

*Day 1**April 30*

Pray / Pray for the children of Five Oaks to continue to follow in our faith.

Jesus was just a boy once, too.

The Bible does not provide much information about Jesus' childhood, but Luke gives us a glimpse into one event which took place when Jesus was twelve years old. Jesus was free from sin, but just like every other boy, he still had to grow physically and learn about every part of life, including obedience, faith, relationships, and the Bible. Jesus was fully human, just like we are, and a big part of being human is the learning process.

Joseph and Mary obeyed God's word in parenting Jesus, and because of this, Jesus grew physically, spiritually and mentally. Sometimes we don't give children, and especially teenagers, enough credit in their faith and walk with Jesus. We often put them on the back burner until they're old enough to really serve God, but our kids need God now, too. Be a role model, be a teacher, share your faith with our kids.



Read / Luke 2:40-44



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

There comes a time in every child's life when they must choose to make the faith of their parents their own. Reflect on the time when you made the decision that you did or did not want to continue following the faith of your family. How does this decision effect your faith today?

Joseph and Mary were careful to observe the Torah, even when it involved an arduous journey to Jerusalem. Did you grow up in a home that followed religious instruction? How does your experience influence how you feel about your responsibility to your family and loved ones?

Many kids in our communities, and sometimes even in our extend families have never heard the story of Jesus. Who can you reach out to and share a Bible story with? Have you considered volunteering with Kids Hope?

*Day 2**May 1**Pray / Pray for the lost children of the world.*

Amber Alert! Jesus is missing!

Have you ever lost a child in Target, or have your children wandered out of the yard without telling anyone? It's happened to almost all of us at least once. Imagine if you were parenting the Son of God and lost him? Or even worse, a whole day goes by before you notice he's missing.

When Mary and Joseph find Jesus three days later, he is in the temple, eagerly learning and interacting with the leaders, amazing them with his wisdom and knowledge. Jesus, at the young age of twelve, understood who his true father was. God's Son had to grow up and live a life of character in a family just like any other child, his wisdom came as he grew. Jesus understood that before he could become a teacher, he needed to be taught.

*Read / Luke 2:41-47**Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

If you were Mary and Joseph, how would you have reacted when you found out that Jesus was missing? As a parent or mentor, reflect on the possibility that one day your child could choose to lose Jesus, and not follow him in faith. How do you react to this?

We all have busy schedules filled with the stresses of daily life, making it easy to lose focus on Jesus in our lives. It took Mary and Joseph a day to realize that Jesus wasn't with them. How long does it typically take you to realize that you have 'lost' Jesus?

Jesus needed to be taught, just as we need to continually be taught by Jesus. Are you reflecting on his Word every day? What changes can you make in your daily schedule to allow time to read and study the Bible daily?

*Day 3**May 2*

Pray / Ask how you can work for your Father this week.

Jesus knew who his real father was.

Jesus had been missing for several days, and Joseph and Mary were quite distraught when they found him. Even though he was sinless, Jesus was capable of unknowingly causing his parents distress, and there was a big misunderstanding. Jesus knew he was where he was supposed to be, working and learning for his true father, God. Mary and Joseph on the other hand were expecting Jesus to be with them, his earthly parents. They knew he was God's son, but they didn't understand the mission that would be involved. Jesus understood his purpose and task, and was willing to follow God's will, even if it upset his earthly parents. Like Jesus, we need to discover God's will for us and follow his direction, even if it means stepping out of our comfort zones or upsetting others.



Read / [Luke 2:48-50](#)



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Jesus was very often misunderstood. This can happen to us when we step out to do the will of God—some people are not going to understand. Has your hunger for God ever been misunderstood by your family? How do you maintain a balance between daily responsibilities and additional opportunities for serving God?

How is your involvement in our Father's work growing as you mature physically and spiritually? How can you be purposeful in God's work this week?

Just as Jesus, we are called to follow God's plan for us. Do you recognize what God is calling you to do? What is holding you back from giving your whole heart to God's work?

Day 4
May 3



Pray / Promise obedience to Jesus today.

Jesus was obedient.

Make no doubt about it, Jesus was perfectly obedient to his parents. After all, honoring your parents is the Fifth Commandment. The fact that Jesus was separated from his family was not an act of disobedience, but a misunderstanding. His response to Mary was not full of sarcasm or attitude, but one of simple inquiry. Jesus submitted to his parents even though they didn't understand what he was about as the son of God. He returned home to Nazareth with his family and remained an obedient son. The fact that he was obedient even when misunderstood reminds us that the authority God places over us is not dependent on our own feelings. In obedience to God's word, we must honor those whom God has placed in authority over us.



Read / Luke 2:51; Deuteronomy 5:16



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Jesus knew who he was, and even though he knew more than mom and dad, he submitted to them. Unfortunately, our children are not always as obedient as Jesus was. What are some struggles that you are having with children today? Spend some time in prayer praying for those children to follow Jesus; and asking God for guidance for you in mentoring and nurturing these kids.

We all struggle with authority at some points in our life. Are you struggling with someone now? How is this struggle effecting your spiritual relationship with God? Spend some time in prayer asking for help and guidance with this relationship.

What is one small change in your life that you can make today to become more obedient to Jesus?

Day 5
May 4



Pray / Give thanks for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The majority of Jesus' young life is all speculation, but from today's passages we know that Jesus grew and developed, physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially. He grew up "normal" just like all of us. His life prepared him step by step to implement the eternal mission he was given by his father - to die on the cross for our sins and rise again in victory.

If we have the courage to follow Jesus, we will find that like him, we will be misunderstood. Our identities in him will be challenged by those around us. If we follow his example, empowered by his grace, we too can remain obedient to God's calling in our lives.



Read / Luke 2:40; Luke 2:52



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Jesus grew in wisdom, taking the facts and knowing how to live rightly before God. Are you growing in your understanding of God and living a life that pleases Him? What steps are you taking in your faith journey to grow in his wisdom?

Jesus had many relationships in his life that helped him grow spiritually. Are you surrounded by people that are supportive and are helping you grow and mature spiritually? If you need more support, and are not in a small group, consider joining one. Spend a minute in prayer asking for continued spiritual growth within your relationships.

Jesus was sent here to teach us how to live our lives for God. Jesus suffered and died for our sins, so that we can have eternal life. Who can you share the Good News with this week? Spend some time in prayer committing your heart and your life to Jesus.

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