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## LUKE

### Luke 2:39-52

How can we become the Christ-centered church our world so desperately needs? Join us in Luke's Gospel, the most expansive biography of Jesus in the Bible. With the beloved physician as our guide, we hope to experience Jesus so we can participate with the new reality God is bringing into our world.

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## The Big Idea

What was it like to watch Jesus, "the God-man" grow up? He had all the markings of a normal kid, but at the same time He was a theological prodigy who had a stunningly close connection to His heavenly Father.

## Good to Know

- **"Twelve years old" (vs. 42)** - Thirteen was the age Jewish boys "came of age." This is the only story from Jesus' childhood in the entire Bible.
- Why was it important for Luke to include a story about Jesus' childhood in his Gospel? Because we need to understand that He is fully human and fully God.
- **"His parents went to Jerusalem..." (vs. 41)** - The annual Passover trip would have been the highlight of the year for Jewish people. Only Joseph was required to travel to Jerusalem for Passover, but here we see that he brought his family with him. The fact that Mary and Jesus accompanied him shows this was a family who was serious about their faith.
- The journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem was about 80 miles and would take about three days as part of a large caravan with extended family. Sometimes even entire villages would travel together (which could explain how they lost track of Him).
- **"In the temple courts among the teachers" (vs. 46)** - Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the place where spiritual trainees would typically gather to learn from Bible teachers.
- **"Listening to them and asking them questions" (vs. 46)** - The Typical rabbinic teaching style involved students asking questions and then the rabbi answering with another question. The students' answers revealed a lot about them.
- Most rabbinic disciples started their schooling in their teens. Luke wants us to understand that Jesus was a theological prodigy.
- **"Amazed at His understanding..." (vs. 47)** - Even at a young age, it was apparent that "the Spirit of wisdom and understanding" was on Jesus (Isaiah 11:2).
- **"Your father and I have been searching for you in great distress" (vs. 48)** - Jerusalem's population swelled during Passover, making it a dangerous place for a kid to be by himself. Imagine the agony of thinking you lost the promised Messiah!

- **“Was submissive to them” (vs. 51)** - Luke makes it clear, even while at middle-school age, Jesus was perfectly obedient.
- **“I must be in my Father’s house” (vs. 49)** is an idiom. Jesus was basically saying, “Why are you freaking out? Obviously, I’m God’s son and I’m going into the family business.”

## Group Guide

### Following the series with your group?

- Start with some [icebreaker questions](#).
- Read the passage together before you dive in.
- Share any insights from the message. Use the questions below to get your conversation started.

## Conversation Starters

1. Have you ever freaked out when you thought you lost someone (or something) that is precious to you?
2. Talk about what Jerusalem must have been like during the Passover festival. Imagine the crowded streets, dangerous alleys and throngs of strangers. How were Mary and Joseph feeling for the three days Jesus was missing?
3. In what ways is Jesus described as a typical 12-year-old boy in this story? In what ways is He different?
4. In what ways did Jesus honor His heavenly Father? In what ways did He honor His earthly parents? What does it look like for you to be part of both a spiritual and earthly family?
5. Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and favor with God and men. Based on this passage, how did He do that? What might you glean from Jesus’ approach to learning and growing?
6. This passage shows us that teens matter to God. Is there a middle or high school student in your life that you can encourage this week? What would that look like?

## Prayer Prompts

Lord, let the fullness of Jesus’ humanity dawn on us. Comfort us as only another person who has walked in our shoes can. At the same time, help us worship Jesus in all His divinity. Just as He grew into maturity, give us a hunger to pursue you in all things. Amen!

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