

Adonai, Yahweh, Jehovah, The One True God, The God of Israel, The Lord of Hosts, The King of Israel, The One and Only True God, The Righteous Word of God Almighty, The Sacrificial Lamb, The Lion of the

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of
the beginning and the ending, The First and the Last,
The Only Real, Living and Breathing God, He Who Is,
He Who Was, and He Who Will Be Forever, Abba
Father, Our Creator, Our God, Our Soul's Beloved, God

The Life and Times of Jesus Christ

Part 1

Christ in the Temple at 12 Years Old

Luke 2:41 - NTV

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival.

Luke 2:42

**When Jesus was twelve years old,
they attended the festival as usual.**

Luke 2:43

**After the celebration was over,
they started home to Nazareth, but
Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem.
His parents didn't miss him at first,
because they assumed he was**

Luke 2:44

among the other travelers.

But when he didn't show up
that evening, they started looking
for him among their relatives
and friends.

Luke 2:45

When they couldn't find him, they
went back to Jerusalem to search
for him there.

Luke 2:46

Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions.

Luke 2:47

All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Luke 2:48

His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere."

Luke 2:49

**“But why did you need to search?”
he asked. “Didn’t you know that
I must be in my Father’s house?”**

Luke 2:50

But they didn't understand
what he meant.

Luke 2:51

Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them.

And his mother stored all these things in her heart.

Luke 2:52

**Jesus grew in wisdom and in
stature and in favor with God
and all the people.**

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Principle #1

When you choose to pursue God first and to be about His Kingdom business second, there will be many times when you will not be where others believe you should be.

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Principle #2

All those who know God, love Him, and follow Him have two families: the biological one in which God has placed us and the spiritual one we have been born into through being rebirthed because of our faith and belief.

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Mary and Joseph felt the pain of Jesus' righteous priorities. Sometimes pain is a helpful reminder that our first priority is to serve God. Sometimes we may need to let a family member, friend, or church member go because they are passionately following and faithfully serving God.

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Principle #3

Prioritizing and balancing God, His Kingdom, family, work, and ministry (in that order) is never easy, but it must still be done faithfully every day.

When we pursue our relationship with God first in our lives, sometimes we have to make decisions that others (including our loved ones) won't understand, especially because God has called us to rearrange our priorities to focus on Him.

The tensions that exist between spending time with our family, our work commitments, and having time available for ministry can lead many to misunderstand why we do what we do. This comes with the territory of having a genuine, intimate, and powerful walk with God.

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Principle #4

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Principle #5

Jesus' pursuit of intimacy with the Father (even at the age of 12) is not a product of his unique connection with God. It is simply the perfect example of how God wants all of us to prioritize our lives.

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Principle #6

At 12 years old Jesus sat with the rabbis; maybe our kids should too. We should not underestimate what our tweens and teens are capable of spiritually, so long as they are invested in and encouraged consistently.

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Principle #7

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