

## **The Characters of Christmas**

### **Part Three – Jesus**

#### **Luke 2:41-52**

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. 42 When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. 43 After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, 44 because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. 46 Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. 47 All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere." 49 "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they didn't understand what he meant. 51 Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart. 52 Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

**Our character is WHO we are. Who we are is shaped by whose we are.**

#### **Luke 2:48-49**

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### **Six Things About Jesus' Character**

#### **1. His Wisdom**

##### **Proverbs 8:17-20**

"I love all who love me. Those who search will surely find me. 18 I have riches and honor, as well as enduring wealth and justice. 19 My gifts are better than gold, even the purest gold, my wages better than sterling silver! 20 I walk in righteousness, in paths of justice."

##### **James 1:5**

If any of you need wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you. God is generous and won't correct you for asking.

#### **2. His Maturity**

##### **1 Timothy 4:12**

Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

### **3. His Favor**

#### **Psalm 5:12**

You bless righteous people, O LORD. Like a large shield, you surround them with your favor.

#### **Psalm 90:17**

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us - yes, establish the work of our hands.

#### **Luke 2:46**

Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions.

#### **1 Peter 5:3**

Don't be bossy to those people who are in your care, but set an example for them.

### **4. His Love for God's House**

#### **Luke 2:49**

"Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"

#### **Psalm 122:1**

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

### **5. His Obedience**

#### **Luke 2:51**

Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them.

#### **Ephesians 6:2-3**

"Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

**Out of all the characters of Christmas, it is Jesus' character that matters most.**

#### **Romans 8:29**

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son...