

Guided Bible Study

Jesus as a Youth

Luke 2:41–52

- 41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.
- 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.
- 43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.
- 44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.
- 45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.
- 46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.
- 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.
- 48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.
- 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?
- 50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.
- 51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.
- 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. (KJV)

Guided Study

(Download and complete Discipleship Studybook Three to acquaint yourself with Bible Study Methods and Principles for Bible Interpretation.)

verses 41-42

1. **Circle** how often Joseph and Mary attended the Passover feast. What does this tell you about them?
2. **Underline** how old Jesus was. Using a Bible commentary or encyclopedia, research the age when Jewish children made the transition to adulthood. Was Jesus considered an adult here? Why is this significant?

verses 43-45

1. Why weren't Jesus' parents aware of His absence?
2. What thoughts and emotions do you think they experienced?
3. Do you think Jesus got lost, was distracted or was His absence deliberate? Why do you think this?

verses 46-50

1. How do you think Jesus' parents felt after searching for three days? Why?
2. What do you think Jesus' parents were thinking when they found Him in the temple amidst the doctors? Why?
3. **Circle** the response of those who heard Jesus. Why were the learned men 'astonished' by Jesus' answers?
4. What do you think they were discussing? Why?
5. **Paraphrase** Mary's question in verse 48. What is the tone of her question in verse? Support your answer?
6. What is the tone and attitude of Jesus' response? What does He mean by it?
7. Why didn't Joseph and Mary understand Jesus' answer?

verse 51-52

1. **Circle** how Jesus related to His parents. What is significant about this?
2. What is significant about Mary's response?
3. What does verse 52 mean?

Principles & Truths

This passage of Scripture teaches that ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

Applications:

In light of the Principles & Truths learned, I will ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

Jesus As a Youth

Luke 2:41-51

This passage of Scripture provides us with the only glimpse included in the Bible of Jesus as a boy . It also gives us a vision of the kind of Youth God became, and the kind of Youth He would like young people today to be. Below are three qualities of Jesus' life that are worth emulating.

1. Jesus: Captivated by the Things of God

The story of Luke 2:41-51 is a familiar one to Bible Students, and a nightmare for every parent. After spending a week in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, as was their yearly custom, Joseph and Mary packed up their belongings and headed back to Nazareth, unaware that Jesus had "stayed behind". The question I would ask is this, "What caused Jesus to miss the caravan back to his hometown?"

I believe it was the presence of one of the most prominent structures in the city, the Temple, into which Jesus' family had probably gone repeatedly during the Feast week, for the Temple represented the center of Israel's worship of the One True God, and the place where activities relating to God occurred on a continuous basis. Jesus was captivated by such things!

Think about it. What would distract the youth of today to the point of causing them to miss their rides home? Just fill in the blank: a boyfriend, a girlfriend, a car show, a fashion show, a chance to become rich or famous, etc. How about a Bible conference?

The "things of God" distracted Jesus to the point of causing Him to even forget His earthly parents, and the pain He would bring them. Mary's question in verse 48 expressed the frustration she and Joseph must have felt after spending three frantic days searching for their son, all the while thinking the worst, but being stunned to find Him safe and secure in the Temple confines. (I think Mary persuaded Joseph to keep quiet lest he say something he would regret.)

Jesus' incredible, and some might even say inconsiderate, reply in verse 49 reflects not so much His lack of love for His earthly parents, but His total devotion to His Heavenly Father. Are we so devoted to God that we are distracted from the things of this world? Jesus was!

2. Jesus: Compelled to Do the Work of God

Though hard to believe, Mary and Joseph spent three agonizing days searching for Jesus before finding Him in the Temple. But I think what surprised them more was Jesus' response when they expressed their distress to Him. His simple reply? "Why were you searching for Me?" Now that would have been exasperating! But what followed probably left them dumbfounded. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" It should be noted that the word "house" is not found in the original text. The translators have interpreted that final thought. However, the King James Version translates it "my Father's business". Either way, being in His Father's house or doing His Father's business was what compelled Christ!

And what was Christ doing in His Father's house? What He would do for the final three years of His life ... teaching others about God's Love and Grace for Mankind. It is reasonable to think that the 12 year old Jesus, still too young to be considered obligated to fulfill the requirements of the Law, was speaking with the Teachers of the Law about the Passover Feast that had just been concluded. How fitting since He Himself was God's Passover Lamb who would die for the sins of the world!

Scripture teaches that the learned were "amazed at His understanding and answers". The word "understanding" means to 'put ideas together' or to 'perceive'. Jesus was able to bring together the truths of Scripture, exposing their true meaning and significance. He wasn't asking for answers, He was giving them! He wasn't seeking for truth, He is the Truth. He wasn't searching for the way, He is the Way! And He wasn't looking for life, for He is Life! Sitting in that portico of the Temple and surrounded by the most learned men of the nation, Jesus was doing what His Father had called Him to do ... showing others the Way, pointing them to the Truth and offering them Life!

He couldn't help but do the Father's Will! Do we experience that same compulsion in our own lives?!

3. Jesus: Committed to Live for God

In the final verse of our study passage, Jesus is seen returning to Nazareth in obedience to His earthly parents. It is a strangely curious scene, having observed a flash of insight into Christ's true destiny. I have wondered what was going through the mind of this young and specially anointed boy, who was fully aware of His calling and yet knew it wasn't His time. His response? Leave it all up to His Father, and simply live daily in obedience to Him. If it meant living in Nazareth in submission to His earthly parents, so be it. And so He went.

Is that how it is with us? Are we content to leave the timing and details up to our Heavenly Father, or do we force the issue. I want it here! I want it now! No more waiting for me! Are we living for ourselves or for God? Jesus has shown us the Way; Are we going to follow Him?

Think!

1. What captivates the hearts and minds of the youth of today?
2. How can we be captivated by the things of God?
3. What things are you compelled to do for God? Why these things?
4. What does God want you to commit yourself to in order to live for Him?

Applications

1. Jesus was Captivated by the Things of God. What captivates my heart? What must I do to be captivated by Jesus Christ, my Lord and my God?
2. Jesus was Compelled to do the Work of God. What work of God am I compelled to do for God? If I had to complete the statement, "**Woe unto me if I do not ...!**", what would I put in that space?
3. Jesus was Committed to Live for God. At this moment, right where you are, what is God asking you to do with your life? Be a faithful husband/wife? Be a loving and present Dad/Mom? Be a grateful and obedient child?

Affirmations

(Declare These Affirmations Daily)

- 1. God Created Me to be Captivated by Him Alone!**
- 2. God Created Me to Be Compelled to Serve Him Alone!**
- 3. God Created Me to Be Committed to Live for Him Alone!**