

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: October 11, 2015

SUBJECT: THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: His Visit to Jerusalem at Twelve Years Old

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:40-52

AIM: To show the children that as Jesus grew and developed physically, mentally and spiritually, He was always doing His Father's will and yet was subject to His earthly parents.

MEMORY VERSES: Luke 2:52 (And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature and in the grace *manifested in Him* before God and men.)

Ephesians 6:1 (Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.)

SUGGESTED HYMNS: 4614 (MY GOD, HE REALLY CAME AS MAN), 125(WONDERFUL THINGS TO KNOW), 2823 (GOD'S WORD I WILL OBEY) 6732 (TRUST AND OBEY) 25 (I BELIEVE GOD) 5205 (OBEY) 37 (I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS) 39 (STEP BY STEP) 3419 (MORE AND MORE LIKE JESUS)

CONTENT: Recently we learned that Mary and Joseph and the small child Jesus returned to Nazareth of Galilee, having escaped the slaughter of all the male infants under two years old, as commanded by Herod. Luke 2:40 tells us that the little child grew and became strong, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him. This means that the little child Jesus grew in a complete and balanced way. He "grew" physically, "became strong" spiritually (Luke 1:80; 2:40), and was "filled with wisdom" psychologically. It is likely that He received most of His education at home, although we do not know if that is where He learned to read and write. We do know that He learned carpentry from Joseph. He may have had some schooling in a synagogue.

Luke 2:52 says that Jesus "advanced in wisdom and stature and in the grace *manifested in Him* before God and men." One secret (or key) to the Lord's continual growth and development is in verse 51a: the Lord was subject to His human parents. This basic lesson was what the Lord practiced in His human life on earth.

When Jesus was twelve years old, He went to Jerusalem with His family for the feast of the Passover, as they did every year. But that year Jesus, being twelve, could join them for the first time in participating in the eight-day feast. Jesus and His family traveled with a caravan of pilgrims making the same journey. It would take five or six days to go from Nazareth to Jerusalem where God had appointed all His people to meet.

After the eight-day feast ended, the caravan headed back home. Jesus remained in Jerusalem but His parents did not know it. Supposing their young son to be in the caravan, Mary and Joseph went a day's journey before realizing He was not with them. Not finding Him, and therefore worried, they returned to Jerusalem (another day's journey). Then after a day of searching, they found Jesus in the temple. He was sitting in the midst of the teachers in one of the courts of the temple, eagerly participating in the public instruction that the teachers of law were giving. He was listening and asking questions. Those present were astonished at His understanding and answers. Jesus was very interested and absorbed by the Word of God.

When Mary and Joseph found Him, they were surprised. They told Jesus how worried they had been while looking for Him. Jesus answered saying, "Did you not know that I must be in the

things of my Father?” This showed His care for the interests of God His Father. In His humanity (as a man), He was the son of His parents, and in His deity (as God), He was the Son of God. Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus was talking about. Even though He may have wanted to stay at the temple much longer, He obeyed His earthly parents and went back with them to Nazareth and “was subject to them” (Luke 2:51). Mary carefully kept all these things in her heart, even though she did not understand them at the time.

As He grew in stature, Jesus continued to grow in wisdom. He also grew in favor with God and men. Jesus is both God and man.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

In many ways we can grow up like the Lord Jesus did:

- As a young boy, **Jesus obeyed His earthly parents**, going down to Nazareth with them and being subject to them. We must obey our parents as Jesus obeyed His. Jesus is God and, as such, He did not need to be subject to man. Yet, as Man, He was subject to His parents. Therefore, we should follow His example.
- Also, as a young boy, **Jesus was very interested in the Word of God and cared for God’s interests**. As young children we also can love God’s word and care for the Lord’s interests. At home, we can read the Bible daily and learn our memory verses weekly. Our family can be like the family of the Lord Jesus which was filled with the knowledge and love of God’s word. We can also come to children’s meeting every week to learn God’s Word by singing, praying, and listening to what the teachers have to say from the Bible. These are good ways to show that we love the Lord and care for what He cares for.
- As He grew, **Jesus kept advancing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men**. We should have a strong body and a sound mind. Therefore, we should study hard; we should eat healthy food and have good sleeping habits. Jesus behaved, in every way, in a proper manner so that He could do His Father’s will. We also should behave, in every way, in a proper manner before God and before men.

‘Tis wonderful to know that Jesus
Was once a child like me,
And lived on earth and worked and played
In His home in Galilee.

(Chorus)
Wonderful, wonderful Jesus!
Who was once a child like me;
Wonderful, wonderful Jesus!
Like Him I want to be.

Children’s Hymn 125: Wonderful Things to Know

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God’s Economy*—Vol. 3, *The Person and Life of the Lord Jesus Christ*, Lesson 4, and from the Church in New York City’s Children’s meeting lessons: 9/29/96; 9/29/02; 10/3/04; 10/12/08; 10/25/10