



SPORTS IN FOCUS

Christ's Birth and Boyhood
Luke 2:46-52 • Lesson One

ZOOM!

READY

- Jesus was twelve when he visited the temple. Think back to when you were twelve years old. What were you like? What were your interests? Were you involved in church or interested in spiritual things?

SET

Context of Luke 1 and 2

Though attended by a great heavenly fanfare, Jesus' birth generated little notice or interest among men. Only a few obscure witnesses celebrated the blessed arrival of the Savior into our sin-scarred world. Luke alone reports the unusual circumstances surrounding the birth of John the Baptist, the annunciation to Mary, the manger, the angelic visitation to the shepherds, and the Spirit-led responses of Simeon and Anna when Jesus was presented at the temple.

Keys to Text

Luke's Purpose: Writing primarily to a man named Theophilus and for a Gentile audience, Luke set out to construct a careful and complete account of the life of Christ. His goal was to show Jesus is not only the long-awaited Messiah of the Jews but also the Savior of non-Jews. His account of the nativity is the fullest in all the Gospel records.

GO

Read Luke 2:46-52

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

1. What unexpected events transpired when Joseph and Mary came to present Jesus to the Lord at the temple?
2. In what ways does Luke say Jesus grew? What areas in your own life can you foster personal growth in these areas?

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New York Jets coach Rex Ryan is making this week's playoff game with the Patriots personal. "This week, it's about Bill Belichick vs. Rex Ryan," the coach said, "it's personal." Ryan launched a barrage of brash comments toward his opponents. He vowed to avenge his team's loss last month 45-3 where he admitted he was outcoached by Belichick. Is it necessary for athletes and coaches to use brash talk to motivate themselves or teammates to perform better? A few decades ago, former NY Jets QB Joe Namath brashly predicted his underdog team would beat the Colts in Super Bowl III which they did. So what can the Bible teach us about this? One word: humility. James 4:6 says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." God's Word is clear on this matter, no wiggle room. Very little is known about Luke who was the author of one of the four Gospels. He was responsible for a significant portion of the New Testament but he almost never included personal details about himself, and nothing definite is known about his background. As we begin our study of the Book of Luke, we should remind ourselves how the Lord used a humble man to record much of the New Testament including the book of Acts. www.nebraskafca.org