

October 12, 2025



Week 6 – TWELVE YEAR OLD JESUS in the TEMPLE (*Lk. 2:20-52, pp. 43-49*)

We know very little about the life of Christ between the visit of the wise men and the beginning of His earthly ministry. The narrative from this week's devotion gives us one brief snapshot of his growth in "wisdom, stature, and favor with God."

What important rite of passage occurs for Jewish boys at age twelve?

What does "bar mitzvah" (בֵּר מִצְוָה) mean? _____

What is the significance of Jesus becoming a son of the covenant?

The beginning and ending of this reading note that Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with God. **Why is it important for you that Jesus grew from conception to adulthood on his journey to the cross?**

"Jesus passes through every stage of human development in order to represent us at every stage of human development in order to be able to save us at any stage of human development." (**On the Line Podcast, Interview with Rev. Dr. John Bombaro, St James Lutheran Church, Lafayette, Indiana**)

In Philippians 2:7, we read that Christ *"emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."*

In what surprising ways is this self-emptying evident in Jesus' growth from childhood to manhood? _____

What faithful practices contributed to the growth of Jesus in wisdom, stature, and favor with God? _____

How is Jesus growth an example for us? _____

"Some twenty years later, [Jesus] likely debated and corrected some of the very same teachers, whom he met and talked with in the temple." (CFM, p46)

How does the growth of Jesus' wisdom contrast with the growth of our wisdom? _____

To what truth does this testify? _____

The Word of God alone should be and remain the only standard and rule of doctrine, to which the writings of no man should be regarded as equal, but to which everything should be subjected. (Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Rule and Norm, 9)

How did Jesus embody this doctrine in his earthly ministry?

How does the embodied Word make us subject to Himself today?

For Next Time:

Week 7 – JOHN THE BAPTIST (Matthew 3, pp. 51-57)