



# Following Jesus as a Servant-Leader

An Inductive Bible Study  
Tu Kaha Youth, Dunedin, New Zealand

## Day 1 — Luke 2:41-52: Jesus' Early Awareness of His Identity

Mark the following words:

Jesus (purple cross coloured in by yellow)

Jesus' parents (blue circle)

Lord, God (purple triangle coloured in by yellow)

Geographical locations (double underline in green)

Jesus' actions (underline in purple)

- 39** And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
- 40** And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.
- 41** Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.
- 42** And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.
- 43** And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,
- 44** but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances,
- 45** and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.
- 46** After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
- 47** And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.
- 48** 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."
- 49** And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"
- 50** And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.
- 51** 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.
- 52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

According to vv. 39 and 51, where did Jesus grow up? \_\_\_\_\_

Nazareth was about 100 km north of Jerusalem in Galilee, where Joseph and Mary lived. It was Jesus' home until he was about 30 years old. It was a place looked down upon by most Jews (John 1:46).

What words does Luke use in v. 40 to describe Jesus' development as a child?

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What did Jesus look like as a boy? Isaiah 53:1-2 gives us some clues. Write down what it says about Jesus' outward appearance.

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What did Jesus' parents do every year, according to v. 41? What does this tell you about them?

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The one-day Passover was a Jewish festival followed by the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread. The entire eight-day festival was sometimes called the Passover.<sup>1</sup>

What do you think Jesus' childhood was like in Nazareth, with such parents? Do you think Jesus' parents played a role in shaping his identity?

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According to v. 43, what did Jesus do when the Feast of Passover ended? How old was he?

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According to vv. 44-45, what did Jesus' parents do?

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According to v. 44, who else regularly travelled with Jesus' family to and from Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover? What does this tell you about Jesus' connection with people outside his immediate family? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> John A. Martin, "[Luke](#)," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 210.

When Jesus' parents found him, where was he and what was he doing?

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Do you enjoy sitting, listening, and asking questions about God? Why is it important for teenagers to ask questions about God?

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According to v. 47, why was everyone amazed?

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The Greek word for amazed (*existanto*) tells us the onlookers were "beside themselves in amazement."<sup>2</sup>

How do you think Jesus developed his understanding of God?

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Based on the words of Jesus' mother, how upset was she? Was her disappointment reasonable?

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What was Jesus' response, according to v. 49?

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What does this response tell us about Jesus' relationship with God as a child and pre-teen? Upon what was Jesus' identity based?

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As a 12-year old, how confident was Jesus in his identity and mission?

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<sup>2</sup> Id.

After this occasion, what did Jesus do, according to v. 51?

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Why was it important for Jesus to be submissive to his parents?

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How does v. 52 compare with v. 40?

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The word “increased” in v. 52 is the Greek term *proekopten*, which means to “cut one’s way forward.”<sup>3</sup> As a teenager and young adult Jesus cut his way forward in every way. His confidence in his own identity was the basis for his healthy spiritual, mental, and physical growth.

How would God like you to model after Jesus in your own pre-teen or teenage years?

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It is our prayer that each one of you will increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man, following the example of Jesus in your pre-teen and teenage years, and fully realising your true identity as believers in Jesus.

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<sup>3</sup> Id.

## Day 2 — John 13:1-20: Identity as the Basis of Servant Leadership

Mark the following words:

Jesus and pronouns in purple (purple cross coloured in with yellow)

Father/God (purple triangle coloured in with yellow)

Disciples (pink circle)

Judas Iscariot (red circle)

- 1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.
- 2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him,
- 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God,
- 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.
- 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
- ...
- 12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?"
- 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.
- 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
- 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.
- 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.
- 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.
- 18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.'
- 19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I Am.
- 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

What is the timeframe of this scene, according to v. 1? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus know, according to v. 1? \_\_\_\_\_

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John chapters 13-17 recount Jesus' teachings on the night in which he was arrested. He would be nailed to a cross on the following day. He knew that his death and resurrection were drawing near.<sup>4</sup>

Who did Jesus love and for how long (v. 1)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do we learn about Judas Iscariot, according to v. 2? \_\_\_\_\_

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What three additional things did Jesus know, according to v. 3? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did Jesus do, according to vv. 4-5? \_\_\_\_\_

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Foot-washing was very necessary in Jesus' day. The streets were dusty, and people wore sandals without socks. It was a mark of honour for a host to provide a servant to wash a guest's feet, and a breach of hospitality not to provide for it. A wife often washed her husband's feet, and children washed their parents' feet. Most people, though, had to wash their own feet.<sup>5</sup> It was completely unheard of for a Jewish rabbi to wash the feet of his disciples.

How do you think v. 3 relates to vv. 4-5? \_\_\_\_\_

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It was Jesus' knowledge of his own identity and mission that enabled him to be a different kind of leader, a servant leader. So it is for us. If we truly understand our new identity as Christians, it enables us to become humble servants to others. Identity is the key to humility and service.

What did Jesus do after he washed the disciples' feet, according to v. 12? \_\_\_\_\_

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After washing the disciples' feet, Jesus questioned them in order to draw out the significance of the lesson he had just given them.

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<sup>4</sup> Edwin A. Blum, "[John](#)," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 319.

<sup>5</sup> Id., 320.

Who is Jesus in relation to the disciples, according to v. 13? \_\_\_\_\_

Was it prideful for Jesus to call himself Lord and Teacher (vv. 13-14)? \_\_\_\_\_

True humility doesn't result in denigrating oneself or casting off the responsibility of leadership. Our world needs leaders and teachers. Humility does, however, transform selfish leadership to humble, servant leadership. This is the kind of leadership Jesus modelled for us.

What does Jesus want the disciples to do, according to vv. 14-15? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus tells the disciples he has given them an example. The Greek word, *hypodeigma*, means "pattern."<sup>6</sup> As Jesus' disciples, we are to follow the pattern he established by washing one another's feet. What are some practical ways you can wash the feet of others? \_\_\_\_\_

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What will be the result if the disciples follow Jesus' example (v. 17)? \_\_\_\_\_

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It is our prayer that you, Tu Kaha youth, will deeply understand your identity in Jesus and that as a result you will be foot-washing disciples. May all of you grow up to follow Jesus' example of being a servant leader in your families, at church, at school, at work, and in our community. In this way you will shine as lights in a dark world.

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<sup>6</sup> Id.



### Day 3 — Philippians 2:5-11: Jesus' Humiliation and Exaltation

Mark the following words:

Christ Jesus, Lord (purple cross coloured in by yellow)

God, Father (purple triangle coloured in by yellow)

- 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,  
7 but emptied himself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.  
8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.  
9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,  
10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The apostle Paul is writing to the church at Philippi. Whose mind is the Philippian church to have among themselves (v. 5)? \_\_\_\_\_

In biblical Greek, “have this mind” (*phroneo*) means to develop an attitude based on careful thought. Paul wants the Philippian believers to think carefully about who they are, just as Jesus did. Let’s see what attitude drove Jesus to live the way he did.

In what form was Jesus, according to v. 6? \_\_\_\_\_

The Greek word “form” (*morphē*) in vv. 6 and 7 is a crucial word. It stresses the inner essence or reality of something. Christ Jesus, Paul says, is of the very essence or reality (*morphē*) of God.<sup>7</sup> Theologically, this is very significant. This means that before Jesus became a human being, he was fully God.

Instead of grasping equality with God, what did Jesus do (v. 7)? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus volunteered to set aside the self-willed use of his deity when he became a man. As God he had all the rights of God, and yet when he became a man he gave up his right to show himself visibly as God in all his majesty and glory.<sup>8</sup> He used his divine power only when instructed to by his Father.

What form did Jesus take (v. 7)? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>7</sup> Robert P. Lightner, “[Philippians](#),” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 653-654.

<sup>8</sup> Id., 654.

Jesus took the form (*morphē*) of a servant. This is the same word as we saw above in v. 6. What Paul is saying is that Jesus always had the essence of God (v. 6), but at the incarnation he added the essence of man (v. 7). In other words, **Jesus is fully God and fully man in one person**. It is very important to understand Jesus did not stop being God when he became a man. He “emptied” (*kenōō*) himself not in the sense that he stopped being God, but in the sense that he added humanity. This is a case of subtraction by addition. Jesus is God, so he can never stop being God.

In what likeness was Jesus born (v. 7)? \_\_\_\_\_

Likeness (*homoioia*) suggests similarity but difference. Though Jesus was truly human, he differed from other us in that he was sinless. He is the only sinless human being in all of history.

What does Hebrews 4:15 say about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

When found in human form, what did Jesus do, according to v. 8? \_\_\_\_\_

We see here the same lesson we saw in day two. Jesus understood his own identity. He knew he was the Son of God and infinitely loved by his Father. Secure in his identity, he volunteered to become a Servant who would take on humanity and die a horrible death on a Roman cross.

What two things has God done as a result of Jesus’ death on the cross (v. 9)? \_\_\_\_\_

What will every knee do (v. 10)? \_\_\_\_\_

What will every tongue do (v.11)? \_\_\_\_\_

From the time when Jesus was a child, he knew who his Father was, and he understood his mission. He humbled himself, obeyed his Father (as well as human parents), and voluntarily died on the cross for us. The same mind he had we are to have. The reward of humility is exaltation.

Is your mind prideful or humble? \_\_\_\_\_

What is God’s mission for you? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you being obedient to that mission? \_\_\_\_\_

It is our prayer that you, the Tu Kaha youth, will stand strong for God by humbly and obediently carrying out God's mission for your life. We pray that you will obey Jesus' great commission to go and make disciples of all the nations. One day Jesus will return. Will he say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant?"