

## Compelling Portrait Part 1: Not My Way

**Objective:** To challenge us to imitate Jesus by humbly submitting to others in a way that honors God.

**Read together:**

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. 43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:41-52

*Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Ephesians 5:1-2

**Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

Ephesians 5:21

- Do you have a tendency to want to do things your own way or are you OK with following the rules/ someone else's direction?
- Jesus' parents didn't understand what he meant when he said, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house." But even though they didn't fully understand him or his mission, he was submissive and obedient to them. What does that tell you about the way he will lead his kingdom?
- Is it easy or hard for you to follow the directions of someone who knows less or is less experienced than you? What does that say about you?
- Most people have difficulty with the concept of submission. Why do you think that is?
- In Ephesians 5, Paul calls Jesus' followers to live lives of 'mutual submission.' Based on what the pastor said, what does that look like? Is it easy or hard for you to do? Why?
- How would the power structures in our culture today be impacted if we all, as followers of Jesus, practiced humble submission? In situations where you have no power, how can you be humbly submissive?

**Final Thought:** Even though he was God in the flesh, Jesus humbled himself and was obedient and submissive to those in authority over him. When we imitate him, it is a blessing to others and it brings honor to Jesus.

**This Week:** Identify one relationship where you need to be more submissive. Spend some time thinking about how you can display that submission.

