

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Following Jesus in his way of being human means continually taking next steps to grow as his apprentices.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:41-52

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. Luke 2:41-52. There is very little we are told about Jesus' life growing up. Much of the Bible focuses on the last few years of his life rather than his childhood. This story takes place when Jesus was twelve years old and gives us some insight into his formative years.
2. Discuss and examine this story from multiple perspectives. How must Mary and Joseph have felt when they were looking for Jesus? What are we to understand from the conversation they had with Jesus when they found him in the temple?
3. Jesus was not born superhuman or fully adult. He came as a helpless infant and had to grow into an adult. He had to grow relationally, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Growth is a process, and in Jesus' life, we see an example of growth we can follow.
4. Discuss the examples of Jesus' growth.
Relationally – Jesus is obedient to his parents
Physically – Jesus is at an age where he is becoming more independent
Mentally – in the temple, he was found “both hearing them, and asking them questions” and gaining knowledge
Spiritually – he is spending time with God praying and learning in his “Father’s house.”
5. Jesus reveals to us it means to be truly human. His living example provides a guide for areas in which we should focus. Thankfully, we are given grace when there are times of stagnation and are challenged to turn toward growth again. Have group members discuss the areas of growth and challenges they are experiencing in their own lives.

HELPFUL QUOTES

“What was Jesus doing for most of his life? Jesus was doing what each and every one of us does. He was working and resting, learning and growing, eating and thinking, laughing and mourning, and day by day discerning his vocation, and Jesus was doing all of that with friends and family in the enjoyable and challenging context of the community he called home.” – Trent Sheppard, Jesus Journey

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. In verse 51 Mary “kept all these sayings in her heart.” At what other times in the Bible do you recall similar verses with Mary? What do you think the connection is?
2. How does obedience play a role in our human growth? In our growth as Christ followers?
3. What are some signs of stagnation in spiritual growth? In other areas of growth? How can we encourage one another in our growth as a group?