



THE

# Fullness OF Time

But in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son... Galatians 4:4

December 27, 2020

BE AWARE

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) Often when we hear the story of Mary and Joseph losing Jesus in the Temple we wonder about their parenting. However, hidden in this passage is evidence that not only was Mary a good mom, but she was the right choice to raise the Son of God. As parents, grandparents, and mentors we need to be aware that our actions and examples now set the tone for the faith our children, grandchildren, and mentees will have in adulthood.

*Passage:* Luke 2:41-52

*Values:*

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4. \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Time/Priority:*

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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Daily Readings:

This week's daily readings focus on passages where God used children to accomplish His plan. This is a reminder that God can and does use anyone regardless of their condition and station in life. It also reminds us that He Himself took on the form of a child when He came to earth. Finally, we remember Jesus' warning to His disciples, "Unless you have the faith of a child, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Read each passage and ask yourself the following questions: How did God use this child? What can I learn from the faith of this child?

Day 1: Exodus 1-2

Day 2: 1 Samuel 3

Day 3: 1 Samuel 17

Day 4: 2 Kings 5

Day 5: 2 Kings 22

Day 6: Luke 2

Day 7: John 6

# Suggested Resources:

## Books:

*The Music of Christmas*, by Gary & Sheri Webber

*God Came Near*, by Max Lucado

*Still Waiting: Hope for When God Doesn't Give You What You Want*,  
by Ann Swindell

## Other sermon series at [ssbc.org](http://ssbc.org):

The Music of Christmas (2012)

Arrival (2017)

Pause (2020)

# Small Group Questions

December 27, 2020

Use this outline for personal reflection, as a couples or family devotion, or with a small group.

## *Hangout (warming up to the topic):*

1. How many children can you name that are mentioned in the Bible?
2. There are many examples of God using children throughout the Old and New Testaments (see this week's suggested daily reading plan for a few examples). Why do you think children feature so prominently throughout the Bible? Do you believe we (the church) have sufficiently recognized this fact? Why or why not?

## *Hear (listening to God through Scripture):*

3. Today we are going to explore a few of the kids mentioned in the Bible and discuss how these examples should inspire us to have faith like a child.
  - Read 1 Samuel 17:41-51. How did God use this child? What was the source of David's faith? What kept his older brothers and the king from responding in the same way?
  - Read 2 Kings 5:1-14. How did God use this child? What evidence of faith do you see in her actions?
  - Read 2 Kings 22:1-13. How did God use this child? What impact did his faith have on other people?
4. Read Matthew 18:1-6.
  - What prompted Jesus' comments about childlike faith and why did He respond like He did?
  - What is it about a childlike faith that is pleasing to Jesus?
  - Based on this passage, how does Jesus say we should respond to children? Based on what Jesus says, how important do you think this is to Him?
5. Read 1 Timothy 4:12.
  - What does Paul tell Timothy NOT to let people do to him based on his age? What does it look like to despise someone based on their age? How does this line up with what Jesus said in Matthew 18? Based on this verse how can a child, teenager, or young adult prevent people from despising them because they are young?
  - How do we set an example for people in speech? In conduct? In love? In purity?
  - Based on what we've read today, how should the church minister to and with the next generation? What do you need to do personally to respond to these passages and truths?

## *Huddle (making it personal and praying together - in huddles):*

6. What kind of example does your speech, conduct, faith, and purity set for others? What do you need to do to ensure that your example is pointing people to Jesus? Invite accountability and pray together.