

Sermon-Based Small Group Bible Study

Encounters with Jesus: Jesus and His Parents (Luke 2:41–52)

Open

Select one of these “ice breakers” to get the conversation going toward the study.

- What’s a place you’ve been that you just didn’t want to leave? OR . . .
- When you were a child, were you ever separated from your adults in a public place? Tell us a little about it. OR . . .
- Tell us something that is true about you that might surprise people. OR . . .
- What do remember life was like when you were twelve years old? Peanut butter sandwiches and summer afternoons outdoors? Awkward moments as a “tween”? Wishing you could grow up faster?

Dig

After reading Luke 2:41–52 together, discuss these questions.

1. Take a look at Deuteronomy 16:1–3, especially verse 3. What did God tell Israel to celebrate at Passover? How important do you think this celebration was to Jesus’ family and others, especially celebrating it in Jerusalem near the Temple?
2. How do you think Jesus’ parents felt when they realized after a full day’s journey that their young son was not with the travel party walking home from Jerusalem to Nazareth?
3. Jesus’ first words in Luke’s Gospel are found in verse 49: “Why were you searching for me? Didn’t you know that I must be in my Father’s house?” Although it was not unusual for the Jewish people in Jesus’ time to refer to God as Father, he was addressed as “our Father,” not as “my Father.” Why do you think Jesus used this expression that was unusual for his time?
4. What in this story makes you think, “That’s just like Jesus”? What makes you think, “That’s not like what I thought Jesus was”?

Reflect

Use any of these prompts to encourage group members to apply the text to their own experiences.

- What has your search for Jesus been like?
- How has Jesus surprised you? How has he proved to be more or different from what you expected?
- How is the Father’s house a part of your life right now? How has it changed for you? What would you like it to be?
- Three key words from Pastor Bryan’s sermon are devotion, understanding, and intimacy. Which of those impacts you most? Why?