

"The Day After..."
Luke 2:41-52

1. After Jesus was presented at the temple (at 41 days old), the family (in Luke 2:39) returns to their home in Nazareth of Galilee, about 65 miles north of Jerusalem. This is where Jesus grew up and where the preparation for his ministry took place. And by the time Jesus was a "tween" (12 years old), He understood His mission and His purpose on earth.

How do you come to know your purpose? How does your purpose guide your actions?
2. As was their custom, Mary and Joseph went yearly to Jerusalem to observe the Feast of the Passover (an 8-day festival). On the return home, Jesus' parents didn't realize that his son was not with them until they had gone some distance. They were likely travelling in a caravan with other families so it may have been natural to assume that the 12-year-old boy was with some other families during the commute home. So the parents take a 2nd day to get back to Jerusalem and then they find him on the following day. Read in Luke 2:46-48 about what happens when Joseph and Mary locate Jesus. What was their response?
3. Jesus' parents were astonished (a word that means: "struck out of their senses") when they find Him interacting with the teachers of the law and listening and asking intelligent questions. His parents weren't the only ones with dropped jaws...those standing around listening to this adolescent are in amazement of His spiritual understanding. Read Luke 4:32; 4:36; 5:9; 8:25. For what reasons were people were so amazed when they heard Jesus and saw His works?
4. In response to Mary's question about why He had treated them in this manner, Jesus drew a sharp distinction between his parents and His true Father in Heaven. His statement confirms that Jesus knew His mission and His parents should have known as well. As Luke 2 comes to a close, a veil is drawn over the life of Jesus until the beginning of His public ministry 18 years later. What do you think Jesus was up to during that time period? How do you think He was being prepared to do the work of the Father?
5. Jesus' childhood was likely rather normal and mundane before he is found teaching in the temple. After that, Jesus then returns home for another 18 years of the mundane before beginning his public ministry. As we faithfully serve the Lord in our own lives, are we always seeking the spiritual mountaintop or do we find value in the mundane?