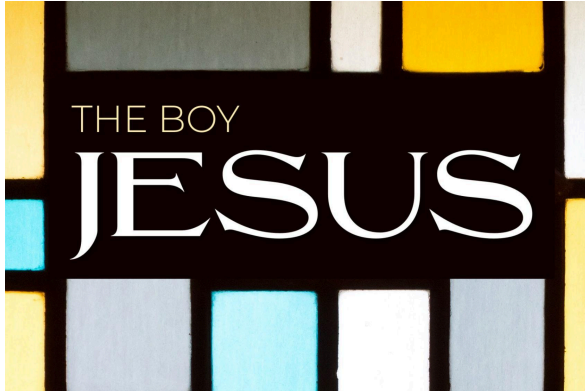


# THEY BOY JESUS

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## Luke 2:41-51

41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search 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 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' 49 He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' 50 But they did not

understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

## REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. Reflect on a time in your life when you lost track of your child, parent, or someone important. What happened?
3. Stories circulated about Emperor Caesar Augustus who, at the age of 12, demonstrated his exceptional education and leadership prowess by providing a funeral oration for his grandmother. How might this story prepare us for the "contrasting kingship" of Jesus?
4. Jesus answers his anxious parents' question in an odd way, literally: "it is necessary for me to be *in the* my Father's house." The Greek is ambiguous here and could mean: "in my Father's house" or "with my Father's people" or "to be about the things of my Father." Given what will unfold in the life and ministry of Jesus as an adult, what do you think he might have been hinting at?
5. Has there been a moment in your life when you were surprised to

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“find Jesus” somewhere you didn’t expect?

6. Jesus demonstrates wisdom at an early age. He was listening carefully, asking good questions, and providing impressive answers. Which of these—listening, questioning, offering your perspective—come easy for you? Which ones are a challenge? What has helped you learn more effectively or converse more wisely?
7. Jesus provides an example of child/adolescent leadership. He is given space and engaged with respect. How can we—as families, as a church, or as a society—create meaningful and empowering spaces for children/adolescents to not only learn but also lead and teach?