

Our Mission:

*To share Christ with the world
and grow disciples for Jesus*



Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

Background:

Once again, Luke gives us a story found nowhere else. Yet by giving us this story, it would seem his intent is to make sure that we know God's favor has been upon Jesus prior to becoming an adult (age 13). Secondly, it would seem that Luke is reminding us that Jesus grew up in a religious home (going to Jerusalem every year for Passover). As Luke and his compatriots face persecution from certain Jews, it would appear important to acknowledge Jesus' faithfulness to the ancient customs. Finally, it would seem that Jesus is aware of the mission that is before him. He is truly a servant of his Father in Heaven.

Theology Connection:

Mark, the first of the Gospels to be written, begins with Jesus' baptism, but Luke wants to ground Christ's divinity in his birth and not his 're-birth' in the River Jordan. While yet a child (age 12), Jesus better comprehends the sacred text than do the leading rabbis of Jerusalem. Jesus is clearly more than the Son of David, but he is a chip off the old block, the Son of God.

Application:

Obviously, this is not a text on parenting. Nonetheless, Mary and Joseph have made sure that certain rituals and practices were a part of their home and passed onto their children. As followers of Christ there are certain rituals and traditions that serve as a basic guide for our faith. What are the traditions and rituals of faith that we wish for the next generation to adopt? Especially, as we are living in a pandemic world, is this the time to jettison some of the rituals that no longer serve their purpose?

The Text: Luke 2: 41-52

41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.

43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions.

47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. 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. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

ADULT

We have all been there, worried about our children. Are they safe? Will they prosper in life? Is there anything, absolutely anything we can do to help. In this text it would seem, that God knows those feelings. So, God comes looking for us and he provides us his Word as a means to help us navigate life and avoid getting lost. The bible isn't to be read because God wants us to. No, the bible is to be read because it gives us great clues about how to live the better life, the life God intends for us. Our office has free devotional books that are helpful tools if this is your desire.

YOUTH

Please read Luke 2:41-52

Can you all relate? Have you ever disobeyed your parents and stayed somewhere you should not have or longer than you were supposed to? How did your parents react?

Jesus at 12 years old wanted to stay and hear the lessons that were being taught. Kind of like Sunday school. Can you think of a lesson from Sunday school or church that you were so engaged in you didn't want to leave?

Let us pray:

Dear God,

Thank you for the lessons we learn through scripture. Please help us engage in your lessons and share your lessons with others. Thank you for being a human and understanding our actions. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CHILDREN'S

Read and Summarize:

Every year, Jesus' family went to Jerusalem to worship in the Temple. When Jesus was twelve, His family made the trip, and were on the way back to Galilee when they realized that He wasn't with them! They went back to Jerusalem and searched for Him for three days! Can you guess where they finally found Jesus? He was in the Temple with the religious teachers. Jesus was asking questions, listening, and answering questions Himself. When His parents found Him they were relieved and upset. His mother asked Him what He was doing. Jesus answered, "Didn't you know that I would be in my Father' house?" Mary and Joseph did not understand what He was saying. Jesus went back with His parents and obeyed them, following the commandment to honor your mother and father.

Think:

1. Where did Jesus' family travel to?
2. Why did they go to Jerusalem?
3. How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they couldn't find Jesus?
4. How can we honor our mother and father?

Remember:

At a young age Jesus knew that studying God's word and doing what was right was very important. Can you study and learn from God's word Of course you can!

Pray:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Please help us to be more like You. Help us to shine Your light wherever we go!

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!