

Many young people feel that Christianity is all dull facts for adult thinking, but this is far from the truth. In all our studies it is important to remember that we are contemplating 'life' and not dry facts and figures. (John 10:10)

In this scriptural instance in the Life of Christ there are valuable lessons for daily living both for young people and for parents.



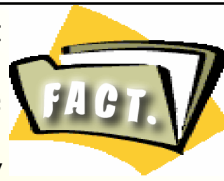
HIS YOUTH

READING LUKE 2:41-52 The Lord Jesus Christ is presented at the age of 12 being taken by his parents to Jerusalem for the Passover. It is worth taking note of the parental responsibility in ensuring Spiritual leadership and Jesus obedience as a Jewish boy.

Consider as a group the problems parents face today in raising Spiritually aware children and the difficulties children have today to obey their parents. *(Aim to demonstrate through scripture how important it is for both parent and child to submit to God's word for success in family relationships. Deut 5:16, Ephesians 6)*

This lesson holds an opportunity to reinforce the truth of Christ's Deity. In verse 46 and 47 we can see the amazement of the religious elite as Jesus interacts with them. No other child spoke like this child. Although Mary mistakenly referred to Joseph as Jesus' father, Jesus answer firmly establishes that Jesus Father was not Joseph but God! *(Both Mary and Joseph missed this point.)*

- **PASSOVER** A Jewish feast observed every year on the 14th day of the month of Abib. (Deut. 16:1) It kept in memory God's deliverance for the Hebrew people from Egypt.



- **TRAVEL** Often when travelling to Jerusalem whole towns would move in large groups for safety and companionship. It would be easy to assume your child to be among neighbours and family.

Jesus although subject to God as His only begotten Son, remained subject to Mary and Joseph in His humanity. This carefulness of the Lord wonderfully demonstrates to us the importance God has on **HUMILITY, OBEDIENCE, SUBJECTION, RESPECT.**

Words the worldly system we live in has no time for but attitudes God desires and yes, commands!

It is vital that these lessons touch our lives and challenge each student. Mere facts and figures dryly stated will not hold interest or produce action. Make sure your thoughts lead to a challenge, make sure you encourage not deflate the listener. Remember, 'Satan drives but God leads!'



(Life of Christ 1- Mark on Map - Jerusalem)
(Life of Christ 2A)

Read **LUKE 2:52**. Four aspects of Jesus life are developing, **MENTAL, PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL**. Discuss helps and hindrances that we could experience in these four areas of our own development. Describe how Satan as our Spiritual enemy would influence our thinking as not all his ways are outright attacks.

List under each column things that affect our development, are they safe, are they neutral or are they dangerous? *(You can try to fill all columns or some as you have time, don't forget, you can encourage the student to complete these thoughts in his/her own study time.)*

(Life of Christ 2B)

Think on the Lord's priorities in His attitude and words. Who was first in His life? Where did others fit into His life? What lessons can we take on board from His example?

The diagram represents things close to our heart with the most important at the centre of our affections. Obviously we can see from scripture that God must be at the centre. Everything else may differ from other believers, but if God is in the centre of our loves, thinking, conviction all else will be governed by Him as Lord and Master. This is why we can be individualistic in our faith yet be part of a 'Body' for when God rules our hearts there will be no conflict for the same God rules all.



God's word instructs us,
"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed,
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God and the
Father by him." Col. 3:17

(see also Col. 3:23)

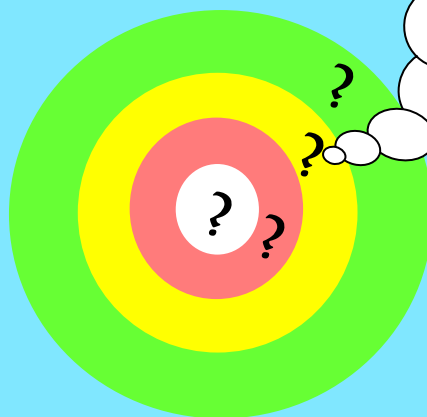


A

Four areas for balanced growth through childhood

MENTAL GROWTH	PHYSICAL GROWTH	SPIRITUAL GROWTH	SOCIAL GROWTH
<i>Wisdom</i>	<i>Stature</i>	<i>Favour with God</i>	<i>Favour with man</i>

B



"Who comes first in your life?"

Friends
Family
God
Others

Four areas for balanced relationships through life

This illustration is designed as an acetate or a handout as preferred.

Life of Christ 2(A/H)

