



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Teen Heroes of the Bible Series, Lesson 15

Lesson Title: Jesus in His Father's House

Take Home Point: Remember whose you are – a child of the heavenly Father.

Warm-Up:

When my oldest daughter was about 1 year old, I was gone from home for several weeks due to business. I missed her very much. When I finally got home, I opened the door and waited for her to run to me. But she didn't! I went over and picked her up, which she let me do simply because she was a very friendly child. But I could see in her eyes she didn't recognize me. I felt sorry it was that way, but I expected she'd remember me soon enough. However, she went to bed without knowing who I was. During the middle of the night she cried out, so I went to hold her. I had an unusual way of cradling her in my arms, and I put her in that special position. Even though it was pitch dark, right away she began to say, "Daddy! Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Daddy..." She said it over and over and snuggled to me. It was wonderful to be remembered by my child.

Read: Luke 2:41-52

Observation (What happened?):

What was the response of those in the temple to what Jesus had to say?

How long did Joseph and Mary look for Jesus in Jerusalem?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus stayed behind to be in his Father's house?

What does it mean that Jesus grew in favor with God and people?

Insight:

Have you ever thought about where 12-year-old Jesus got his insight as told in this account? Where do you think he got the understanding and answers that astonished those in the temple listening to him? Do you think it came mystically and supernaturally all of a sudden when he reached a certain age, and that his wisdom suddenly burst into full bloom? Perhaps he was simply an already contemplative boy taught the truths of God's word by his loving godly parents. Likely there were many contemplative children in Israel who might go to the temple and talk. But Jesus appears to have stood out to the learned men of the temple. We don't the answers to these questions; what we do know is that Jesus was well aware of who his true Father was and where he was most at home. Where did he gain this understanding? Again, we don't know. But he was obviously confident and comfortable in his knowledge of his Father, and as a result he was confident and comfortable in the temple where his Father was worshiped. Sometimes Scripture leaves us with mysteries. So we wait until heaven to find out the whole story.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How much time do you spend with your heavenly Father each day? Do you look forward to it?

What are you doing to grow in wisdom and in favor with God and people?

Kingdom Quest year 2