

SERMON

LUKE - ACTS

SERIES



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS



HEAD

- ✚ At age 12, Jesus is conscientious that He is the unique Son of God and He is committed to the Father's house or business. Let us be similarly conscientious and committed.
- ✚ Jesus matriculated along the maturity spectrum: mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially. May our kids thrive in all four of these areas.
- ✚ C.S. Lewis famously wrote in Mere Christianity, Jesus cannot be merely a great moral teacher, in light of His claims, He must either be a: liar, lunatic, or Lord.

– Luke 2:41-52 –



HEART

- ✚ How does Jesus' conscious decision to stay behind in the temple at age 12 challenge our understanding of prioritizing God's work over family expectations, and when might we face similar tensions in our own lives?
- ✚ The sermon describes Jesus as being 'the only son that's the same age as his father' and 'older than his mother.' How does contemplating this paradox deepen your understanding of Christ's divine nature and incarnation?

– Luke 2:41-52 –



HEART

- ✚ Jesus demonstrates humility by submitting to Mary and Joseph's authority despite being the Creator of the universe. What does this teach us about the relationship between authority, humility, and obedience in our own family relationships?
- ✚ The sermon points out that Jesus' first and last words in Luke's Gospel are about his Father. What would it look like for our lives to be similarly 'bracketed' by constant awareness of and conversation about God?

– Luke 2:41-52 –



HEART

- ✚ Jesus grew mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially according to Luke 2:52. Which of these four areas of growth do you tend to neglect in your own life or in raising your children, and why?
- ✚ Mary 'kept all these things in her heart,' treasuring events she didn't fully understand. How can we practice this same posture of holding onto God's mysterious works in our lives even when we lack complete understanding?

– Luke 2:41-52 –



HANDS

✚ Personal Reflection

- ✚ Evaluate your priorities: Are you spending time in "your Father's house" (prayer, worship, Scripture, fellowship)? Or are you always at the "arcade" of life's distractions?
- ✚ Assess your growth: Rate yourself 1-10 in each area: Mental, Physical, Spiritual, Social. Create one specific goal for your weakest area.

– Luke 2:41-52 –



HANDS

✚ Family Application

- ✚ For parents: Have a conversation with your children about what it means to grow in all four areas. Ask them which area they want to work on.
- ✚ Honor your parents: Regardless of your age, find one practical way this week to honor your parents (call them, help them, express gratitude).

– Luke 2:41-52 –



HANDS

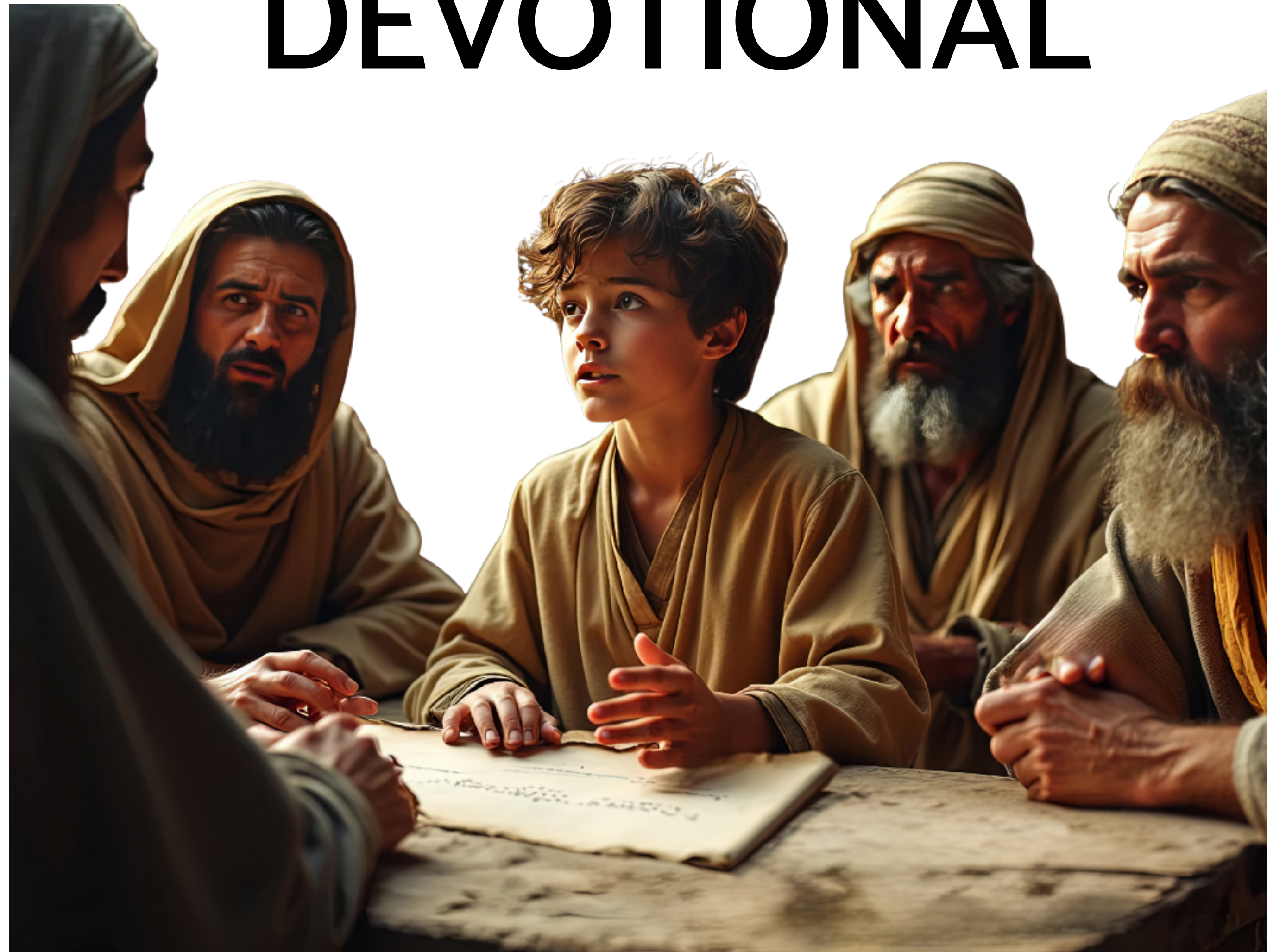
✚ Church Community

- ✚ Support children's ministry: Pray for the kids in our church to grow like Jesus did. Consider volunteering or financially supporting children's programs.
- ✚ Be missional: Jesus grew in favor with people because He genuinely loved them. Who in your sphere of influence needs to experience Christ's love through you this week?

– Luke 2:41-52 –



FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL



Day 1: Priorities That Please God

Reading: Luke 2:41-52

- 🚩 **Devotional:** At twelve years old, Jesus demonstrated a radical priority: His Father's business came first. When Mary expressed her anguish over searching for Him, Jesus gently redirected her attention to what mattered most – being in His Father's house. This wasn't rebellion; it was divine focus.
- 🚩 **What consumes your attention?** Jesus shows us that spiritual priorities sometimes create tension with earthly expectations. His parents didn't understand, yet He remained committed to what God called Him to do. Today, evaluate your priorities. Are you where God wants you to be, even if others don't understand? True discipleship means putting God's agenda first, regardless of the confusion or criticism it may generate. Your heavenly Father's business deserves your primary attention.
- 🚩 **Reflection Question:** What would change in your life if you truly prioritized God's house and business above all else?

– Luke 2:41-52 –



Day 2: Wisdom Beyond Your Years

Reading: Proverbs 2:1-11; James 1:5-8

- 🚩 **Devotional:** The religious leaders were astounded at Jesus' understanding and answers. His wisdom wasn't merely knowledge – it was knowledge rightly applied. He listened attentively, asked excellent questions, and provided answers that left scholars speechless.
- 🚩 Wisdom is more than accumulating information; it's knowing the right thing to do and actually doing it. Jesus embodied this perfectly. He demonstrates that spiritual maturity isn't about age but about intimacy with the Father. When you spend time in God's presence, sitting at His feet in His Word, wisdom flows naturally.
- 🚩 Are you growing in wisdom? Do you listen well to God's voice? Do you ask questions that deepen your understanding? Wisdom comes from seeking God diligently, treasuring His commands, and applying His truth to everyday decisions.
- 🚩 **Reflection Question:** How are you actively pursuing wisdom through time with God rather than just acquiring religious knowledge?

– Luke 2:41-52 –



Day 3: Obedient to the Call

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 5:7-9

- ✚ **Devotional:** Here's the stunning paradox: Jesus, the Creator of the universe, submitted to His earthly parents. The King of Kings obeyed Mary and Joseph. This wasn't weakness – it was strength under control. It was humility in its purest form.
- ✚ Jesus shows us that obedience to God often includes obedience to the authorities He's placed in our lives. Even though He was sovereign Lord, He subordinated Himself to human authority. This challenges our culture's obsession with independence and self-assertion.
- ✚ Who has God placed in authority over you? Parents, employers, church leaders, government officials? Following Jesus means honoring these relationships, even when we possess greater wisdom or ability. True spiritual maturity is demonstrated not by asserting our rights but by humbly submitting to God's ordained structures. Obedience is the pathway to growth.
- ✚ **Reflection Question:** In what area is God calling you to demonstrate Christ-like submission and obedience?

– Luke 2:41-52 –



Day 4: Holistic Growth

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 3 John 1:2

- 🚩 **Devotional:** Jesus “increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.” Notice the four dimensions: mental, physical, spiritual, and social. Jesus didn’t just grow spiritually while neglecting other areas. He developed holistically.
- 🚩 God cares about every aspect of your life. Your intellectual growth matters. Your physical health matters. Your relationship with Him matters. Your connections with others matter. Neglecting any area creates imbalance and limits your effectiveness for the kingdom.
- 🚩 Evaluate your life honestly. Are you growing in all four areas? Perhaps you’re intellectually sharp but spiritually stagnant. Maybe you’re physically fit but socially isolated. God’s design is comprehensive flourishing. When you grow in wisdom, you think clearly. When you grow physically, you steward your body well. When you grow spiritually, you deepen intimacy with God. When you grow socially, you love others effectively.
- 🚩 **Reflection Question:** Which of these four areas needs the most attention in your life right now?

– Luke 2:41-52 –



Day 5: Treasuring What Matters

Reading: Psalm 119:9-16; Luke 2:19, 51

- 🚩 **Devotional:** Mary “kept all these things in her heart.” She treasured the miraculous, the confusing, the extraordinary moments, storing them away to understand later. She didn’t have all the answers, but she held onto what God revealed.
- 🚩 There are seasons when God’s work in your life doesn’t make immediate sense. Like Mary, you must learn to treasure the journey, trusting that understanding will come. Faith means holding onto God’s promises even when circumstances seem contradictory.
- 🚩 What has God shown you that you need to treasure? What words has He spoken that you must protect in your heart? Don’t dismiss the supernatural moments, the divine appointments, the unexplainable peace. Store them. Reflect on them. Let them build your faith for future challenges.
- 🚩 Jesus’ first and last recorded words in Luke’s Gospel were about His Father. May your life be similarly bracketed – beginning and ending with devotion to God.
- 🚩 **Reflection Question:** What “treasures” has God given you that you need to protect and ponder in your heart during this season?

– Luke 2:41-52 –



Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: Our Father, Who is in heaven, today we pray for wisdom to prioritize Your kingdom above all else. We also pray for our children to grow mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially for Your glory and their good. Finally, we pray for courage to honor You even when the people we care about most don't understand our choices. In Jesus' majestic name, Amen.

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