

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup> Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup> And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup> but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup> and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup> And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup> And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

- Luke 2:39-51 (English Standard Version)

## Reflection

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

- Luke 15:1-7 (English Standard Version)

It's often noted that Jesus asked far more questions than he answered in the Gospels. The eternal Word of God—heaven's great answer—put 290 different questions to his hearers. When he was asked questions of his own he responded, as often as not, with another question. While many of us have our "silver bullet" answers on a hair trigger, Jesus didn't handle his encounters this way. He delved into his questioners' backgrounds, desires, motivations, and assumptions. The one who "knew all people" never stopped inquiring about them. How can we be any less inquisitive when we really don't know our hearers or where they're coming from?

- Glen Scrivener, *Two Things You Need to Know to Reach the Lost*

# Sermon Outline

**The Boy Jesus Lost and Found** *Remembering His Promise of Mercy*  
Luke 2:39-51 Matt Esswein

**The first words of Jesus recorded in Luke are questions.  
How can we learn from the questions Jesus asks?**

### Setting the Scene (Luke 2:39-42)

- Faithfulness of Mary & Joseph (Luke 2:39, 41-42)
- Growth of the boy Jesus (Luke 2:40, 42)
- In Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover (Luke 2:41-42)

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### Searching for Jesus (Luke 2:43-46)

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### Jesus Found (Luke 2:46-47)

- What was Jesus doing? Asking and answering questions in the temple

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### Jesus' Response to his Parents' Distress (Luke 2:48-51)

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## Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What was one of the best trips you ever took with your family?
- Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to know Jesus as a boy? What do you think he was like?
- Can you remember a time you got lost as a child or one of your children was lost?
- What was the feast of Passover about? What were the people of God to remember? (Look back at Exodus 12 if needed)
- How did Mary and Joseph respond when they found out Jesus was not with them? How did they feel?
- What was Jesus doing in the temple? What do you notice about the way he interacted with the teachers there? (2:46-47)
- What stands out in Mary's response to finding Jesus? (2:48)
- How does Jesus' response show his knowledge of his identity and purpose? (2:49)
- Why are questions so effective in teaching us?
- What are some of the questions Jesus may be asking of you as we begin the new year of 2020?