

Katalyst Church



A Revolution of Love

Christmas





The background is a deep space scene with a dark, star-filled sky. On the left, there's a nebula with green and yellowish hues. On the right, a larger, more vibrant nebula in shades of purple and magenta is visible. A bright white circle is centered in the image, serving as a backdrop for the logo.

amplify!
Waking up to the Wonder of God

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the Jewish custom.

After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day.

Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search.

After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When 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.”

“Why were you searching for me?” he asked.

“Didn’t you know I had to be about my Fathers business?”

But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

**And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature,
and in favour with God and man.**

Luke 2: 41-52

Drama filled Episode

The Panic of a lost Son

The Commotion amongst extended Family

The Frantic rush back to Jerusalem

The Amazement of Teachers

The Astonishment of Mary and Joseph

The Discovery of a divine Identity

The Humanity of God in Flesh

The Challenge of being our Trailblazer

**ABOUT
THE
BUSINESS** *Father's* LUKE 2:49



The Masters Apprentices

The scriptures are completely silent for an 18-year period (12-30)
Except for this short story that climaxes with the statement that Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Why did Luke include this passage? Jesus had to work at His own identity - Result is a model worth following that even at a young age he was devoted to His Fathers business.

Help us appreciate his humanity?

In a broad outline, but in one succinct sentence, Luke gives us the four major fields of man's activity/striving - mental, physical, spiritual, and social.

Wisdom - Mental

Stature - Physical

Favour with God - Spiritual

Favour with Man - Social

All are important. Each occupies an important place in a man's advancement toward maturity

GROWING IN
WISDOM

GROWING IN
STATURE

THE
REDEEMED
LIFE

GROWING IN FAVOR
WITH GOD

GROWING IN FAVOR
WITH MAN

Growing in Wisdom

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. Proverbs 3:13-18

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. James 3:17

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Proverbs 4:6-7



**“BEHOLD,
THE DAYS ARE COMING,”
SAYS THE LORD GOD,**

**“THAT I WILL SEND A
FAMINE
ON THE LAND,
NOT A FAMINE OF BREAD, NOR A THIRST FOR WATER,
BUT OF HEARING THE
WORDS OF THE LORD.”**

AMOS 8:11

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom. Colossians 3:16

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 1 Timothy 2:15

**We need men + woman who are consistently
immersed in the Word of God and growing in their
Knowledge of their Fathers ways and purposes**

There is no other way to grow

Growing in Stature

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favour with the LORD and with people. 1 Samuel 2:26

In part it relates to Physical growth - Transition adolescence/manhood

In part it relates to Character growth - Reputation for integrity

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God -this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Growing in Favour with God

Jesus grew spiritually. We know this because Luke includes this story to demonstrate that even in an adolescent mind, Jesus grasped the importance (with the emerging wisdom that he had) that positioning himself in the Temple was where he would grow.

We know that his priority was His Father's business.

We know Jesus did only what the Father instructed.

We see the pattern of Jesus practicing the principles of favour.

We see Jesus expressing the highest commitment to relationship with the Father

Doing the things that please the Father's Heart

Favour with Man

Respectful
Obedient
Compliant
Gracious
Selfless
Compassionate



PHILLIP HUGHES

1988-2014

REPUTATION - How easy is it for one character flaw to unravel our name: **The Challenge is to Grow in Maturity**

He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. 1 Timothy 3:7

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. **John: 15 1-8**

The premise of relationship and faith is GROWTH



My Fathers Business

Christmas/New Year is a great time to reassess priorities

Ensure our time is not wasted on things that don't count for eternity

But each one should build their life with great care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved - even though only as one escaping through the flames.

My Fathers Business

In the midst of the Passover celebration, the festive journey; in the midst of everyday life drama's – Jesus reminds us that nothing is more important than being about our Fathers business.

What has God called us to do to advance His Kingdom?

How well are we fulfilling that calling?

What is the ministry, the specific task or role, the part in His expansion plan for which God has put you on this Earth to fulfil?

We must not slip away (like Mary and Joseph did) from remembering that life's meaning will boil down to the investment we made in the Kingdom – Pursuing the Fathers business.