

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions
Meet the Amazing Jesus Series

Lesson 34

Lesson Title: Grow Close to God

Take Home Point: Through Jesus, we can grow closer to God at church and in our home devotions.

Warm-Up:

Imagine wanting to meet the President of the United States. You call the White House and ask to set up an appointment. When asked, you are unable to specify why you wish to meet him except that is your desire. "I'm sorry, sir," the operator responds, "but the President is a very busy person and is limited in whom he can meet." Rebuffed, you realize you will never be introduced to him that way. However, you do remember an old school friend who has access to the President's staff and may be able to help. You call and ask if it's possible to be introduced. Your friend replies, "Yes, it may take some time, but I believe I can arrange that." Some time later, he calls and tells you to be ready at a certain time and place, and the introduction will occur. How grateful you are to your faithful friend!

Read: Luke 2:41-52

Observation (What happened?):

What was the reaction of everyone who heard Jesus speak and ask questions in the temple?

How did Jesus grow after he returned to Nazareth with Joseph and Mary?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus stayed behind at the temple?

What does it mean to gain favor from God?

Insight:

Look at what Joseph and Mary were doing as this Bible event begins – they were going to the Passover feast. They traveled all the way to Jerusalem to celebrate the release of their ancestors from slavery. And they did this every year, not because of who their boy was so they could impress him, but in obedience to God. They sought to draw closer to God by living as he directed and doing what he said. No doubt they considered what a valuable example this was to Jesus, so he would grow closer to God, as well. They understood the importance of obedience, gathering in fellowship with God's people, and praising God for what he had done for them in the past. Although the Bible doesn't say, we can be confident they continued to make the trip every year after this occurrence. And when he was an adult, Jesus maintained the tradition for the same reasons, as the gospel writers record each of his Passover visits to Jerusalem. As physical or spiritual parents, we have no idea what will be the impact of our faithfulness. But like Joseph and Mary, we simply need to be faithful.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What are three different means you are using to get closer to God?

How are you helping your family get closer to God?

Meet the Amazing Jesus..., Lesson 34