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2. Another key element in the preparation for ministry is submission to those in authority over you. From Luke 2:48-50, what do we learn about Jesus from His response to Mary's rebuke? (Philippians 2:3-11; Hebrews 5:7-8). What does this reveal to you regarding your preparation for ministry? (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:21-24; 1 Peter 2:13-23).

 3. What further insights do we learn about Jesus from Luke 2:49, 52? How should this influence your own preparation for ministry? (Luke 9:23; Philippians 3:7-14; Colossians 3:1-4; Hebrews 12:1-2).

 4. Some have suggested that the incident of Jesus being left at the temple (Luke 2:46-51) reveals a boyish mischievousness on His part, or that His response to Mary was disrespectful? How would you answer these charges?

OUR WALK WITH GOD


1. Why is studying God's Word so vital in regards to our spiritual growth and maturity? What distractions and issues in our lives keep us from committing to the study of God's Word? What change might you make this week that will spur you to committing to the study of God's Word? How can your small group help hold you accountable to this commitment?
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2. What does it mean to be humble? Why is this attribute so important in the life of a believer? What are some areas in your life regarding the attribute of humility that you need to allow the Holy Spirit to change?

 3. Luke is eager to portray Jesus as a well-rounded human who is growing intellectually, physically, spiritually and socially. (Luke 2:40, 52). Why do you think portraying the humanity of Jesus was so important to God as He communicated this passage through Luke. How does this encourage and challenge you in your walk with Christ? Which one of these areas do you need to work on the most at this time in your own life? How can your small group hold you accountable to this commitment?

GOING DEEPER

1. Luke 2:52 says the Jesus grew in wisdom. What does Proverbs 2:6-20 tell you about the importance of wisdom in dealing with everyday life? How does one obtain this wisdom and why is it so vital for a believer in Christ?

 2. Read John 1:14; 3:16; 3:18; 6:46; and 1 John 4:9. What do these passages reveal to you about Jesus? What does this tell you about God's deep love for us?
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SUGGESTED SMALL GROUP STUDY FORMAT
"PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY - JESUS BOYHOOD"
STUDY FIVE - JANUARY 20, 2008

CONNECT 25 MINUTES

Time of Fellowship

Opening Prayer

Icebreaker Questions:

1. Share with the group a time you were lost as a child?
2. When you were growing up, what teacher, coach or relationship made you feel special? Explain why this person meant so much to you.

MEMORY VERSE (Memorize and say aloud in your group) 5 MINUTES

Luke 2:52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 35 MINUTES

PRAYER AND PERSONAL SHARING 35 MINUTES

1. Ask the Lord to give you the desire and commitment to give focus to the areas of ministry preparation that you need to strengthen. Ask the group to hold you accountable. Ask the Lord to begin revealing to you a particular area of ministry in which you might serve Him in.
2. Pray for people that each of you might ask to join your group. Pray that you all would have an outward focus and a desire to encourage others to join your small group.
3. Pray for the personal needs of one another in your small group.