

Jesus in the Temple

During Advent the church celebrates the incarnation - Jesus coming to earth to become one of us. During Advent this year we are going to consider four events in the life of Jesus between His infancy and His public ministry. These events each reveal something significant about Jesus: His identity, His calling, His priorities and His example. These events educate us on how we should relate to Him and what we should expect from Him. Today's passage describes Jesus' experience at the temple in Jerusalem when He was twelve years old. This incident points to some very specific ways that we can and should relate to Jesus.

Opening Discussion: What two or three words would your parents have used to describe you when you were 12?

Read Luke 2:39-52

1. What does this episode from Jesus' childhood reveal about Him?
2. What do the summary statements about Jesus in verses 40 and 52 tell us about him?
3. What do you think Jesus meant by his response to his parents (v. 49)?
4. How does this passage help confirm that Jesus was fully human?

Steve said:

If I could urge one thing upon you this Advent season, I'd urge you to consider how you relate to Jesus. Specifically, I would urge you to relate to Jesus as One who fully understands your life, as One who can help you negotiate the temptations you face.

5. How is it helpful to you to know that Jesus, in a fully human experience, knows experientially what we go through when we are tempted?

6. How can Jesus come to our aid when we are tempted?

Steve said:

Jesus' highest devotion was to His heavenly Father. Even at age twelve Jesus **had** to be in His Father's house. During His public ministry Jesus made explicit what was becoming increasingly clear during His childhood: Jesus' devotion to His heavenly Father trumped every other relationship in His life.

7. Would you say that your relationship to God trumps every other relationship in your life? Where do you tend to struggle with this?

8. What kinds of things might help you grow in making God the One who has your highest devotion?