Grow in God's Grace
Luke 2:40-52

Spiritual Practice
40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.**41** Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. **42** And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. **43** And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not *of it*. **44** But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among *their* kinsfolk and acquaintance. **45** And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

Train in the Purpose of God
- The grace of God grew Christ physically (the child grew), spiritually (waxed strong in spirit), and mentally (filled with wisdom).
- His family faithfully observed the religious occasions of their day.
- Jesus was old enough to begin observing the feasts, and His wisdom in spiritual matters proved His supernatural status and His home training.
    - Proverbs 22:6 – Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it.
    - Deuteronomy 6:7 – And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
    - Psalm 34:11 – Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Tarry in the Place of God
- Joseph and Mary may have assumed Jesus was with another group within their traveling group. – Many people travel assuming Jesus is close without verifying.

Turn to the Path of God
- When they realized Jesus was not with them, they began looking for Him intently. – What do you do when you realize that Jesus is not traveling with you?
- Jesus's absence alarmed Joseph and Mary, and they frantically returned to Jerusalem to look for Him where they last saw Him.
- Traveling without Jesus delayed their journey.

Scriptural Persistence
46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. **47** And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

The Strength of Your Crowd
- Traveling without Jesus delayed their journey.
- Jesus sitting among the doctors was an honor, especially for a twelve-year-old to converse with people of that caliber.

The Source of Your Comprehension

- Jesus spent His time listening to what knowledge they had to offer and asked good questions to lead them to further explanations.
    - James 1:19 – Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:
- Jesus was thirsty for spiritual knowledge.

The Support of Your Conviction

- Jesus's questions and statements awed the doctors with His wisdom.
    - Psalm 119:99-100 – **99** I have more understanding than all my teachers: For thy testimonies *are* my meditation. **100** I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep thy precepts.
- Jesus further explained the answers they provided and, through His ministry, encouraged continued growth.
    - John 8:31-32 – **31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;* **32** *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
    - 2 Peter 1:5 – And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
    - Proverbs 3:13 – Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, And the man *that* getteth understanding.
    - Proverbs 15:14 – The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: But the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

Submissive Position

48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. **49** And he said unto them, *How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?* **50** And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. **51** And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. **52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Self-Induced Pain

- Sorrowing means to cause extreme pain or to be tormented.
    - Luke 16:23-24 – **23** *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.* **24** *And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*
- Going through life without Jesus causes intense pain.
- How many times has sorrow caused you to forget who Jesus is?
    - Deuteronomy 4:9 – Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Self-Inflicted Perplexity

- Jesus' question to Joseph and Mary led them to consider what Gabriel told them about Jesus' mission.
    - Psalm 40:8 – I delight to do thy will, O my God: Yea, thy law *is* within my heart
- His service to God was not an optional call to fulfill, but something He must do.

- Despite all their previous knowledge of God's call on Jesus' life, they still did not let it direct their thoughts.
- Jesus' work for the Father was a lifelong commitment.
    - John 5:17 – But Jesus answered them, *My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*
    - John 9:4 – *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*
    - John 17:4 – *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

Surrendered Purpose

- Though Jesus was spiritually superior to Joseph and Mary, He humbled Himself and submitted to their leadership.
- Jesus humbly honored His earthly parents. – Children must follow this example today.
    - Ephesians 6:1-3 – **1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. **2** Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) **3** That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.
- Mary took to heart what Jesus said at the temple, as she began to see Him grow into the call God had for His life.

Steady Progression

- Before the temple visit, Jesus grew physically, spiritually, and mentally.
- After the temple visit, Jesus continued to grow mentally, physically, and spiritually.