

December 26, 2021

Luke 2:41-52

It's important to nurture faith beyond the manger and the cross.

For many of us, our faith begins on Christmas and Easter. Or perhaps it comes to life on Christmas and Easter more than we have experienced in the past. But, you will find that many people that attend church every single week of the year also have a faith that is still limited to the manger and the cross. If that happens, we can be deprived of the great fullness of faith that God wants us to experience and which we were designed to know.

Do you want your everyday faith to be just as buoyant as Christmas and Easter?

41 Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. 42 When he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. 43 After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't know it. 44 Supposing that he was among their band of travelers, they journeyed on for a full day while looking for him among their family and friends.

1) Jesus grew up in _____ . We should too. (community)

THINK IT OVER

How is the community that you grew up in different or similar to the kind Jesus knew?

45 When they didn't find Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him, they were shocked.

2) Jesus will _____ you, even if you think you _____ him already. (surprise, know)

THINK IT OVER

When was the last time that you were surprised by something you learned about Jesus? How can you make this happen more often?

His mother said, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We've been looking for you!" 49 Jesus replied, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?" 50 But they didn't understand what he said to them.

3) Your true _____ and your true _____ is with God. _____ it. (home, family, Cultivate)

THINK IT OVER

Do you feel at home in God's house? How comfortable do you feel around Jesus? Why?

51 Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. 52 Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.

4) Growing takes _____. It did for Jesus. (time)

THINK IT OVER

How have you grown more in wisdom, in your relationship with God, and socially? In which of these areas has your growth been more stunted? Why?