

The graphic features the word "Rooted" in a large, brown, serif font. Below it, the phrase "in the soil of a vibrant, growing faith" is written in a smaller, brown, sans-serif font. The background consists of a stylized, light brown tree with many roots extending downwards, creating a textured, organic feel.

Rooted

in the soil of a
vibrant, growing faith

Sermon-Based Study Guide
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Luke 2.41-52
May 18th and 19th, 2013

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I. Connecting With One Another

What people have been influential in your coming to faith in Jesus? How important was a community of faith - a church, Bible study group, or other body of believers - in your faith development?

II. Introduction to this Study

We are focusing on something slightly different than the previous six weeks' emphasis on the "Solas" of the Reformed Faith. This weekend we will be teaching on how people embrace faith, particularly how people can develop a real, sincere faith, and how important the community of faith - the Church - is in that process. Speaking of how people develop faith, our Student Ministries emphasis has been on what is termed "Sticky Faith." This suggests helping young people develop their a faith that is vital and that is their own. For some this means moving from the faith of their parents to formulating and embracing their own trust in Jesus. For others it means gaining an understanding of Jesus for the very first time. Whatever the process, we aim to enable young people to have a faith that "sticks" with them when they go away to college or into other pursuits as young adults. You can learn more about the Student Ministries of Good Shepherd at www.gspc.org/students. Our focus is Luke 2.41-52 where Jesus, at age 12, engages the teachers of the Law and others at the temple in Jerusalem.

III. Study the Text

- a. Go ahead and read through Luke 3.41-52. For some background look at Exodus 23.14-17 and Deuteronomy 16.16. The Law commanded adult males (13 years and older) to celebrate three feast events each year - Passover, Pentecost or Weeks, and Tabernacles. Most tried to be in Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus, at age 12, has one more year until, by Law, he would be responsible for keeping these feasts. On this trip he would be learning and preparing to participate in the ceremonies the following year.
- b. What do the following verses reveal about...
 - i. Jesus' identity - Luke 2.49 _____
 - ii. Jesus' character - Luke 2.40 _____
 - iii. Jesus' priorities - Luke 2.43-47 _____
 - iv. Jesus' relationships - Luke 2.50-52 _____
- c. List the people who were influencers in Jesus' development as a person and as a teacher:

(Note: Luke is being very diligent to present Jesus as a human being who grew up like any other person and who was a well-rounded young man. We also understand that Jesus was fully divine - Fully man and fully God. Still, the humanity of Jesus was shaped by the influences in his life and how he learned from them, who he was shaped by them, and how he interacted with and reacted to them.

- d. Look again at Luke 2.48-50. What more do you discover about Jesus from his response to Mary's rebuke?

- e. How have Jesus' earthly parents been "shapers of faith"? How have they mentored him as a young person? What kind of examples of faithful people were they?
- f. How do you think Jesus' interactions with the teachers in the temple courts shaped him? How do you think these interactions prepared him for his future ministry?
- g. If time allows, look through Luke 1.5-2.52 to see what Luke says about the content of the Good News.
 - i. 1.11-17 _____
 - ii. 1.26-35 _____
 - iii. 1.50-55 _____
 - iv. 1.68-79 _____
 - v. 2.11 _____
 - vi. 2.14 _____
 - vii. 2.30-32 _____
 - viii. 2.34-35 _____

IV. Reflect and Respond

- a. Recall and give God thanks for the people who were instrumental in helping you come to faith in Jesus and to nurture that faith.
- b. How can you be an influencer of others in their coming to faith and/or growing in faith?
- c. For whom can you be a mentor? How can you help another person become well rounded in their character, their identity, their priorities, and their allegiance to Jesus Christ?

V. Spend some time in prayer:

- a. Giving thanks to God for those who have helped you on your journey of faith;
- b. Praying for children, grandchildren, spouse, others to know Jesus and grow in their trust in him;
- c. Lifting up our children, students, and families, praying that they would be rooted in a sincere faith;
- d. Asking that God would use Good Shepherd to declare the good news of the gospel in our community;
- e. Praying for God's guidance as we continue in a Season of Discernment concerning our denominational affiliation;
- f. Asking that God would give you a heart for those who haven't heard of His salvation, that He would empower you to join Him in His mission to and for them.

"I am so thankful for the people who surrounded my life and who have mentored me and encouraged me because I've gotten to see examples of what a Christian woman is and what a godly woman and godly man are like."

Tara