

Luke 2:41-52

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Ephesians 6:1-3

MEMORY VERSE

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" — which is the first commandment with a promise — "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3

It had to be difficult to be the parents of the Son of God. Knowing that He was special, yet not being able to fully comprehend all the He would be. Read Luke 2:41-52. This passage of Scripture points out that Jesus had possession of divinely inspired knowledge beyond his years. Yet His obedience to His heavenly Father required that He submit to His earthly parents. According to Scripture, He did, for He was ultimately without sin.

The challenge for Mary and Joseph, like all parents, was to allow their teenager to discover and follow the will of God for His life. Parents are to have that hands-on/hands-off approach, assisting and guiding

where appropriate, teaching their teen to be less dependent on them, and more dependent on God.

With a consistent spiritual model provided by you, and with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, your teenager will grow into the person God has designed them to be. As they grow, your role is to encourage spiritual independence while at the same time providing an environment where they are encouraged and expected to obey and honor you.

Consider ways you might foster spiritual independence. How can you help your teenager "own" his or her faith?

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIME

Connect . . .

Obedience. Not a fun subject to talk about, right? As a family, recall some times where the children in the family obeyed the parents. Talk about the results of obedience.

Read: In today's devotional we will discover how Jesus honored His parents' authority and fulfilled God's purpose for His life.

Explore . . .

Have someone read Luke 2:41-52. **Read:** As a boy, Jesus was full of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of God. Our goal should be to have the same passion, seeking to grow in the same knowledge and wisdom of God. We should obey God's commands as His beloved children.

Read Ephesians 6:1-3. **Read:** Children are to remember the guidance of their parents; they should honor them. In doing so, they will find the promise of God to be true.

Transform . . .

Discuss: For the teenagers: How does honoring your parents help you grow in your relationship with God? For parents: What is an area of growth God is currently guiding you in?

Pray together that God will give you wisdom and understanding (James 1:5). Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to submit to one another; to love one another; to honor, cherish, and know one another as individuals and as family.