

**My Weird Cousin**  
(Luke 2:41-50)  
By Major Paul Cain

Let me tell you about my weird cousin. I mean he's not that weird but he is a bit different. He is the oldest son of my aunt and uncle - Mary and Joseph – they are the ones who live down in Nazareth. We only get to see them two or three times a year but we always see them when our families travel together to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. Jesus – that's his name – is a few years older than me and he seems to be the only boy his age in the whole region. He's very smart and studies all the time. But what he did on our latest trip to Jerusalem is really what I would call weird.

It was the last day of the festival and we were getting ready to leave and our parents all told us to put our games away and get packed up. I hadn't seen Jesus that day playing with the rest of us. So, we packed up and headed off towards home. The next day, Mary and Joseph came running around the camp asking if we had seen Jesus. My mom said the last time she saw Jesus he was headed over to the temple before we left. What a mess! Now we all had to head back to Jerusalem just because my weird cousin got lost.

When we got back to Jerusalem, we all went over to the Temple to see if we could find Jesus. A few minutes later, Joseph came out of the temple and he had Jesus with him. I heard Jesus say, "Didn't you know where I would be and that I that I would be about my Father's business?" But Joseph is a carpenter - that's his father's business. Jesus

was at the temple speaking with the teachers of the law. Well - I guess there was worse places he could've been. Well, maybe that's not so weird after all. He does seem to know a lot about our Heavenly Father – hmm.... maybe that's what he meant by (use air quotes) “his father's business”! All's well that ends well!

But seriously... you should meet my really, really weird cousin John - he eats locusts!