

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of December 27, 2015

Luke 2:41-52

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.

⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival.

⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in

the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they

returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been

searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did

not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Connection Questions:

1. The story about Jesus being engaged with the teachers at the temple is the only story we have about Jesus during his childhood. Why do you think it was important for Luke to share this story?

2. Describe in your own words what a wise person in our culture looks like.

3. Plato through his image of the Philosopher King says, "The truly wise person is a philosopher who governs with absolute reason." How important is reason in our human quest to be wise?

4. The Greek world perceived emotions or feelings to be a sign of weakness. Do you agree with this perception? Why or why not?

5. Jesus not only points to the mind but also the heart in our quest to grow in our relationship with God. What part does the heart play in our journey to be wise? What would a balanced approach look like?

6. Do you think there is a place for the head and the heart in our faith development? Discuss how the church in history has tended to emphasize one over the other. Consider the Moravians approach to faith versus the Methodist approach to faith.

7. In the children's book, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, the Skin Horse tries to describe to the Rabbit what is real. He says, "Usually when you become real your hair has been loved off and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints." How might this image assist us in our quest to be wise in our relationship with God?

8. Describe what a wise, faith-filled person looks like today. Would it be any different than a wise person in Jesus' day?