

INCREASING IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN

LUKE 2:41-52

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 according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Learning a few things from Mary & Joseph...

- Mary & Joseph are _____ in their _____ and _____ to God.
- Mary & Joseph are committed to seeing their _____ in their faith and _____ of God.
- Mary & Joseph aren't _____ parents.

Learning a few things from Jesus...

- Jesus _____ teachers and _____ to them.
- Jesus appropriately _____ and gave meaningful _____.
- Jesus _____ to His parents.
- Most notably, Jesus is _____!
- Grace characterized Jesus' relationships both _____ (with God) and _____ (with men).

He is 100% God. He is 100% man.

What if we were as committed to our own (and our children's) spiritual growth as we are to the other things we find important in our lives? (Health, finances, earthly relationships, academics, athletic accomplishments, etc?)

"An obedient, submissive inner spirit is a key to experiencing proper spiritual growth. Also, an obedient, submissive inner spirit like Christ comes from knowing who we are." – R. Kent Hughes

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Learning a few things from Mary & Joseph...

- **Mary & Joseph are committed in their faith and devotion to God.**
- **Mary & Joseph are committed to seeing their children grow in their faith and understanding of God.**
- **Mary & Joseph aren't perfect parents.**

Learning a few things from Jesus...

- **Jesus sought out teachers and listened to them.**
- **Jesus appropriately asked questions and gave meaningful answers.**
- **Jesus humbly submits to His parents.**
- **Most notably, Jesus is God's Son!**
- **Grace characterized Jesus' relationships both vertically (with God) and horizontally (with men).**

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