

THE TEMPLE

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 2:40-52

CONTEXT

The first few weeks of Jesus's life evidenced that He was not an ordinary child like the rest of us. Through announcements from angels, words spoken by strangers, and prophecies made over Jesus, He was identified as the Savior the world had been waiting for. That same Savior would grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man, always keeping His focus on His mission from the Father.

KEY CONCEPT

Jesus, who is fully human and fully God, is the source of wisdom and knowledge.

As you examine Luke 2:40-52:

- Note that Mary and Joseph were obedient and faithful to God's ways.
- Meditate on the fact that Jesus longed to be in His Father's house.



TIMELINE

Jesus Is Born in Bethlehem
(Luke 2:1-20)

Wise Men from the East Search for
the Promised King (Matthew 2:1-12)

John the Baptist Calls People to Repentance
in Preparation for Jesus (Matthew 3:1-12)

Mary and Joseph Take Baby
Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem
(Luke 2:21-39)

**SESSION STUDY: Young Jesus
Remains in His Father's House**
(Luke 2:40-52)

John Baptizes Jesus
in the Jordan River
(Matthew 3:13-17)

Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Luke 2:40-42
- Day 2:** Luke 2:43-45
- Day 3:** Luke 2:46-47
- Day 4:** Luke 2:48-50
- Day 5:** Luke 2:51-52
- Day 6:** Psalm 122



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to access this session's
Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 2:40-47

JESUS GREW UP LIKE ALL OTHER HUMANS YET DISPLAYED AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORD OF GOD.

Underline the ways Jesus grew as an ordinary boy.

Highlight the clues in the text that He was anything but ordinary.

40 The boy grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God's grace was on him.

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 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.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

JESUS'S HUMANITY: In addition to being fully divine, the Bible also affirms that Jesus is fully human. Not only does the Old Testament affirm that the Promised One (Messiah) would be a man (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:3), but the New Testament also affirms that Jesus's earthly life bore all the marks of being a human. He experienced the circumstances common to living as a human being, such as hunger (Matthew 4:2), thirst (John 19:28), weariness (Matthew 8:24), sorrow (John 11:35), and pain (the crucifixion).

Key Concept: Jesus, who is fully human and fully God, is the source of wisdom and knowledge.

When last we saw Jesus in Luke's Gospel, He was a baby in the temple being praised and proclaimed by Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:21-39). And within a couple of years, according to Matthew's Gospel, toddler Jesus was visited by the wise men (Matthew 2:1-12), after which He spent some time in Egypt before returning to the family's hometown in Nazareth (Matthew 2:19-23). We don't have any more inspired accounts of Jesus's first three decades except this one at the age of twelve. But we do have a brief summary that Jesus grew as a boy and experienced God's wisdom and grace, not an indication of sin but of God's favor (Luke 2:40).

While Jesus was growing in His humanity, Luke also chose to highlight the faithfulness with which Joseph and Mary raised Jesus. In Jesus's early years, His parents trusted the Lord to guide them, whether through warnings by angels or through prophecies of God-fearing elders. Luke made sure to note that Jesus's parents brought Him to the Passover Festival in Jerusalem each year (vv. 41-42). By their obedience to the law of God, Jesus took part in the celebration of Passover as was required of every faithful Jew.

What are some benefits for children who have believing and faithful parents and mentors?

With the conclusion of the festival, the time came for the family to return home with their caravan of friends and family, but Jesus was not among them, as His parents discovered a day later. Backtracking to Jerusalem, on the third day, Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple listening and asking questions of the teachers there.

The interactions Jesus had with those who taught the Word of God left everyone amazed. Amazement surrounding Jesus was a trend earlier in Luke 2:18,33, and here it was no different as Jesus set Himself apart from other kids His age and even the adults in the temple. He revealed an uncanny understanding of the Scriptures as He asked and answered questions about it, no doubt prodding the teachers in their own understanding of the Word.

What might keep you from growing in your understanding of the Scriptures?



PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 2:48-52

JESUS ACKNOWLEDGED GOD AS HIS FATHER.

Highlight Jesus's response to Mary and Joseph's question.

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?" **50** But they did not understand what he said to them. **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.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus, the divine Son of God, honored and obeyed His earthly parents completely in fulfillment of the law of God so that He could be the perfect sacrifice for our sins in our place.

Key Concept: Jesus, who is fully human and fully God, is the source of wisdom and knowledge.



We can only imagine the level of fear Mary and Joseph felt at the thought of losing the Savior and Messiah (v. 11). They obviously were worried. But they were perplexed by where they found their Son. Jesus had stayed in the temple going on three days.

Young Jesus, the incarnate Word of God (John 1:1), remained in the temple to sit and discuss the written Word of God with the teachers there. Jesus wanted to be in His Father's house learning about His Father's work. But more than that, "it was necessary" for Jesus to be there (Luke 2:49), and Jesus believed His earthly parents should have known that. Mary and Joseph didn't understand what was going on, but Jesus was making it clear who is His chief authority—His heavenly Father.

In what ways are you acknowledging God as your heavenly Father and your highest authority?

We find Jesus here in a bit of a conundrum. Jesus passionately yearned to learn more about His heavenly Father and to spend time in His house. But Jesus also was a Son to earthly parents whom he needed to honor and obey. Instead of arguing or making a scene as children

often do, Jesus submitted to His earthly father and mother and went with them back to Nazareth. Mary and Joseph were not sinless parents—they were like us, sinners—but just as they had devoted themselves to obeying the law of God, Jesus obeyed the fifth commandment and honored His parents according to the Scriptures.

Jesus's character was beginning to stand out among the rest of humanity as He continued to grow physically, mentally, spiritually, and relationally. He loved both His heavenly Father and His earthly father and mother completely and fully. He had an understanding of the Word of God that did not make much earthly sense. He had a wisdom from above and favor with others that were steadily growing. The purpose of Jesus's incarnation was starting to take hold, and the world was never going to be the same.

What does Jesus's obedience to both His heavenly Father and His earthly parents reveal about His character?



MAIN IDEAS

Read the passages below and write a brief summary of the main idea of each passage.

LUKE 2:40-47

LUKE 2:48-52

What should we learn about our Savior, ourselves, and how we ought to live from Jesus, His parents, and the teachers in this passage?



Key Concept: Jesus, who is fully human and fully God, is the source of wisdom and knowledge.



HEAD

What are some ways you can honor God and your parents in this stage of your life?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read and pray through Psalm 122. Pray that you will rejoice to come to Jesus with fellow churchgoers in His house. Ask God to give you a hunger for His Word and His will that you may grow in knowledge.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HEART

In what ways do you need to grow as a child of God and a disciple of Jesus?



HANDS

How will you help others see Jesus as the source of wisdom and knowledge, especially for our salvation?

