

SERMON TITLE: ESSENTIALS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

TEXT: LUKE 2:41-52

INTRODUCTION.

At this very moment, if your faith is in Christ alone, God is at work shaping you into the image of his Son (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18). One day, in God's presence, you will be fully like him (1 John 3:2). Until that day of perfection, your growth in Christ-likeness won't happen accidentally. It takes intentionality.

DISCUSSION.

What person has been your greatest role model, and why?

EXAMINATION.

Vv.41-42 What was the significance of this Feast?

Why would Jesus go with them at age 12?

Vv.43-45 Why might Jesus stay behind, and how would this not be an act of disobedience?

Vv.46-47 Why would it take three days to find him?

How is it meaningful that Jesus listened and asked questions of the teachers?

Vv.48-50 How do you interpret Jesus' answer to his parents?

Why wouldn't they understand?

Vv.51-52 What is significant about Jesus' submission to his parents?

How would you define Jesus' increasing in favor with God and man?

APPLICATION.

- Are there any parenting tips you can discern from Mary and Joseph?
- What character traits in Jesus are revealed in this passage?
- Which of those traits do you most want to imitate and improve in your own life?

- Has your hunger for God ever been misunderstood by your family or friends? Why?
- How is it possible to balance serving/worshiping God with all the responsibilities/demands of everyday life?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?