

## Wednesday

Read **Luke 2:48** *Joseph and Mary find Jesus*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why were Mary and Joseph surprised to find Jesus in the temple?*
2. *Even in their anxiety, Mary and Joseph modeled caring behavior for their son. What lessons did they give to Jesus that day?*

**Prayer Focus** Mary and Joseph were not perfect, we know. But your plan, God, was to save us, and to show us that you will perfect us in your time. Help us look again to the true example of life in community, your Son, Jesus.

## Thursday 4

Read **Luke 2:49-50** *Jesus explains why he stayed*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Were you ever lost as a child? What was your reaction when you were found?*
2. *What did Jesus' parents not understand? Do you think anything would have prevented them from searching for him?*

**Prayer Focus** Thank you for the blessing of family—the ones we are born into and the other, larger one of all your children, God. Help us to remember and reach out to all those who feel left out or lost or like outsiders.

## Friday

Read **Luke 2:51-52** *Jesus grows up*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did Mary treasure all these strange things about her son? Do you think she longed for a “normal” family?*
2. *How has your faith increased in recent years? What's next in your journey?*

**Prayer Focus** God of wisdom and grace, find us when we are lost. Help us understand our need for family, our need to let go of our striving. We commit to living as children who trust and follow our Creating Parent.

## What Does Perfect Mean?

**Pastor's message:** Luke 2:41-52. *Human relations.*

**Message Notes:**

## Small Group Format



### Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Share any spiritual New Year's resolutions you have made for 2022.*

### Opening Prayer

### Song (optional)

### Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Luke 2:41-52**

- Discuss observations about the text
  - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
  - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

*Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)*

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

### Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

### Pray for each other

### Refreshments (optional)

## WHAT DOES PERFECT MEAN?

January 16/2022

### Monday

Read **Luke 2:41-45** *Jesus' family in Jerusalem*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Consider all the emotions that Mary and Joseph experienced when they found Jesus missing. How would you react in their situation?*
2. *Why didn't Jesus tell anyone that he was staying?*

**Prayer Focus** God, you put Mary and Joseph in charge of bringing up this exceptional child. They were good, faithful parents who helped teach Jesus how to be the both human boy and holy Savior. Bless all parents struggling to be the best they can be for the children in their care.

### Tuesday

Read **Luke 2:46-47** *Jesus with the elders*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why would the teachers bother to talk to a boy and include him in their discussion? Why not send him back to his family?*
2. *What do you think Jesus asked the teachers?*

**Prayer Focus** Twelve isn't an easy time for anyone, Jesus. Yet you chose to follow your heart and mind, in God's name. You listened and you learned and you reveled in the chance to spend deep time in your Father's house. Help us to do the same.

