

The Young Jesus: An Ancient Video Clip

January 5, 2025 ▪ Brad Manley

The story of the young Jesus is _____.

The story of the young Jesus is _____.

The story of the young Jesus is _____.

Luke 2:39-52

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."

⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What's one memorable experience from your childhood that significantly shaped you?

Read & Discuss Luke 2:39-52.

1. As you look over these verses, what do you learn about Jesus' early years? What stands out to you about Jesus' development and growth?
2. In addition to keeping the requirements of the Law in regard to Jesus' birth (2:21-24; 27; 39), Mary and Joseph also went to Jerusalem every year at Passover (v. 41). What does this tell you about the spiritual character of Jesus' parents? If your own parents were Christians, how did their spiritual practices impact you as you were growing up?
3. From Luke's description of Jesus' growth and relationships in verses 40 and 52, what does Luke seem to want us to know about Jesus? Given that this passage is the only account we have of Jesus' childhood in all of the Gospels, why might Luke have told us of this one particular event? When you think about all the Gospel accounts, what aspect of Jesus' life is consistently emphasized?
4. What details in this passage confirm the humanity of Jesus? How does knowing Jesus was fully human help you in your own relationship to God? Why is the true and full humanity of Jesus essential to His mission?
5. After discovering that Jesus was not with their group (v. 44), Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple among the Jewish teachers (v. 46), where He was amazing observers with His understanding and answers (v. 47). What does this tell us about the development of the mind and heart of Jesus? What does it suggest about Jesus that He was also found "listening" to these teachers (v. 46)?
6. Although Mary and Joseph seem surprised at finding Jesus in the Temple (v. 48), why do you think Jesus thought they should have expected Him to be there (v. 49)? List some of the truths about Jesus that His parents had earlier been told by angels and others. Knowing these things, what might have been some of the challenges Mary and Joseph would have faced in parenting Jesus?

Apply: Verse 52 says, "Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." Assuming this is something we should also aspire to, how should we go about achieving this ourselves? What's one specific action you feel inspired or challenged to take this week to pursue this goal?

Pray: Pray that we would have hearts to eagerly and faithfully pursue growth and maturity in Christ—and to joyfully encourage this in the next generation as well!