It's Time: Making Life's Crucial Connections

Luke 2:41-52

OPEN

Think back to your younger years…What did you want to be when you grew up?

As you think forward…Is there anything you are dreaming of becoming?

DISCUSS

Read Luke 2:41-52 aloud.

- Put yourself in the scene as a parent. What would have been your reaction to Jesus? Do you resonate with Mary?

- What do you observe about Jesus personally? How are others in the story observing him?

- To whom did Jesus join himself? What was he doing with them?

God desires that we grow up into him—learning to love him and others. (Consider Heb 5:12--6:3, Mark 12:28-31)

- How would you describe your current state of growth right now?
  - ☐ Rapid growth
  - ☐ Slow but steady growth
  - ☐ Plateaued
  - ☐ Stuck
  - ☐ Declining

- What has led you to this state of growth?

Think back to a time when you were growing in your faith. What were your personal (spiritual) practices or rhythms? Who were you connected to? How did you relate to God and others?

Think of times when you were stalled or stuck in your journey? What did you realize about your practices, connection with others, and your relationship with God and others?

In the sermon, there was a clear call to action to help all of us grow up in our faith with God and love toward others:

- ☐ Attend worship EVERY week you are in town.
- ☐ Connect to a community for the purpose of growth (while you encourage others to grow).
- ☐ Find ways to steward your life for the Kingdom of God by investing your time, talents, and resources into the life of the church and beyond.

Do these seem reasonable to you? What commitments will you make to invest intentionally into these three?

YOUR NEXT STEP…

What would it mean for you to take another step toward growth in the areas mentioned above?

It is time for you to move toward maturity and allow God to use you to lead or serve in some way with a new group or ministry?

Spend time in prayer reflecting on this study and the Scriptures contained within. What do you hear God saying to you?