

**Luke 2:39 - 52 (NASB)**

<sup>39</sup>When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

<sup>40</sup>The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

<sup>41</sup>Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

<sup>42</sup>And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast;

<sup>43</sup>and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it,

<sup>44</sup>but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they *began* looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

<sup>45</sup>When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.

<sup>46</sup>Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

<sup>47</sup>And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

<sup>48</sup>When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You."

<sup>49</sup>And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's *house*?"

<sup>50</sup>But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.

<sup>51</sup>And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all *these* things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

**Jesus Speaks with the Religious Teachers—Luke 2:41-52**

- In first-century Israel, the age of twelve was considered the time when a child was beginning to reach adulthood. This section of Luke contains an incident at this crucial juncture in Jesus' childhood to give readers an indication of what Jesus' life would center on: the teachings of God, his true Father. Jesus' own testimony of his purpose, "I had to be in my Father's house" (2:49 NIV), concludes the infancy narratives (1:1–2:52).
- Luke is the only Gospel writer to offer this quick glimpse into Jesus' childhood. This story not only reflects Luke's thorough research of Jesus' life but also reveals a youth who, at an early age, understood his special connection to God and dedicated himself to studying God's law.

## LUKE 2:41-42

**Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. (NLT)**

- According to God's law, every male was required to go to Jerusalem three times a year for the great festivals (Exodus 23:14-17; Deuteronomy 16:16). In the spring, the Passover was celebrated, followed immediately by the weeklong Festival of Unleavened Bread. Passover commemorated the night of the Jews' escape from Egypt when God had killed the Egyptian firstborn but had passed over Israelite homes (see Exodus 12:21-36). Passover was the most important of the three annual festivals.
- Jesus' parents, like most devout Jews, went to Jerusalem each year. Jesus' family had the right priorities. Families that establish regular habits of worship are less likely to have their spiritual life deflected by alternative attractions. Keep worship on top of your family's agenda. Putting God first is a great example to children, who quickly learn what parents care about by observing how they plan and spend time.

LUKE 2:43-44

**When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. (NRSV)**

- At age twelve, Jesus was considered almost an adult, so he probably didn't spend a lot of time with his parents during the feast. Those who attended these feasts usually traveled in caravans for protection from robbers along the Palestine roads. It was customary for the women and children to travel at the front of the caravan, with the men bringing up the rear. A twelve-year-old boy conceivably could have been in either group, and both Mary and Joseph assumed Jesus was with the other one.

LUKE 2:45-47

**When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. (NRSV)**

- The temple courts were famous throughout Judea as places of learning. The apostle Paul studied in Jerusalem, perhaps in the temple courts, under Gamaliel, one of its foremost teachers (Acts 22:3). At the time of the Passover, the greatest rabbis of the land would assemble to teach and to discuss great truths among themselves. The coming Messiah would no doubt have been a popular discussion topic, for everyone was expecting him. Jesus would have been eager to listen and to ask probing questions. It was not his youth, but the depth of his wisdom, that *amazed* these teachers.

LUKE 2:48

**His parents didn't know what to think. "Son!" his mother said to him. "Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere." (NLT)**

- Mary and Joseph knew the true identity of their son, yet that did not keep them from being typical concerned parents. Their son had been gone from them for three days, yet that seems not to have bothered him at all. Jesus was absorbed in discussions at the temple and did not seem to have wondered about his parents or his connection with the caravan back to Nazareth.

LUKE 2:49-50

**He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. (NRSV)**

- This is the first mention of Jesus' awareness that he was God's Son (he called God "my Father") and that he had special work to do (he said I "must" be here). His relationship with his Father in heaven superseded his human family and even his human home. While he probably went to school and studied along with other boys in the synagogue in Nazareth, to be in the temple with many learned teachers was a great opportunity for Jesus.

LUKE 2:51

**Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them; and his mother stored all these things in her heart. (NLT)**

- Jesus understood his identity with God but also was not yet supposed to go about his earthly ministry (that did not happen until he was thirty years old). Jesus' behavior was not disobedient but precociously acting out his true identity, which he would one day fulfill. In the meantime, Jesus lived a human life, obeying his parents, growing up, studying, and learning. As she had with the words of the shepherds at Jesus' birth (2:19), Mary *stored all these things in her heart*. She did not completely understand her son, but she remembered these events, thought them over, and sought to find their meaning. One day, it all would be clear. One day her son would become her Savior, and she would understand.

LUKE 2:52

**So Jesus grew both in height and in wisdom, and he was loved by God and by all who knew him. (NLT)**

- This wording is similar to 1 Samuel 2:21, 26. The Bible does not record any events of the next eighteen years of Jesus' life, but Jesus undoubtedly was learning and maturing. As the oldest in a large family, he assisted Joseph in his carpentry work. Joseph may have died during this time, leaving Jesus to provide for the family. The normal routines of daily life gave Jesus a solid understanding of the Judean people.
- A full human life is balanced. It was important to Jesus—and it should be important to all believers—to develop fully and harmoniously in each of these key areas: physical, mental, social, and spiritual.

### ***The tale of the two “doubters”***

<sup>18</sup>**ZECHARIAH SAID TO THE ANGEL, “HOW CAN I BE SURE THIS WILL HAPPEN?”**

<sup>34</sup>**MARY ASKED THE ANGEL, “BUT HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN? I AM A VIRGIN.”**

*(i.e. what will be the process, since it won't be thru normal channels because I am a virgin)*

### **Monday Morning Moment**

<p><b>MARK 9:23-24 (KJV)</b> JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, IF THOU CANST BELIEVE, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVETH. AND STRAIGHTWAY THE FATHER OF THE CHILD CRIED OUT, AND SAID WITH TEARS, LORD, I BELIEVE; HELP THOU MINE UNBELIEF.</p>
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- *The question as well as the answer it receives indicate no unbelief on Mary's part. She is not like Zacharias but, in a way, like Nicodemus who also asked "how," namely about the new birth. What perplexes Mary is the fact that she is to even have a child, much less a son...THE Son of God.*
- *With "how" she asks for some explanation, and with "since" she states the reason for her perplexity, namely that she "knows not a man," a typical Jewish way of stating her virginity.*
- *Mary knew what would happen, but she did not know how it would happen. Her question in Luke 1:34 was not an evidence of unbelief (Luke 1:18); rather, it was an expression of faith.*
- *She believed the promise, but she did not understand the performance. How could a virgin give birth to a child?*

**\*GEN 15:8 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup>**BUT ABRAM REPLIED, “O SOVEREIGN LORD, HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT I WILL ACTUALLY POSSESS IT?”**