

Worship Material
Learning and growing
Material from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 29th December

Begin with an opening prayer

God of the old and the new,

be with us.

God of the past and the way ahead,

be with us.

God of need and of plenty,

be with us.

As the year turns,

we look back with thanks,

we step out in hope,

we put our trust in you.

Amen.

Read Luke 2:41-52

Bible notes

- This is the only account in the Gospels of an incident from the childhood of Jesus. His family are as close as they are devout. Like Samuel's, they make their annual Passover pilgrimage to the Temple shrine, travelling with relatives and friends in what is perhaps the nearest they get to an annual holiday. Mary and Joseph notice that Jesus is missing from their party on the way home from Jerusalem. They are astonished to find him in the Temple, and the teachers are also amazed by Jesus' questions and answers (vv.47-48). Curious and quick to learn, he is now at home in his heavenly Father's house.
- We shouldn't see Jesus here as a stropky almost-teenager, making a bid for independence and freedom. That would be to place him in our world. Jewish boys of his age would be moving from the security of home, family and village into the uncertainties of the public world. His mother wouldn't have been much older when she travelled south from Nazareth in Galilee to stay with Zechariah and Elizabeth in Judea. There is every reason to believe that Joseph and Mary have been good enough parents to bring Jesus to this moment, and that they continue to nurture his growth and maturity (v.52). But they too have a lot to learn. Though he

returns obediently to their household, life there will never be the same. Jesus is starting to prepare for all that his heavenly Father's house symbolises. Twenty years on from this incident, his conversations with the Temple authorities will take a more sinister turn, as curiosity turns into the kind of questioning that eventually brings about his execution.

Prayer

Faithful God,
we thank you that: as your blessing was upon the child Jesus,
so it is upon us.
As you prepared and equipped him for his ministry,
so you prepare and equip us.
As you guided him through his life,
so you will guide us.
As your love shone through him,
so it can shine through us,
this Christmas-tide, this new year and always.
Amen.

A prayer to conclude

Word of Wisdom,
as you have taught us,
may we share your Word with others.
Sparkling Light,
as you have shone on us,
may we shine your light to others.
Precious Love,
as you have grown in us,
may we show your love to others.
Amen.