

## Life-Sharing & Pioneers Lesson 1 “Jesus Is Here” Luke 2:41-52

1. Who and what was God to you when you were 12 years old?

### Luke 2:41-52 (Today’s New International Version, ©2005)

#### The Boy Jesus at the Temple

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

<sup>49</sup> “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And as Jesus grew up, he increased in wisdom and in favor with God and people.

2. Why do you think Jesus stayed behind at the temple as a 12 year old?

3. Why would Mary and Joseph become so frantic in their search?

4. How do you think they felt asking their family and friends “have you seen our son Jesus?”  
When have you ever allowed pride to keep you from asking for help when you needed it?
  
5. Why would the leaders have been willing to answer Jesus’ questions and engage him in a discussion when he was just 12 years old?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How old do you think a person has to be, to obtain wisdom and knowledge from God? How are wisdom and knowledge obtained?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. After all the promises Mary and Joseph received, why do you think they were astonished to find Jesus among the teachers in the temple?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Why are we tempted to doubt the plans that God has for our lives and our futures?

9. Mary took Jesus' actions of staying behind in Jerusalem as a personal attack on them to make them upset. What do we learn from this passage about the need to let others go in order for them to serve God?

10. Why do we find it so hard to let others go?

11. Why did Jesus go back with Mary and Joseph? What can we learn about authority from this passage?

12. What does it take to increase in wisdom and in favor with God and with people?

1. If you were told to prepare your home for a visit from President Obama and his wife, what would you do to get ready?

**Luke 3:1-18 (Today's New International Version, ©2005)**

**John the Baptist Prepares the Way**

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— <sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

<sup>6</sup> And all people will see God’s salvation.’”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” <sup>10</sup> “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

<sup>11</sup> John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

<sup>13</sup> “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. <sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I baptize you with<sup>[b]</sup> water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with<sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

2. John the Baptist came forth with a message of repentance and preparation for the Lord. Which of the following areas are you in need of the most preparation for the Lord in 2011. A) your prayer Life, b) your giving, c) your yielding to others, d) your insistence on your own way.

3. What image comes to mind when you hear “making straight paths for the Lord?”

4. What type of areas in our lives would be represented by the valleys that need to be filled in in verse 5?

5. What type of areas in our lives would be represented by the mountains and hills that need to be made low in verse 5?

6. How do we as believers allow our straight roads to become crooked?

7. On the one hand we say, we want to have God’s presence come into our lives, yet on the other hand, what are the kind of things we do to keep the Lord from coming in?

8. John speaks of producing fruit in keeping with repentance? What type of fruit is God expecting out of us in 2011?

9. John speaks of taking care of each other's physical needs in verses 11. Why is being generous to those in need one of the marks of a believer in Christ?

10. John speaks against exploiting others when we have power on our side in verse 13. What are ways we exploit others in the life of the church without thinking of it as exploitation?

11. Why do you think the people were hoping John might be the Messiah who was to come?

13. What was John's view of Jesus?

14. Would you have been more comfortable around John or Jesus? Why

## Life-Sharing & Pioneers Lesson 3 Pass Along The Message John 3:20-42

1. If you found out some really good news, who would be the first person you would want to share it with and why?

**John 1:29-42 (Today's New International Version, ©2005)**

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" <sup>30</sup> This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup> Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup> And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'" <sup>34</sup> I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."<sup>[a]</sup>

**John's Disciples Follow Jesus**

<sup>35</sup> The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup> "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

<sup>40</sup> Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup> The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter<sup>[b]</sup>).

2. Why did John get excited and started sharing with others the moment he saw Jesus?

3. How did John know that Jesus was the Lamb Of God?

3a. John and Jesus had grown up as cousins with each other. What kept John from knowing who Jesus was before this time?

4. Does God still speak this clearly to people today as he did with John then?

5. How many more times in John's life is God going to speak to him this clearly? What can we learn from this?

6. The next day when John saw Jesus, he pointed Jesus out again as the Lamb of God. As a result two of John's disciples left him and went to follow Jesus. One of the disciples was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. If Andrew was one of the first to follow Jesus, why do you think he is not as prominent as Peter, James or John among the disciples?

6a. Do you think it was a problem for Andrew, to have been the first to follow Jesus, but watch others who came later play a much more significant role in the ministry? Why do we have such a hard time when issues like this come up in the church as to who should get to do what?



7. Andrew's heart was in helping others to find Jesus. The first person he went to find was his brother Peter. Who would you like to help find Jesus in 2011?

8. When we lead a person to Christ, can we even begin to know what impact that person may have for the kingdom of God? Who touched your life for Christ early on, that have no idea how much of what they did helped you grow in God?

9. How does our Excellence in Giving Campaign have a rippling effect on the lives of other people in helping to bring them to Christ?

10. Why is it important for us to see Jesus as the lamb who takes away the sin of the world?

11. Why is it important for us to help bring someone else to Christ?

12. Pray for someone God sends across your path on a regular basis that maybe God wants to use you to impact.

## **LifeSharing & Pioneers Lesson 4 Jesus' Test After The Anointing Matthew 4:1-11**

1. Why is there temptation in the world?
2. What do you think is the purpose of temptation in a Christian's life?

### **Matthew 4:1-11 (Today's New International Version, ©2005)**

#### **Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted<sup>[a]</sup> by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'People do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'<sup>[b]</sup>"

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"'He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'<sup>[c]</sup>"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'<sup>[d]</sup>"

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'<sup>[e]</sup>"

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

3. Why does God allow us to be in situations in which we will be tested?
  
4. What's the purpose of the devil's first temptation to tell the stones to become bread?
  
5. How are we to handle temptations that appeal to our physical desires?
  
6. What's the purpose of the devil's second temptation to throw Himself down from the temple?
  
7. How can we know the difference between doing something great for God, and doing something great to be seen?
  
8. Jesus responded with, "it is also written." How does knowing more of the word of God help us to stay balanced in our Christian walk?
  
9. When a person refuses all medical treatment in order to believe God for a healing, how do we know if the person is truly walking in faith or if the person is putting God to the test?

