

WHY WORSHIP?

PERSONAL CONNECTIONS | LEADER'S GUIDE

1

The Boy Jesus at the Temple | Luke 2:41-52

Take a new look at a familiar account! Read the whole Biblical account of the Boy Jesus at the Temple. Reread each of the verses as you take a closer look at each of them. Verse highlights are provided below. Suggested guiding thoughts are provided to curb thoughts toward desired goal answers. Due to the personal connection theme, many of the answers will vary based on personal reflection. Provide ample time to think and discuss. Support thorough discussion and make use of suggested further discussion topics as desired.

- **Luke 2:41-42, 44** | What does this gathering of believers tell you about meeting together?
 - **Verse Highlights** | Every year, according to the custom; went to Jerusalem; his parents, when he was twelve years old, their company
 - **Guiding Thoughts** | Celebrating this feast as a means of worshipping God was common, it was custom and it was a yearly endeavor. It was a long trek to make to Jerusalem, especially challenging to make on foot as a family. Joseph and Mary brought Jesus along as this was a family endeavor to go and worship the Lord. A large group of friends and relatives also journeyed to Jerusalem- so many that the group was large enough to lose a child in.

- **Goal** | There is great value in meeting together to worship, meeting together was worth sacrificial toils, meeting together is for families- earthly and spiritual.
- **Luke 2:46** | What personal blessings do you receive through worship?
 - **Verse Highlights** | After three days they found Jesus.
 - **Guiding Thoughts** | The boy Jesus was in the temple for three days. We often struggle to stay at church for more than an hour. God's blessings for us abound. Time spent in worship is an offering to God and God promises to bless us for our offerings. The blessings will never run dry, no matter how long we spend in worship.
 - **Goal** | Personal answers will vary.
- **Luke 2:46** | How do you prepare yourself mentally for worship?
 - **Verse Highlights** | Jesus was sitting among the teachers.
 - **Guiding Thoughts** | Picture this scene in your head: the Son of God humbled himself to sit with teachers of the law and be taught. The teachers of the law were then also humbled as they were taught by a twelve year old with understanding beyond their years. That's quite a bit of humility. We too ought to have a humble mindset as we enter the house of the Lord. After all, who are we to be in God's presence? We are not selfishly looking for what we can get out of worship, but instead we are to

humbly come before God asking for mercy and praying for wisdom.

- **Goal** | Personal answers will vary.
- **Luke 2:46** | How do active and passive worship differ from each other?
 - **Verse Highlights** | Jesus was listening to the teachers and asking them questions.
 - **Guiding Thoughts** | The boy Jesus was not merely present in the pew, braiding the hymnal bookmarks or doodling in the kids' bulletin. He was thoroughly engaged in the Word. through his active participation, Jesus was blessed with growth as we are too.
 - **Goal** | Active worship is being engaged in worship through thought and action. Your heart and mind are involved in your worship as you grow by the Holy Spirit's work. Passive worship is not really worship at all. It may be simply being physically present and mentally distant. It is just going through the motions of worship without really thinking about it.
- **Luke 2:49** | How do you value being in your Father's house?
 - **Verse Highlights** | Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?
 - **Guiding Thoughts** | Jesus addresses his personal duty to his Father in heaven. We too have a personal duty to our Father in heaven. We need worship. Time in worship is

time in the Word, time that draws us closer to our loving Father.

- **Goal** | Personal answers will vary.
- **Luke 2:52** | In what ways have you grown in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men?
 - **Verse Highlights** | Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.
 - **Guiding Thoughts** | Jesus was blessed by his time spent in worship and in God's Word. We too are blessed in our personal faith by God through our worship. God teaches us through time in his Word. He strengthens our faith, nurturing the fruits of the Spirit which bloom abundantly in our sanctified life.
 - **Goal** | Personal answers will vary.