

Jan 7 – Small Groups - Luke 2:41-52 “Foreshadowing the Risen Life”

This is the only story we have of Jesus from the 30-year gap between his birth and his baptism. Luke likely had a wealth of material to fill in this gap for us but he chooses only one story. Why this story over every other story? As we have already seen Luke weaves his gospel narrative by telling stories that are mirror images of one another that when compared reveal deep truths. As we begin we will read our text as well as the text that is its mirror image.

Read Luke 2:41-52 and Luke 24:1-10

1. What are the similarities between these two texts? What do you think Luke is trying to show us by telling these stories as mirror images of one another?

The phrase – “Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s House” – is a summary of what Jesus has come to do, foreshadowing the risen life he invites us into.

2. Jesus was the first person to ever refer to God as Father. As we go through Luke we will see that Jesus invites us into relationship with His Father as our Father. How does knowing God as Abba Father impact your life personally?
3. If God is Father that means we have a new identity. In Jesus we are adopted as a “son of God”, chosen, forgiven, delighted in, an heir to everything the Father has. How does this identity impact how you navigate your world?
4. Very often our identity is built in the west on achievement, performance, accomplishment. What is the damage done to our hearts when we build identity in this way? How can our identity in Jesus bring healing to this?
5. Another way to translate this phrase – Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house – is – Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s business. While not the best translation, it does capture part of the truth of this statement for to be in the father’s house was to do the father’s business. What is the Father’s business we are invited into?
6. What is the first thing Jesus does after saying this to His Mom? What does this tell us about what it means to be about the “Father’s business”?