

ONE DAY AT A TIME

[LEADER PREP GUIDE]

GETTING STARTED

Jesus was raised in an “observant” home, where His religion played a significant role in everyday life. Take a few minutes to write and share your experiences growing up with religion or without it.

OVERVIEW

There are key moments in our lives—events that we can look back on that played a role in shaping who we are today. In today’s study, we see a few days in the life of Jesus as a boy. What happened can help us reflect on the special nature of this Messiah and how we need to be like Him!

Open up and read Luke 2:42-52

Leader Note: Use the following questions to make sure everyone understands the passage. Then, read the “One Day at Time” summary before moving on to the application questions.

UNPACKING THE VERSES

1. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Jerusalem? Who went with them?

Leader note: When the “whole town” traveled to Jerusalem, it can be taken quite literally. Passover is one of the three pilgrimage feasts listed in the Bible when people were required to go to the Temple. We do not know if all Israel practiced this custom, but for certain, small villages would be highly motivated to travel as a community and to be faithful to their calling.



2. How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they realized Jesus was not with them? How many days did they spend searching for Him?
3. Where did they find Jesus? Does that seem strange to you? Why or why not? What does Jesus call the place where He was found? What was He doing?

Leader Note: When Jesus told His family that He would be found “in My Father’s House,” He was almost certainly not talking about the Temple. It implied His time talking with the rabbis in synagogues in Nazareth and anywhere else He might go. Jesus might have seen the rabbis as kindred spirits.

4. Proverbs 3:3-4 says, “Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.” (NLT) How did Jesus show His kindness and loyalty to His family? Why is that important?

ONE DAY AT A TIME

We are a collection of our life experiences. What we learn and experience is a big part of who we are. God uses all of that for His glory! Jesus’ experiences were reflected in His life that was devoted to learning and loving.

LIVING IT OUT

1. How has your faith in Jesus shaped who you are and the values you live by?
2. Reflect on times when your faith in Jesus began to shape who you are today. What experiences did you have that strengthened your faith?
3. How might you encourage someone who, in their life, is where you have already been?
4. How has your faith in Jesus caused you to grow in “wisdom and stature”?

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, You have allowed us to experience many days, some difficult and others not. Help us reflect on what we learn and how You have shaped us. Please continue to use our days to bring glory to You and love toward one another. In Your name we pray. Amen.

