

Luke 2:41-52

1. What are the things we look to as human beings to build our identity, our sense of self our sense of worth from? What are the personal and interpersonal implications of this?

Read Luke 2:41-52

2. As Luke tells the story the only major verb is found in vs. 43 – Jesus stayed behind – why do you think Luke wants our focus to be there?

3. Jesus is 12 years old (vs. 42), meaning that he is on the eve of his 13th birthday, when a Jewish boy would become bar mitzvah (son of the commandments), the time where he would take on adult responsibilities in his faith and in his father's trade. In this year he would be intensely mentored by his father Joseph. How does this background give more context to Mary's reprimand (vs. 48) and Jesus' response (vs. 49)?

4. The phrase "did you not know I must be in my father's house" could just as easily be translated – "did you not know I must be about my father's business". How do both of these phrases help us to understand how Jesus saw himself – where he rooted his identity?

