

Feb. 20 - Scripture: Luke 2: 21-52

Verses that speak to you: Scripture gives us no description of Jesus' activities as a boy, apart from verses 42-52. But there are two significant characterizations of him as a boy. Verse 40: "And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him." And verse 52: "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

Observation: The prophetic insight of Simeon and Anna give Mary and Joseph further confirmation of Jesus' identity and mission. These comments were made while Jesus was still a baby, and had not done or said anything to elicit their praise.

Application: Taking Jesus as our ideal of personal growth, how can I encourage the young in my family and church to be "growing in wisdom"-----faithful in learning---"and stature"--getting enough exercise --"and in favor with God"--learning God's word --"and with men"--gaining social skills and overcoming shyness. Jesus had a bright mind, a strong body, an active prayer life and a winsome manner. We can almost hear Joseph saying, "Atta boy, Jesus."

Prayer: O God, loving heavenly Father, so let your grace be upon me, my children and grandchildren, that the kind of growth you have designed for them may be vividly happening in all of our lives, for Jesus' sake. AMEN

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