

Discussion Questions for the week of December 6th

BIG IDEA:

Throughout November we talked about the Reformation that happened 500 years ago. Our final note on the reformation was- "what do each of us need to nail to the door so that people will see Jesus?" ... Often we can think up big changes or new ideas or even vision for what something could be.

ICE BREAKER

What is a coming of age tradition your family has? (For example, "when each kid turns 13 they travel one place with dad.")

DISCUSSION:

1. Let's read Luke 2:39-52 aloud. What is a summary of what is going on in Jesus' life at this time? (Where is He, who is He with, what are they doing?)
2. We want everyone to notice something together. If you can zoom out of this passage and look at chapter 2 as a whole. (Have each kid look at the headings and skim some verses too.) What all is going on in chapter 2?
3. While we're still in "zoomed out mode" and everyone still has their bibles open, let's turn really fast and look at Chapter 3. Who can find the age Jesus is when He is mentioned in chapter 3? (Hint:verse 23)
4. How old is Jesus when we start reading about him in Chapter 2? So, in roughly how many verses do we cover his childhood and teen years?
5. Look back at verse 40&52 what do both of these verses and their phrasing have in common. (Maybe even list out the words to get across the point, if needed.) What message are both these verses saying?
Jesus grew up. These short verses represent a large chunk of time. They take us from baby Jesus at the temple with His parents to adolescent Jesus at the temple with/without his parents to then 30 year old Jesus. Nothing else is mentioned in between events.
6. Have someone read aloud verse 41&42 again. What do we know to be true about Jesus, his family, and the context in this account? Give us a who, what, when, where, why?

A comment from John Piper: "The fact that this incident happened when Jesus was 12 is probably significant. The 12th year was the final year of preparation for a lad before he entered full participation in the religious life of the synagogue. Up until that time his parents, especially his father, were teaching him the commandments of the law, but at the end of the 12th year the child goes through a ceremony by which he formally takes on the yoke of the law and becomes a *bar mitzvah* "son of the commandment." This was the year Jesus chose to stay behind in the temple. Perhaps, at this crucial turning point in every Jewish boy's life, Jesus wanted to demonstrate subtly for those who had eyes to see that he would be more than an ordinary Jewish *bar mitzvah*; his insight into the commandment was more profound than ordinary men, and his relation to God was unique. Both of these will be evident in a moment."

Culturally, the Jews at this time were essentially saying a kid has to be "old enough" before they can be a part of their religion. This is another example of a custom or 'way of doing things' that Jesus came to abolish. A notion that someone has to be any kind of enough (old enough, clean enough, tried hard enough...) Jesus was not going to stand for, how do you see Him take on this notion?

7. Read again verses 43-46. What now has happened with Jesus and with his relatives. John Piper gave his 2cents above, what's yours? Why would Jesus stay behind? How can you make sense of Him worrying his parents and stay consistent to what you believe to be true about His character?
8. Read verse 47. What is the example Jesus has set for us to imitate here? Is it to impress people? (Surely Jesus is not in the habit of impressing just to seem smart or better than?)
9. Read verses 48-52. How did Jesus not sin in His choices or His response? What would that look like in our lives today? What would be the Holy portion or Holy response that would blow your parents away?
10. What example does Jesus set for us here? How would a life ordered with the priorities He had look different from your life now?
11. Going back to verse 52. Who has been on a Dallas Experience trip? (that means you've made a gospel bracelet). Tell us what the green bead is for? (growing in Christ). How do we grow in Christ? What about wisdom? Where does that come from?
12. What are you waiting for? What is holding you back from growing in Christ? When is the "old enough" age for you?

APPLICATION:

13. Read 1 Timothy 4:8-13, we use verse 12 a lot. Let's pray tonight that it falls afresh.

14. What would our city/community/wake look like if it were "student take over" every day? If we didn't get insecure about being young, or less experienced, or insert _____ but instead we lived life believing that God has made us enough and that He is enough for us?