

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – April 18, 2021

Theme: The Life of Jesus Topic: Jesus: His Life of Obedience

Main Text: Luke 2:41-52

Key verse: Luke 2:52: *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”*
(NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: In the Old Testament, God mandated three major festivals that required pilgrimage to Jerusalem every year. One of these was Passover (Exodus 23:14; Deuteronomy 16:6, 16). Jesus' earthly parents, Joseph, and Mary, being devout Jews, have embarked on this pilgrimage every year. But on this occasion, their journey to Jerusalem for this important festival had some twists: Jesus was 12-years of age. And Jewish custom specified that a boy should be taken to the Passover feast a year or two before he was thirteen, when he would be made a “son of the commandment” and become an adult member of the Jewish religious community. The 12th year is, therefore, the final year of preparation for a young boy before being able to fully participate in religious activities in the synagogue. It is also at this age that those Jewish boys who show exceptional aptitude for the Torah are spotted and recruited by a religious Scholar for training and mentoring. To add to that, after the festivities, Jesus stayed back in Jerusalem, unknown to His earthly parents. This necessitated a search which lasted three days!

1. (a) **As parents, what kind of thoughts do you think would have been going through the minds of Joseph and Mary for those 3 days?** (b) **Was Jesus being defiant when He asked His parents, ‘Didn’t you realize that I had to be in My Father’s house?’ Explain your answer.** (c) **Read John 5:30; 6:38 in what ways do you think Jesus’ mindset influenced His life of obedience?**

The narrative on Jesus’ pilgrimage to Jerusalem with His family when He was 12 ended with *“Then He returned with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. Jesus grew in wisdom and maturity. He gained favor from God and people.”* (Luke 2:51-52). After that, there was no other mention of Jesus’ life until He appears again, at about age 30. When He resurfaces, He comes to be baptized and to be led into the wilderness to be tempted by satan and then, began His ministry in earnest.

2. **Read Luke 2:46-47, 51-52; Philippians 2:5-8 (a) What lessons on obedience can we learn from Jesus’ relationship to His earthly parents, considering His divinity?** (b) **In what ways might growing in wisdom and stature help in a life of obedience?** (c) **Let participants share some ways in which the lessons from (a) and (b) are applicable in relationships in the family, in the Church and in the wider society?**

This is how God instituted the Passover Festival: *“Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household... Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight. They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal.”* (Exodus 12:3-7 NLT) The sacrifice of lambs played an especially important role in the Jewish religious life and sacrificial system. If the chosen lamb could sense what lay ahead, it must have been some agonizing four days before the sacrifice. And for Jesus, His was much longer than 4 days of knowing what lay ahead for Him in His path of obedience to the Father.

3. **Read Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29; Hebrews 12:3; 1 Peter 1:18-20 (a) What did Jesus’ obedience cost Him?** (b) **What did Jesus’s obedience accomplish?** (c) **What are some possible applications from these for us?**

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, we thank You for showing us the perfect example of obedience in Your everyday life. Help us to live as You did, in obedience to God’s will and God’s way. In Jesus Name, Amen.*