

Sermon Notes

Luke 2:40-52 (NLT) | Written by Rev. Brett Hurst

This fascinating passage highlights Jesus’ spiritual growth and early awareness of His divine identity. Verse 40 emphasizes the boy’s development—physically strong, spiritually wise, and favored by God—showing that His humanity was genuine and absolute. And yet, the temple scene at age twelve reveals Jesus’ extraordinary relationship with the Father. While His parents assume He belongs with them, Jesus prioritizes His Father’s business, signaling His mission and identity as God’s Son. Their inability to comprehend what is happening reminds us that God’s purposes often surpass human expectations. Yet, Jesus models humility by returning to Nazareth and living in obedience, continuing to grow in wisdom and favor. This balance of divine calling and submission offers a profound example of spiritual maturity.

1. What does Luke emphasize by repeating that Jesus “grew” and “became strong” and “increased in wisdom”?
2. Read Luke 2:41-42. Why do you think Luke highlights that Jesus’ family went to Jerusalem every year? What does this tell us about the religious life of Jesus’ household?
3. How was it possible for Mary and Joseph not to notice Jesus missing for a full day? What characteristics about ancient travel might be revealed here?
4. What do the various emotional expressions of Mary and Joseph in this story demonstrate about their own humanity? Do you feel empathy with their lack of understanding in this situation? Why or why not?
5. We know from Jesus’ later ministry how well-versed Jesus was in the Hebrew Scriptures, as well as His devotion to and remarkable understanding of them. Based on this story, are you impressed with the role of questions involved in the overall process of a person’s spiritual development?
6. Read Luke 2:49. What do you think Jesus means by the phrase “My Father’s house” (or “about My Father’s business”)? What is He trying to say?
7. Why do you think Mary and Joseph “did not understand” Jesus’ words? What does this moment teach us about the mystery of God’s calling—even among faithful families?
8. Why is it critical that Jesus returns to Nazareth and that He remains “obedient” to His parents?
9. What do you think it means when it says that Jesus grew in “favor with God and people”? How might that example shape our own spiritual formation?

Births and Deaths

Janet Rinehart passed away Dec 20.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Financial Update

Update publication resumes after Session votes on the new budget in January.



Church in the City: Save the Date!

Sat & Sun, Feb 21-22, 2026

Join your MDPC family for this annual all-church day of service, when MDPC leaves the pews to serve some of our local outreach partners. Registration opens in January.

Married Life Prep

Sat, Jan 3 & 10 | 9am-1pm | MDPC

We want to help engaged and young married couples experience a rich fullness in marriage! This free series is open to dating couples, engaged couples, newlyweds, and young marrieds. Learn more and register: mlp.mdpc.org

Mahjong Mondays

Mon, Jan 12-Feb 23 | 1-3pm

Learn the game through complimentary beginner lessons and enjoy a relaxed, welcoming community. Soon you’ll be talking Bam, Dot, and Crack like a pro—promise it’s not a secret code. Sign up: women.mdpc.org

Transforming Grief

Wednesdays, Jan 21-Mar 11 | 4:30-6pm

Have you been grieving the loss of a loved one? If so, you are not alone. Come join others in an 8-week program guided by trained facilitators. Group size limited to 10. Register: grief.mdpc.org

Women Together

Thu, Jan 22 | 6:30-8pm

All women from the Fuente, Brazilian, and English-speaking congregations are invited to a night of good food, conversation, and prayer! Bring your

favorite appetizer or dessert to share. Free childcare available. Register: together.mdpc.org

Summer Internship with MDPC Kids

Scan the QR code or email Keri Mosk at kmosk@mdpc.org for details about this meaningful, fun-filled opportunity!

Women’s Retreat

Fri-Sun, Feb 6-8 | Iron Horse Ranch

Let’s get away! Enjoy fellowship and relaxation in a beautiful country setting. There will be downtime, small groups, and a time of teaching. Enjoy the beauty this venue has to offer and leave feeling pampered! Register: getaway.mdpc.org

Dad Camp

Sat-Sun, Feb 28-Mar 1 | MDPC

An overnight campout with food, fun, and activities! Bring your tent(s), sleeping bags, Bibles, and kids. Learn more and sign up: men.mdpc.org

On Mission in Greece

May 15-23, 2026

Help care for missionary kids during The Antioch Partners retreat. Learn more: greece.mdpc.org

MDPC Young Adults at SXSW

Mar 12-16, 2026 • Austin, TX


Be part of a passionate team of young adults from around the globe bringing Jesus’ love to South by Southwest Festival, where 300,000+ people gather for music, art, and innovation—and where countless hearts are open to hope. In partnership with Steiger. Details: yaevents.mdpc.org



Online Giving give.mdpc.org



All Events events.mdpc.org



Tuesdays, Feb 3-17 | 7-8am

When life feels blurry, God’s Word brings the lens into focus—clarity isn’t just possible, it’s promised. Men, let’s challenge ourselves to grow deeper in understanding so that things become more crystal clear!

Learn more & register: ML.mdpc.org

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Clay Brown
Worship Songs	All Creatures of Our God and King Jesus Paid It All	
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Amy Delgado
Worship Song	In Christ Alone	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	The Boy Jesus at the Temple Luke 2:40-52 (NLT)	Brett Hurst
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	Hope Has a Name	
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SENDING

*Benediction		Brett Hurst
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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

*Call to Worship		Michael Middleton
Worship Songs	Freedom in this House Who Else	
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Christyn Knoop
Worship Songs	In Christ Alone Good Plans	

HEARING THE WORD

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RESPONDING

Song of Response	Hope Has a Name	
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SENDING

*Benediction		Brett Hurst
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Musicians in these services: Asher Pudlo, drums | Chris Parrott, guitar | Uvaldo Callejas, bass
Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

*Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	Gesù Bambino	Pietro Yon (1886-1943)
Call to Worship		Beth Case
Choral Introit	Epiphany Alleluias	John Weaver (1937-2021)
*Hymn of Praise	As with Gladness Men of Old	Vs. 1, 3, 4 #63 Dix
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Amy Delgado
*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed		
*Congregational Response	My Faith Looks Up to Thee	Vs. 1 #383 OLIVET
Anthem	Creator of the Stars of Night	Heather Sorenson (b. 1966)
Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		Beth Case

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	The Work of Christmas	Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
Message	The Boy Jesus at the Temple Luke 2:40-52 (NLT)	Brett Hurst

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	Tell Me the Stories of Jesus (from The Methodist Hymnal)	Vs. 1, 3 #277 STORIES OF JESUS
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SENDING

*Benediction		Brett Hurst
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Postlude	We Three Kings	John David Peterson (b. 1950)
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Musicians: Su-Jin Cho, Priscilla Salisbury, Kelli Estes, Megan Berti, Riley Vagis,
Christine Oakes, Jason Amos, Chris Childress, Esteban Cordero, Antoine Griggs,
Chris Love, Joseph Leveston, choral ensemble | Kathryn White, organist/pianist

You're Invited to

ALL-CHURCH LUNCH

Sun, Jan 4 | 11am-1pm
Fellowship Hall

Join your church family for lunch on the first Sunday of each month!

Pricing and menu: ACL.mdpc.org

CLIMBING HIGHER TOGETHER
BECAUSE CONNECTING TO GOD IS A JOURNEY

Sat, Jan 17 8:15am-11am
MDPC | Fellowship Hall

Dads, come together to learn from one another—veteran dads sharing their wisdom, younger dads finding encouragement, and everyone connecting over the real, faith-filled journey of fatherhood.

Would you like to get in touch with one of our Pastors? Feel free to reach out!
Visit staff.mdpc.org for contact information and ministry areas.