



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of July 25, 2021

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Luke 2:39-52

39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor 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 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.

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

In this week's sermon, we delve into the only account in all four Gospels that provides a glimpse into Jesus' childhood. After celebrating the Passover feast with His family, Jesus, unbeknownst to His parents, stays behind in Jerusalem. After three days of searching, a worried Joseph and Mary find young Jesus sitting in the temple amongst the teachers, listening, asking questions, and amazing them with His understanding and answers. Luke tells us that in spite of Jesus being the Son of God, He still had to grow, and increase in wisdom and stature.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the statement, Jesus "***grew and became strong, filled with wisdom***" so amazing and mind-boggling? Although we cannot fully understand how an infinite God can become a finite man, why is it significant for us to know that Jesus, the Son of God, had to grow and increase in wisdom and stature? What does the ***incarnation*** of Jesus tell us about Jesus' ability to understand our weaknesses and struggles?
2. Jesus' parents made sure that their family prioritized the worship of God. The environment surrounding the young Jesus nurtured His spiritual growth. Whether or not you are a parent, what are some practical ways you can nurture a child's spiritual growth? What are some ways you can hinder or stunt a child's spiritual growth? Why is it important for parents to put their child's spiritual growth ahead of their athletic, academic, or artistic growth? Why do you think it is so hard for many parents to do this?

3. When Joseph and Mary found their son in the temple - after three days of searching - their relief turned quickly to frustration. Joseph and Mary were frustrated with the Son of God and probably thought that He had sinned against them. But Jesus reveals to them that He was right where He was supposed to be - "***in my Father's house.***" When we get frustrated and upset with the circumstances in our lives; when we get frustrated with Jesus Christ, what does this tell us about our understanding of our Savior?

4. How is your relationship with your heavenly Father? Is it characterized by robotic prayers before eating, begrudging reading of a few chapters of the Bible each day, a declining conscience, a diminishing (or non-existent) sense of the Holy Spirit, an unresponsive heart to God's Word, an absence of spiritual joy? If this is you, the question Pastor Danny asked is "do you want to grow?" If Jesus Himself grew, how much more should we? What changes do you need to make in your life so that you can grow deeper in your walk with Jesus?

5. Why is the church, the Body of Christ, so critical to our spiritual growth? (See Hebrews 10:23-25)