



## **Small Group** **Discussion Notes**

**For use the week following the first message in the “Family Affairs” series,  
“How to Grow Up and Get On With Your Life” (May 3-4)**

1. Open in prayer.
2. (Go around the room, ask everyone to answer briefly) When have you run away, gotten lost, or become separated from your parents?
3. This past weekend’s message was “*How to Grow Up and Get On With Your Life*,” by Bob Hostetler. Can you summarize what (if any) parts of the message were most memorable or impactful to you?
4. Read Luke 2:41-52.
5. What do you think of Mary and Joseph’s behavior in this story?
6. Put yourself in Mary or Joseph’s shoes in this story; how would you have acted when you discovered that Jesus was missing?
7. Can you think of any reasons it may have taken them three days to locate Jesus?<sup>1</sup>
8. How would you have acted—similarly or differently—when you finally found Jesus?
9. What do you think of Jesus’ behavior in this story?
10. Do you think Jesus’ answer (“Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”) indicates knowledge of his special relationship to the Father? If so, why? If not, why not?
11. How much do you think his parents knew about Jesus’ identity and mission at this point in his life?
12. Has your hunger for God ever been misunderstood by a family member? If so, describe it.
13. Notice v. 52: “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” This verse describes a fourfold “growing up” process: growing in wisdom (intellectual), growing in stature (physical), growing in favor with God (spiritual) and growing in favor with men (social). In which of these areas would

you say you're most "grown up?" In which area are you least "grown up?"  
Why?

14. In which of those area(s) can your fellow group members support you this week?

15. Any other questions or comments?

16. Close in prayer.

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<sup>1</sup> They were already a day's travel out of Jerusalem when they discovered he was missing, so they couldn't have made it back to Jerusalem until sometime on the second evening; large Passover crowds probably clogged the streets and the city; they may have checked with relatives and friends first, etc.