**Wisdom, Stature, and Favor**

Luke 2:39-52

**Luke 2:39 (ESV)**And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

**Luke 2:40 (ESV)**And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

**Luke 2:41 (ESV)**Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

**Luke 2:42 (ESV)**And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.

**Luke 2:43 (ESV)**And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,

**Luke 2:44 (ESV)**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,

**Luke 2:45 (ESV)**and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him.

**Luke 2:46 (ESV)**After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

**Luke 2:47 (ESV)**And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

**Luke 2:48 (ESV)**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.”

**Luke 2:49 (ESV)**And He said to them, “Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father’s house?”

**Luke 2:50 (ESV)**And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them.

**Luke 2:51 (ESV)**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.

**Luke 2:52 (ESV)**And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

***The biblical account of Jesus as a boy in the temple offers us …***

1. **A Mystery to Believe**

**Luke 2:39 (ESV)**And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

**Luke 2:40 (ESV)**And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

**1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)**For there is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.

**Why did God become a human being? [build list]**

***To reveal God to us.***

**John 1:18 (ESV)**No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, He has made Him known.

***To sympathize with our weaknesses and temptations.***

**Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)**For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

***To show us how to live the fullest human life.***

**1 Peter 2:21 (ESV)**For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps.

***To offer the substitutionary sacrifice to pay for our sins.***

**1 John 4:10 (ESV)**In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1. **A Relationship to Understand**

**Luke 2:46 (ESV)**After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

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**Luke 2:50 (ESV)**And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them.

**Matthew 11:27 (ESV)**All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

**John 3:35 (ESV)**The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.

1. **An Example to Follow**

**Luke 2:51 (ESV)**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.

**Luke 2:52 (ESV)**And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**Ephesians 5:21 (ESV)**Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**Romans 13:1 (ESV)**Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

**1 Peter 2:18 (ESV)**Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

**1 Peter 3:1 (ESV)**Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,

**1 Peter 5:5 (ESV)**Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

**Hebrews 13:17 (ESV)**Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

**Why are obedience and submission to God and those He places in leadership in our lives so important for us? [build list]**

***A submissive heart comes from knowing who you are in Christ.***

***A submissive heart is essential in spiritual growth.***

***A submissive heart invites favor into your life.***

**1 Peter 5:6 (ESV)**Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you.

**Philippians 2:3 (ESV)**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

**Philippians 2:5 (ESV)**Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.