



How to Grow Spiritually and in Wisdom **Luke 2:41-52**

And Jesus said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49—ESV).

Jesus knew that many times others, not even His disciples, would understand His words and actions. You would have thought that Joseph and Mary, His earthly parents, would have understood Him; but Jesus at the age of 12 began to take His adult responsibilities seriously and stayed behind in the temple rather than travel back to Nazareth. After His parents found Him, Jesus returned to Nazareth with them and continued to honor His earthly father and mother by His obedience. In the Ten Commandments we read, “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.” Jesus obeyed God’s commandments. We can learn much from the example of Jesus’ parents. They obeyed the law of God and went to celebrate Passover every year in Jerusalem. They sent Jesus to synagogue school to teach Him the Word of God. They trusted and loved Him so much they did not worry about Him until the day they could not find Him in their caravan; then, they hurried back to Jerusalem and searched until they found Him.

We learn from Jesus’ practices that He spent much time in prayer, and we learn from Jesus’ time in the temple that He took time to learn as much as He could about God and God’s Word when given the opportunity in the temple. He listened to the teachers first, and then He asked questions that taught them. We learn from Jesus’ later ministry that He did not ask questions to entrap or embarrass someone. He asked questions to help others learn, turn to God, and draw closer to God in prayer, thought, speech, and action. Jesus’ disciples were amazed because Jesus spent much time with His Heavenly Father alone at night. He spent much time talking to and about God. He taught God’s Word with authority. If we pray to our Heavenly Father and study His Word, we will also increase in wisdom and spiritual stature, please God, and bless others.