

PRAYER

“Holy Spirit, we invite You into this time of learning and reflection. Ignite in us a passion to learn from the example of Jesus, especially as He modelled wisdom and purpose even as a young person. Open our hearts to hear Your voice, whether we are young or raising young people, so that we can walk in the destiny You have for us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

OPENING QUESTION
(OPTIONAL)

“Can you share a time when you were surprised by something a young person said or did, whether it was wise, creative, or unexpected? How did it make you feel?”

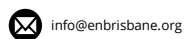
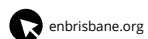


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WORD

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.
42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.
43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,
44 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,
45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.
46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.
48 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."
49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"
50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.
51 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.
52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

[Luke 2:41-52 \(ESV\)](#)

In this passage, we see 12-year-old Jesus in the temple, already displaying remarkable wisdom and understanding, even among learned teachers. This moment teaches us a few important lessons, both for young people and for the adults raising or mentoring them.

First, **Jesus' hunger for learning** was evident. He stayed behind to engage with the teachers, not to show off, but to ask questions and listen. This shows that being a young person is not an obstacle to pursuing deeper wisdom or knowledge. In today's world, young people can seek understanding of God and life with the same passion, whether through school, church, or conversations with those wiser than them. The question then becomes: How might we stir up hunger for learning about God, and growing in Him

Second, this passage shows that **wisdom can come from unexpected places**, even from the young. The teachers in the temple were amazed at Jesus' understanding, challenging the assumption that youth is a barrier to profound insight. This is a reminder to adults and parents: listen to young people. God can speak through them and reveal wisdom in ways that may surprise us. Create spaces for them to be heard and for us to learn from them.

Third, **Jesus also shows obedience and respect** for His earthly parents. Even after this divine encounter, He returned with Mary and Joseph to Nazareth

and remained submissive to them. Young people today can learn from Jesus' example of balancing their personal sense of calling with honouring their parents or mentors. This intergenerational exchange of respect is a beautiful depiction of God's Kingdom being evident from age to age.

Fourth, this moment reminds us that **spiritual growth is a lifelong journey**. Although Jesus was the Son of God, He still "increased in wisdom and stature." This reminds us that no matter how old we are, there is always room to grow in knowledge, maturity, and favour with God and others.

Finally, for parents and adults, this passage speaks to the **importance of nurturing young people** in environments where they can grow spiritually. Mary and Joseph raised Jesus in a way that respected tradition and faith, but they also experienced the tension of understanding the deeper purpose God had for their child. Parents today are tasked with the same challenge—raising young people in faith while also seeking to understand God's unique calling for their lives. We call this **vocational discipleship** which according to David Kinnaman in his book "Faith for Exiles" describes as "a means of helping people understand what they're called to do, made to do."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus stayed behind in the temple, hungry to learn more about God. What can we learn from His desire to engage deeply with scripture, and how can we cultivate that in our own lives?
2. The teachers in the temple were amazed by Jesus' wisdom at such a young age. Have you ever learned something profound from someone younger than you? What was the impact?
3. Jesus returned with His parents and was submissive to them, even though He knew His divine calling. How do you balance honouring the people in authority in your life with following God's call for you?
4. As adults or parents, how can we create spaces where young people can grow in wisdom and faith, like Jesus in the temple? OR How can we, as young people, honour the wisdom of our parents or mentors while still pursuing our own God-given purpose?

"Lord Jesus, we thank You that you are our great Teacher, showing us the importance of growing in wisdom, humility, and faith. You not only teach us, You are the LIVING WORD. We submit our lives to You today, asking You to guide us in all that we do. Our lives belong to you. Help us to honor the people You've placed in our lives, whether as mentors or as those we mentor. We ask for Your wisdom as we follow Your calling and seek to live for Your glory. In Your name, we pray. Amen."