Introduction

This is the only story we have in Scripture from Jesus’ childhood.

There are apocryphal stories from the Infancy Gospel of Thomas, but they are fanciful and sometimes malevolent.

I can imagine Luke asking Mary, “If there is one story that stands out in your memory about Jesus as a child, what would it be?” This is that story.

What does it reveal about Jesus?

I. Jesus grew up in a devout Jewish family. Luke 2:41-46

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Mary wasn’t required to attend, but she came too, showing their devotion.

At age 13, a Jewish boy became a “son of the commandment”. It was customary, according to the Mishnah, to go up one or two years before so the boy could be instructed.

Jesus loved it so much he didn’t want to leave.

When the time came for the family to go home, Mary thought Jesus was with Joseph and Joseph thought he was with Mary.

After three days, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers.

Mary and Joseph played an important role in the development of Jesus’ faith.

As parents, we are given a great privilege and responsibility to teach our children the Scriptures, to pray for them and to bring them to church.

II. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature. Luke 2:47-48, 52

In his humanity, Jesus went through the normal course of human development.

- He grew in wisdom.
- He grew in stature.
- He grew in favor with God and men.

In this story of his time with the teachers in the Temple, he showed exceptional understanding.
This story highlights the importance of religious instruction.

“Thank God you were born in Scotland, young man.” D. L. Moody

Teach your children the Scriptures.

III. Jesus understood his unique relationship to the Father. Luke 2:48-51

Mary and Joseph were anxious when they couldn’t find Jesus.

Jesus’ answer was amazing. He was missing, but he was never lost.

His question to them, “Why were you searching for me?” only highlights his answer, “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

Mary and Joseph, in spite of all they had been told about Jesus as the Son of God, still wondered. It reveals the awesome mystery of the incarnation.

But Jesus knew, even from an early age, he was the Son of God.

Conclusion

What do we learn about Jesus from this story?

We see both his humanity and divinity.

We also see that a godly home is a powerful influence on a child.

- Teach your children the Scriptures.
- Read to them.
- Pray with them and for them.
- Bring them to church.
- Set an example in giving and serving.