

# The Connection

**Weekly Bible Verse:** And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.  
Luke 2:52

## Lost and Found

A few weeks ago, we learned that Joseph and Mary offered a sacrifice to the Lord at the Temple in Jerusalem and dedicated Jesus to the Lord. There, Simeon recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah, the light of the world. Anna the prophetess also gave thanks to God, bore witness of Jesus, and boldly proclaimed that the Messiah had come. Then we learned about the wise men or Magi who came with gifts for Jesus. We learned about an angel who appeared to Joseph in a dream to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt to escape the anger of King Herod. They stayed in Egypt until the angel of the Lord told them it was safe to return to their home.

Today we will see Jesus as a boy in the Temple. Our story teaches us that even at a young age Jesus knew that He had to "be about His Father's business." He knew that He had a call upon His life and sought to obey the will of the Father. We also learn that God is worthy of our obedience.

Jesus was nurtured and raised up in the ways of the Lord. Joseph and Mary were parents who lived in obedience to God, and they desired to raise Jesus in the same way.

Joseph and Mary loved the Lord and wanted to raise Jesus according to God's plan. God knows what's best for us. He gave us His word so we could live in obedience to Him. Though Jesus grew up just like you and I, He had a heart and mind of divine wisdom.

**LUKE 2:41-42** His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. Joseph and Mary were faithful to

travel the long journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem. It was important to them to be obedient.

**LUKE 2:43-45**

When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and Mary did not know it; but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem seeking Him. At the age of 12 Jesus was considered close to adulthood, so He probably wasn't with Joseph and Mary during the entire festival. People going to Jerusalem for the festivals usually traveled in caravans with the women and children in the front and the men behind to protect their party from the ambush of robbers along the roads. Also several members of a family would usually travel together in groups. Jesus could have been in either group, leaving Joseph and Mary to assume He was with the others or with family members.

**LUKE 2:46-47**

Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. At the time of the Passover, the greatest rabbis of the land would assemble to teach and discuss great truths among themselves. The coming Messiah would have no doubt been a popular topic of discussion, and here was Jesus, listening and discussing deep questions among the rabbis. It wasn't His youth that astounded them, but the divine wisdom and knowledge He had.

**LUKE 2:48** So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." Joseph and Mary were astonished to find Jesus in the Temple, the center of attention and respect, with these learned men. They were



looking for a boy, but they found a young man astounding the religious leaders of their day with questions and answers.

**LUKE 2:49-50**

And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement that He spoke to them. This is the first biblical reference to Jesus' knowledge that He is the Son of God. Even though He knew His real Father, he did not reject His earthly parents. Jesus wasn't lost; He was in His Father's house and in His care. Jesus, at the age of twelve, was devoting Himself to do His Father's will, putting everything else aside.

**LUKE 2:51**

Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. Though Jesus desired to attend to His Father's business, He continued to subject Himself to His earthly parents as they guided and directed Him. Mary treasured all these things in her heart.

**LUKE 2:52**

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. The Bible doesn't record for us any other events of the next eighteen years of Jesus' life. He wants us to trust in Him to save us from sin. Jesus knows what we are like, because He became like us. He lived life here just like us, except that He knew no sin; He was perfect, and because He is perfect. He is worthy of our obedience.

## Growing In Wisdom

Ways to keep kids growing in wisdom!

- ♦ **Show Unconditional love:** Demonstrate "just because" kind of love - the love that is just because you are mine. It is the same kind of love God has for us.
- ♦ **Be a Model:** You cannot expect your children to do as you say and not as you do. If you want your children to make wise choices, model making wise choices yourself.
- ♦ **Teach them to STOP and THINK.** Train your children to pause and consider their choices. If it's a choice related to food, ask them to consider whether it's a healthy food, what they've already eaten today, and how long it is until the next meal. If it's a choice relating to friendships or

other relationships, train them to ask if what they're about to do is kind and fair, and if they'd want another person to do the same to them. Having the self-control to slow down and think about choices is 90% of the battle for wisdom.

- ♦ **Give them a standard to live by.** Once your child has learned to stop and think, they need a reliable standard of behavior and choices to check themselves against. For timeless wisdom and words to live by, Biblical Proverbs can't be beat. Teach your children what it has to say about the kinds of decisions they face every day, and they'll have a grid through which to make the tough calls.

♦ **Teach them humility.** Humble people are the ones who realize they don't have all the answers and seek wise counsel when faced with a significant choice. Train them to seek wisdom from trusted sources all the days of their lives and to ask God to give them wisdom. It's a promise they can rely on!

- ♦ **Boundaries, expectations, opportunities and consequences:** Provide clear and definite boundaries and expectations for your children. They need to know up-front what is expected of them and what is and isn't allowed. They need to know that every choice has a consequence (good, bad, or indifferent), and they need to experience all of these. Moreover, children must be made to understand you will be there to enforce these consequences.
- ♦ **Give your children over to God.**

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Together



Train up a child in the way he should go; Even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

### Additional Pages:

Jesus in the Temple - Coloring Page

Jesus Is Left Behind - Word Search

### Resources:

**Jesus in the Temple** - Saddleback Kids You Tube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho\\_3gvlWzbw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho_3gvlWzbw)

**Jesus at 12** - Teaching Kids About Jesus - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2vH6h8JR4k>



### "I Wonder" Questions for this week's lesson . . .

I wonder what questions Jesus was asking the men in the temple?

I wonder what question you would like to ask someone who is Bible wise?

I wonder how you can know if you are making a wise decision?

### Character Word of the Week:

Wisdom

Godly wisdom is one of the most important things we can have in our lives. We all face tough choices in life, and sometimes it's hard to know the right thing to do. Thankfully, we can go to God and receive the wisdom we need to make the right choices. What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?

**Knowledge** - what you know in your head.  
Knowledge = true or false.

**Wisdom** - using what you know to make good choices.  
Wisdom = good or bad.

*It is much better to get wisdom than gold. Proverbs 16:16a*