

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #04

Passage: Luke 2:41-52

Sermon Date: Oct 9, 2005

Introduction:

As we come in the gospel of Luke to the close of the first section – that which covers the birth and childhood period of John and Jesus – we get a curious glimpse into one (and only one) specific event in Jesus’ boyhood. In this event, we begin to see Jesus emerging as more than a “run-of-the-mill” carpenter’s apprentice. It’s a passage you’ve probably heard and read many times. But now as you come to it with an inductive-study mindset, be ready to look at it afresh, and find its treasures of insight and inspired words that will help you grow closer to Jesus.

This study will challenge you, more than you may be used to or comfortable with, to ask some of your own questions and then try to answer them. This is an important skill toward the goal of growing in our ability to interact richly with our Lord through his Word.

Prayer: As always, take time to pray before you begin this study. Is there a question or a concern that’s been on your heart a lot lately? If so, talk to God about it, asking him to use this study time to help you grow in that area.

Bible Study:

1. Read through Luke 2:41-52, then use the chart on the next page to record your observations as you go back through it verse by verse.

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Scripture	Your Observations & Notes
<p>⁴¹Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. ⁴³After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.</p> <p>⁴⁷Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."</p> <p>⁴⁹"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he was saying to them.</p> <p>⁵¹Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.</p>	

Observing by Asking Questions

We know very little about Jesus' childhood. These twelve verses are all we have. Our first exposure to Jesus speaking is him "sitting among the teachers, listening and asking questions" (Luke 2:46). Next, Jesus' first recorded words come in the form of two questions (2:49). Over a span of thirty years of Jesus' life the only quotes we get are two questions! Of course, if you've been exposed to the scriptures that describe the rest of Jesus' life, you know that Jesus often asked questions. Recall his probing question to Peter: "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" (Mt 16:15) We are told to follow Jesus' example, so let's take that literally and work on our own ability to ask questions as we study this passage. Indeed, asking questions is a key skill in learning as well as in building relationships.

2. Imagine you are sitting down with Jesus over a cup of coffee and discussing this boyhood scene from his life (Luke 2:41-52). What would you like to ask him about? Use the space below to write down as many questions as you can about this passage.

Sample: Why did Luke tell us this story?

What was this "Feast of the Passover" all about?

3. Where do you typically go for answers to bible-related questions?

Here are some steps to try (in the sequence listed):

- i. **Pray**
Isn't it the natural thing to do to first ask the one who absolutely knows the answer? He'll guide you toward the truth every time.
- ii. **Cross Reference**
Scripture interprets scripture, so we can look to other biblical passages to help us answer our questions.
- iii. **Collaborate** – Let others help you find answers:
Your small group, family members, or other Christian peers.
Your pastors & elders.
Study bibles, systematic theologies, bible commentaries, etc.
Bible Answer Man (1-888-275-4265 www.equip.org/bam/)
Other sources you have come to trust.
- iv. **Pray**
Whatever we've heard or learned, check back with God about it, regarding both the accuracy of our interpretations as well as how He would have us apply what we've learned.

4. Now it's time to work on answering your questions. Select a few of the questions that you came up with that you find most interesting or important, and write one question in the top row of each of the Q&A boxes on the next two pages. Here's a sample:

Question:
Why did Luke tell us this one story about Jesus' boyhood?

Answers/Notes/Ideas:
Luke told us his purpose for this gospel in Luke 1:4, "that we might know the certainty of what we've been taught", so this story probably does that somehow. It does show that Jesus at a young age had "amazing" wisdom and understanding despite his humble circumstances.

Application:
I, too, can sit with this same Jesus and be blessed by his wisdom and understanding. I need to ask him questions more, and listen to his answers ... and his questions.

[Start with a few easy questions you're comfortable trying to answer]

Question: *(Write one of your questions from page 3 here)*

Answers/Notes/Ideas: *(Try some of the steps listed on page 4)*

Application: *(How does what I've learned here apply to my life?)*

Question: *(Write one of your questions from page 3 here)*

Answers/Notes/Ideas:

Application:

[Now try a few of the harder questions you asked on page 3.]

Question: *(Write one of your questions from page 3 here)*

Answers/Notes/Ideas:

Application: *How should I apply what I've learned here?*

Note that even if you can't answer these questions to your satisfaction, you can still make application. (e.g. I don't know ____, therefore I should be ____.)

Question: *(Write one of your questions from page 3 here)*

Answers/Notes/Ideas:

Application: *How should I apply what I've learned here?*

Work Together

Meet with your small group bible study team (or another Christian if you're not in such a group). Share your questions with one another and work together to find additional answers & perspectives. Use this space to record other peoples' questions, their answers to your questions, etc.

Now Let Jesus Ask You Some Questions:

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52) And he says to us (through Paul) ... “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” (1 Timothy 4:16)

5. Go back to that scene described in question 2 where you are sitting down with Jesus over coffee. What questions do you think he might ask you in order to train you? ... to challenge you? ... to bless you?

Write down one or a few of those questions:

How would you answer him?