

Luke 2:41-52

Absorbed in such preparation, Jesus did not realize his parents had left. Absorbed in preparations for the journey apparently with a crowd of friends and fellow pilgrims, his parents did not notice the missing child.

Trent C. Butler, [Luke](#), vol. 3, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 34.

The people had never seen anything like Jesus, nor would they ever again. His parents showed still another type of amazement. They were both frightened and overwhelmed at what they saw and heard but more overwhelmed that a son with such promise and brilliance would have treated them the way they perceived he had done.

Trent C. Butler, [Luke](#), vol. 3, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 34.

Jesus endured the normal parental scolding, Son, why have you treated us like this? He was amazed at their lack of growth in understanding about who he was and about his priorities. The miracles surrounding his birth and the years watching his growth should have prepared them for the identity he had assumed. Yes, he was their child and would go home to live with them. Still, they did not give him his primary identity. That came from his Father. He must—a necessity laid on him by the Father and by his identity as the Son—do the things of the Father, not of the parents. That was the goal of his growth.

Trent C. Butler, [Luke](#), vol. 3, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 34.

The relationship to God's grace now became evident in a similar relationship with people. Jesus had all his relationships in order, those with people and with God. He was going through all types of earthly growth so he could embark on his heavenly mission.

Trent C. Butler, [Luke](#), vol. 3, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 34.

They went to the festival EVERY YEAR

We don't know if Jesus stayed behind intentionally or unintentionally

No doubt Luke wanted his readers to see in this incident the unique wisdom of God's Son. This amazement is caused by the wisdom of his understanding as revealed by both his questions

Robert H. Stein, [Luke](#), vol. 24, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 122.

2:49 The culminating verse of this account lies not in the comment concerning Jesus' wisdom in 2:46–47 but rather here in Jesus' pronouncement. This pronouncement shows Luke's readers that Jesus possessed a unique relationship with God and confirms the angelic message that Jesus is God's Son (1:32, 35).

Robert H. Stein, [Luke](#), vol. 24, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 122.

Mary, despite all these indicators, seems to have been uncomprehending of just who her son really was

We should remember, however, that some twelve years had transpired between this event and what had preceded. In the meantime the lack of other stories like this suggests that Jesus' "silent years" were quite normal. After over a decade of normalcy the supernatural nature of their son and his destiny broke in on them again. As a result they were surprised and once more needed to reflect on these things (2:19, 51)

Luke 2:41-52

Christian Standard Bible

In His Father's House

41 Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. **42** When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the festival. **43** After those days were over, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents^[a] did not know it. **44** Assuming he was in the traveling party, they went a day's journey. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. **45** When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. **46** After three days, they found him in the temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. **47** And all those who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. **48** When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." **49** "Why were you searching for me?" he asked them. "Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?"^[b] **50** But they did not understand what he said to them.

In Favor with God and with People

51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother kept all these things in her heart. **52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

Talk Outline

It's Christmas time! Christmas is about Jesus being born, he's a baby. Swaddling cloths, Angels, manger, wise men, gifts, star in the sky, all that stuff. And then basically the next time we hear about Jesus in any of the accounts of his life, he is a fully grown adult.

Mostly.

There is one, only one part of the Bible that describes a part of Jesus' life besides his birth and adulthood.

Would you believe it or not, it's when Jesus was in middle school?!? I'm not kidding! There's one story from Jesus' growing up years, and it's from he was 12 years old. Let's take a look at middle school Jesus and learn from God's word!

Read Luke 2:41-52

So Jesus and his family lived away from Jerusalem, but Jerusalem was the best place to worship in the Jewish faith. So a couple times a year they would travel UP to Jerusalem for major festivals and celebrations.

This would be like if we all met in house churches around Des Moines for most of the year but then for Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving we would all come together for a big worship gathering at Valley Church.

The Jewish people from Jesus's town would all travel together. So it was lots of families, moms, dads, kids, neighbors, cousins, grandmas and grandpas, all traveling together in a large caravan.

Imagine going on a family trip with like 10 other families and you all mixed up vehicles.

Jesus basically got "Home Aloned." There were so many people traveling with them that nobody saw him, everybody assumed he was with someone else, but it turns out that he was left behind in Jerusalem.

And then he got trapped in a house and some burglars came and he set up booby traps to stop them and then a creepy neighbor guy with a shovel saved him. Just kidding.

Pick up at verse 44

Note: Did he disobey his parents? Was he being naughty? He didn't sin. He was focused on learning God's truth. He got distracted in the best possible way! We don't know if it was intentional or unintentional.

What was he doing? Listening, learning. Jesus listened and learned as a middle schooler.

Verse 47 suggests he had a lot of wisdom for a boy of his age, which indicates there was something special about him and people noticed.

There's an interesting exchange in verses 48-50. Verse 48: They are emotional, relieved. Maybe something similar has happened to you.

One time I lost Mitchell and I got panicky.

Verse 49: He understands his heavenly mission and his identity as the Son of God.

Verse 50: But they couldn't quite understand.

Maybe they had forgotten in the 12 years since birth about what had been promised in 1:32, 35

Verse 51: He obeyed his earthly parents.

Grew in wisdom, stature, favor with God and other people

Can't control stature

Grow in wisdom, relationship with God, relationship with other people

Grow in relationship with God, then wisdom and others will follow naturally

Takeaways:

- Make understanding God's Word a primary goal of your life
- Ask questions and listen to become wise
- We are to be obedient to God first and foremost, and also to our earthly parents
- Our ultimate identity comes from our relationship with God
- This stage of life can be used as a time of growth (relationship with God, wisdom, others, physically), and you have a role to play in your growth

Jesus never would have fulfilled his heavenly calling if he hadn't been preparing as a middle schooler. May you take steps now to live into God's heavenly calling for your life!