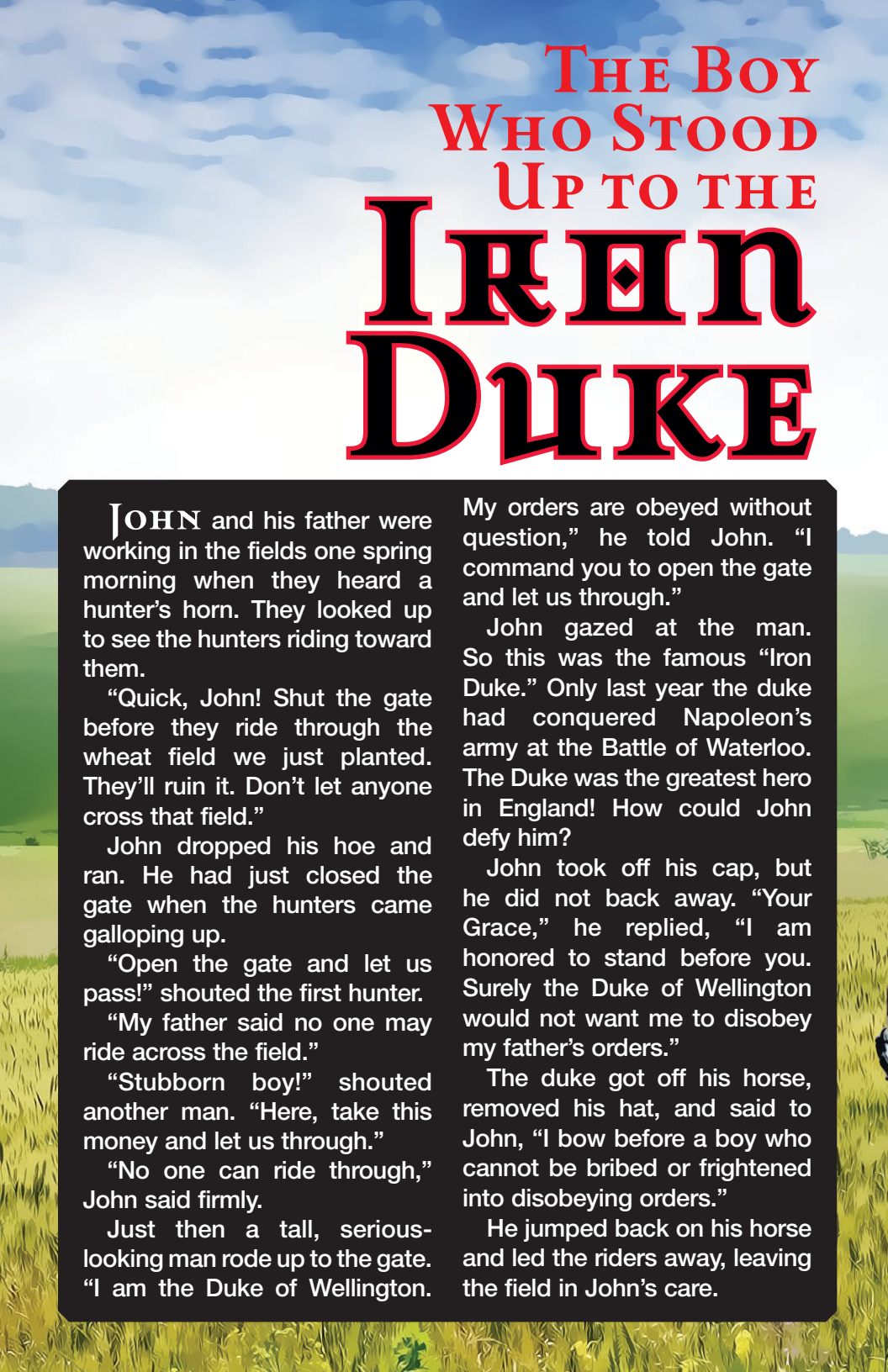




YOUR SON  
HAS BEEN ASKING HARD  
QUESTIONS, BUT HE HAS  
GIVEN SOME GREAT ANSWERS,  
TOO. WE ARE AMAZED  
AT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF  
THE SCRIPTURES.

JESUS RETURNS TO NAZARETH WITH MARY  
AND JOSEPH, WHERE HE CONTINUES TO GROW  
WISER AND STRONGER. MARY CHERISHES HER  
MIRACULOUS SON IN EVERYTHING HE DOES.  
EVERY DAY HE BECOMES MORE PLEASING TO  
GOD AND TO OTHER PEOPLE.

MILES AWAY IN THE WILDERNESS, ANOTHER  
YOUNG MAN FOLLOWS GOD'S PLAN. BUT HE  
DOESN'T HEAR GOD'S CALL IN THE TEMPLE;  
HE HEARS GOD IN THE DESERT ...



# THE BOY WHO STOOD UP TO THE IRON DUKE

**JOHN** and his father were working in the fields one spring morning when they heard a hunter's horn. They looked up to see the hunters riding toward them.

"Quick, John! Shut the gate before they ride through the wheat field we just planted. They'll ruin it. Don't let anyone cross that field."

John dropped his hoe and ran. He had just closed the gate when the hunters came galloping up.

"Open the gate and let us pass!" shouted the first hunter.

"My father said no one may ride across the field."

"Stubborn boy!" shouted another man. "Here, take this money and let us through."

"No one can ride through," John said firmly.

Just then a tall, serious-looking man rode up to the gate. "I am the Duke of Wellington.

My orders are obeyed without question," he told John. "I command you to open the gate and let us through."

John gazed at the man. So this was the famous "Iron Duke." Only last year the duke had conquered Napoleon's army at the Battle of Waterloo. The Duke was the greatest hero in England! How could John defy him?

John took off his cap, but he did not back away. "Your Grace," he replied, "I am honored to stand before you. Surely the Duke of Wellington would not want me to disobey my father's orders."

The duke got off his horse, removed his hat, and said to John, "I bow before a boy who cannot be bribed or frightened into disobeying orders."

He jumped back on his horse and led the riders away, leaving the field in John's care.





**CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD, FOR THIS IS RIGHT. EPHESIANS 6:1**

# Father's D

Celebrate Father's Day! Put some of these ideas into action and surprise Dad all week long.

Make a Father's Day card from old magazines. Cover the front of the card with pictures about your dad's special interests (cooking, sports, reading, etc.). Inside the card, print a Bible verse about families and fathers—for example, Joshua 24:15 or Proverbs 20:7

Help plan a special meal using Dad's favorite recipes. Let everyone in the family contribute something by making a dish, decorating the table, or doing something else. Put streamers and balloons on Dad's chair.

Make up an acrostic using the letters in the word Father. Choose words that tell about your dad. (Example: Faithful for F, Active for A, and so on.) Tape your acrostic someplace where he'll discover it—on the car steering wheel, on a mirror, or in his briefcase.

Spend an evening playing favorite family games, snacking, and coaxing Dad to talk about the "good old days" when he was a boy. Finish the evening by reading and discussing Joshua 24:14-18 and thanking God for the family He gave you.



# ay Special

Nothing makes your dad happier than seeing what you can do. Get your act together and put on a special Father's Day performance. Give a miniconcert, a gymnastics routine, or a talent show in his honor.

Crown your dad "King for a day." Start off with a breakfast and a prayer of thanks for your father, and then present him with a decorated paper crown. Let Dad plan the day—choose menus, places to go, what to watch on TV—while you cooperate eagerly with all his suggestions (even the corny ones!).

Prepare a surprise "Father, This Is Your Life" party. Starting with Mom, have each family member recall several amusing incidents that involved Dad. Bring in props, slides, and photos to use in retelling the stories. If possible, invite some friends of your father's to make surprise guest appearances.



### Pause a minute

1. "Father knows best" and "Mom told you so." How many times have you heard that? Listening to your parents might seem a pain because you think you know what they're going to say or they'll just tell you what to do. But even Jesus began and ended His life listening to and leaning on His Father.

**Read Proverbs 1:8.**



### Take a look back

3. What rules seem most difficult to obey? What rules from His heavenly Father helped Jesus most in doing what He came to earth to do? How so?

### key verse

**Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.**

**Proverbs 1:8**



### Record your thoughts

4. Draw a picture of a bridge. Above the bridge, list the big rules your parents have given you. Below, what trouble does each one keep you from sinking into?

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Read more this week about trust and obeying your parents:

☐ Exodus 20:12   ☐ Luke 2:41-52   ☐ Ephesians 6:1-3

**faith  
forward**  
in touch with God



### Play it out

2. Parents don't always give you a hard time or an earful. They often give help and hope. Their guidance is like a bridge that carries you across hard times, providing solid footing across dangerous ground, and lending safety in a storm. Go your own way and you'll be pulled into a racing river of life problems, sink into soggy ground, wander away from values you need, and maybe get lost. But when you trust and follow your parents, as Jesus obeyed His parents, your steps forward will be secure.

