

Bible Study Guide

Based on the sermon summary and transcript provided, here is a Bible study discussion guide.

Bible Reading

Luke 2:41-52 (ESV)

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 the 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.

1 Samuel 2:26 (ESV)

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and also with man.

1 Samuel 3:19 (ESV)

And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

Observation questions

1. According to the passage, what was the family's annual custom and what does this reveal about their spiritual rhythms? [\[08:42\]](#)
2. What was Jesus doing when his parents found him in the temple, and what was the reaction of the people listening to him? [\[20:12\]](#)
3. What was Jesus' first recorded question to his parents, and what was his explanation for staying behind? [\[27:48\]](#)

4. How does the text describe Jesus' life after returning to Nazareth with his parents? [\[40:20\]](#)

Interpretation questions

1. Jesus' statement, "I must be in my Father's house," uses a specific word for "must." What does this word imply about the nature of his calling and identity, even at a young age? [\[28:40\]](#)
 2. Mary and Joseph were described as being "frantic" and in "great distress." Why do you think they had such a strong emotional reaction even though they were devout people engaged in a religious practice? [\[12:06\]](#)
 3. The narrative highlights that Jesus was "submissive" to his parents for many years after this event. How does this period of hiddenness and submission contrast with our culture's view of preparation for a significant calling? [\[42:45\]](#)
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4. The sermon mentioned that "the anxious paralysis of infinite choice finds its cure in the liberating constraint of divine calling." How does knowing your ultimate purpose provide clarity amidst many life options? [\[36:18\]](#)

Application questions

1. The purpose for every believer is to know God, make Him known, and glorify Him. [\[01:47\]](#) In what specific, ordinary area of your life (work, family, community) do you find it most challenging to live for this purpose rather than for personal ambition or recognition?
 2. Calling is said to grow through gifts, opportunities, desires, and incremental obedience rather than a single moment of revelation. [\[03:03\]](#) What is one small, faithful step of obedience you can take this week that aligns with the gifts and opportunities God has already given you?
 3. It is possible to be engaged in religious activity and yet lose track of Jesus. [\[12:06\]](#) What are the signs in your own life that you might be going through the motions spiritually? What would it look like to "turn around and get back to Him" this week?
 4. Most formative work happens unseen, and prolonged ordinary labor forms character. [\[04:51\]](#) How can you shift your perspective to see your current season of "hiddenness"—whether at home, work, or church—not as waiting for something better, but as an essential part of God's training process?
 5. Identity precedes vocation: knowing you are a child of God comes before any public role. [\[34:12\]](#) When a decision causes anxiety or a season of life feels confusing, how can reminding yourself "whose you are" change your perspective and provide courage?
 6. Submission to ordinary structures and seasons of hiddenness serve as the crucible for later responsibility. [\[54:58\]](#) Is there an area where you are resisting submission (e.g., to a boss, a family commitment, a church role) because it feels beneath your calling? How might embracing this constraint be part of God's preparation for you?
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7. Spiritual growth requires intentional rhythms like being in the Word and prayer. [\[53:42\]](#) Which of these spiritual disciplines feels most like a "must" for you right now, and what is one practical way you can prioritize it in your daily or weekly routine?