


# Discussion Guide

## *Jesus In the Temple*

December 29, 2024

### Big Idea

 Our human nature tends to lead us off the straight path of God, but the grace of God always welcomes us back.

### Icebreaker

What has been the most recent road trip you have been on? Where did you go and with whom did you go? Do you have an upcoming road trips you are planning? Where to and with who?

### Discussion Questions

1. What was the purpose of the Jews pilgrimages to Jerusalem each year for the Festival of the Passover? What did it celebrate and why did God command this of His people? In our expression of faith today, what types of things do we do/engage in that are similar to this “pilgrimage” idea and what is the purpose of them?
2. Read Luke 2:41-45. Share an experience you have had of losing a kid, spouse, or someone/something in a store or in some setting. How did you/they feel when you realized they were missing? How did you/they react when you were reunited and why did you feel and/or respond in that way? How is it understandable that Jesus being missing, went unnoticed by Mary and Joseph for a while?
3. Read Luke 2:46-52. What do these passages tell us about Jesus? Fill in the following blanks: 1) Jesus was once a k\_\_\_\_. 2) Jesus was w\_\_\_\_. 3) Jesus was h\_\_\_\_. 4) Jesus was o\_\_\_\_\_.
4. We presented that it perhaps was not that: *Jesus left them (Mary & Joseph and the pilgrims)* but that *they left him*. What can this thought mean for us? Share ways in which one can leave Jesus behind and maybe a personal time when you have done so. How does our human nature have a tendency to do this and why?
5. If we “look up” and find ourselves in a spot of where we have *left him*, what is it important to know about God and how should we respond to that, or do about that? Is there a way you need to “course correct” now and how will you do so?
6. Read Luke 15:11-32. What does this parable that Jesus taught teach us about God and us? How does it relate to the lesson from this sermon?

### Concluding Question

Read Hebrews 12:1-3. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature. We are to grow in a likewise fashion. As we do, what should happen with the distance between & frequency of our wanderings from He and His ways (sin)? What does it take from you to grow in such wisdom and stature?

### Prayer

Pray that as we all enter a new year; a new opportunity that we will be committed to such growth in wisdom and stature while being full of the assurance that when we do wander that Christ is patiently and anxiously awaiting our return to He and His ways.