

<b>Worship Date</b>	Sunday, December 27, 2009
<b>Worship Theme</b>	All Who Heard Were Amazed (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, After Christmas)
<b>Scripture Reference</b>	Luke 2:41-52
<b>Materials</b>	Story; coin, scarf or other object used in a magic trick

Last week we talked about how God sometimes asks us to do things that might scare us, but he holds us in his arms so we are not afraid. When Jesus was just a boy, he began his work for God. He did some unexpected things, just as in this story. (Show the children the maigic trick objects during first part of the story about the magician.)

### Mandrake The Great

It was Tommy's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday and his mom and dad had taken him with his sister Sally to see "Mandrake the Great." Mandrake was probably the most famous magician in the world (well he was to Tommy and Sally anyway). They had seen him on TV but here they were in the big theater downtown watching him, with hundreds of other people; they were so excited.

Mandrake began like most magicians by making birds appear from nowhere and a rabbit from an empty hat, which made everyone chuckle with excited laughter. Then he went on to the harder feats of magic; like making one of his assistants disappear and cutting another in half (and of course putting her back together again). And he went on with one wonderful trick after another and Tommy and Sally were amazed and sat through most of the show with their mouths open in wonder. The only thing they seemed to be able to say was "How'd he do that?" or "Wow".

All in all they had a great day with "Mandrake the Great" and Tommy and Sally left the theater talking excitedly about their favorite parts of the show. They agreed though, that their very favorite was when Mandrake came into the audience and did his magic right before their eyes. They had watched so closely as he did tricks with cards and coins and decided it must really be magic and they were truly amazed.

Today theme is "All who heard were amazed", and the scripture story about another time some people were amazed; not because of magic but because of the knowledge and wisdom of a twelve year old boy.

When Jesus was twelve, he and his parents were in Jerusalem for Passover, but when it ended and everyone started to return, Jesus stayed behind. His parents thought he was with someone in the group of travelers, but when they could not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

I bet his parents were worried sick! Jesus had just disappeared. But it wasn't because of magic.

*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 relieved and 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."*

*Jesus answered, "Why were you searching for me? [Didn't] you know that I must be in my Father's house?"*

But Jesus parents did not understand what he said to them. They didn't realize Jesus meant that he was doing God's work. Just as the children in the story didn't understand how the magician did the tricks, Jesus parents could not yet see how God was working in Jesus' life.

If you always try to do what God asks, just as Jesus did, then you will have amazing things happen in your life. You might not be able to see it now, but God is working miracles just for you.

Let's pray. Dear God, help us to be like Jesus and do the things you want us to do. Help us to see the miracles in our lives and be amazed. In Jesus name, Amen.

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