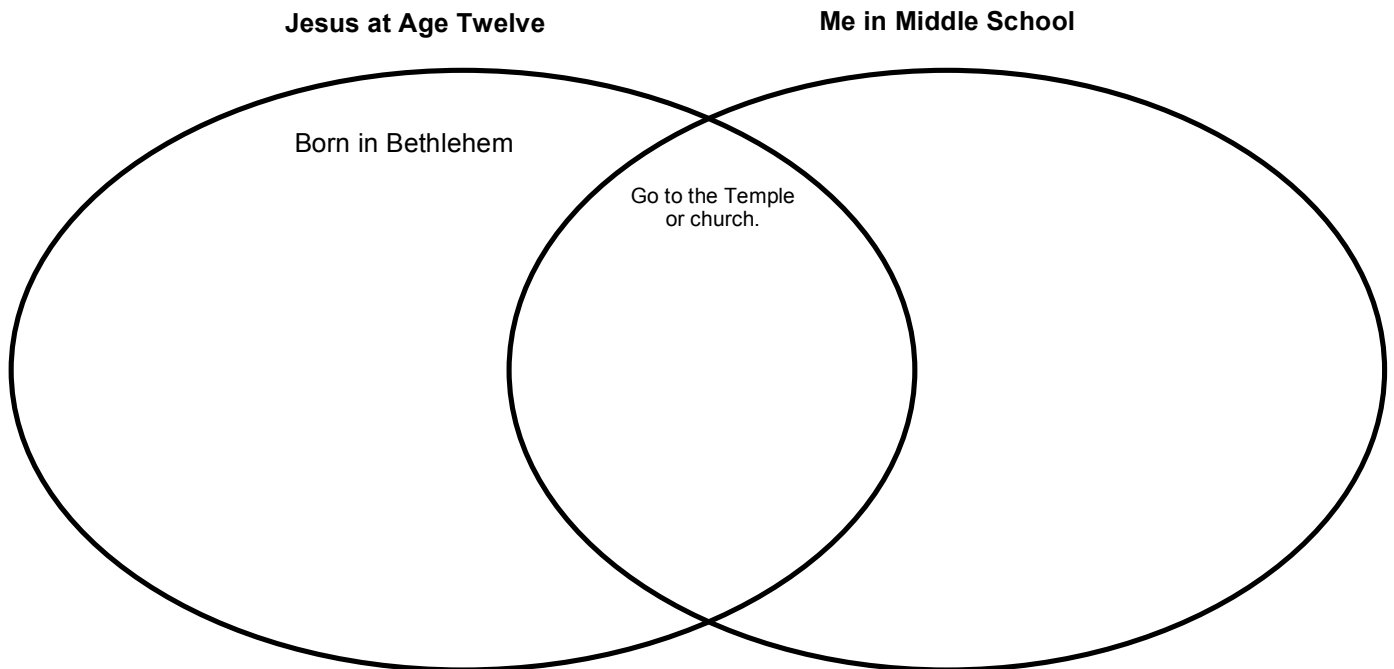


Jesus and Me

At the time of Jesus, age twelve was the time of decision. At that age, boys began to learn a trade from their fathers or began to study to serve the community as rabbis or scholars. Girls prepared to marry and keep house, learning from their mothers. Even in the Jewish community today, the bar mitzvah (meaning “son of the Law,” for boys at age thirteen) or the bat mitzvah (“daughter of the Law,” for girls at age twelve or thirteen) marks entry into official Jewish adulthood.

In Luke 2:41–52, we see Jesus as a boy of twelve, nearing the time when he will become an official adult. In that, he is very much like you. He wants to use his gifts and follow his interests, yet he obeys his parents and follows their guidance. Follow these steps to go deeper into this event in Jesus’ life:

1. Read Luke 2:41–52, The Boy Jesus in the Temple.
2. Read the Live It! article on page 1680 of *Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics*.
3. Fill in the Venn diagram below by writing in ways (in the spaces on the left and the right) that you and Jesus are alike and different. In the middle, write ways that you and Jesus are the same. A few examples have been started for you.



Something to consider:

Look at the art on page 1679. We know how people are feeling by their body language—the expressions on their faces or how they hold their hands and arms. Pay special attention to the expressions on the faces of Joseph and Mary. What are they doing with their hands and arms? How do you think Joseph and Mary are feeling?

Look at the face of Jesus. How would you describe it? What do you think he is saying? How do you think he is feeling?

How do you stay in touch with your parents? If Jesus had been able to text, what do you think he would have written to his parents?

