

Family Matters



FAMILY MATTERS

August 16, 2026

LUKE 2:41–47

SUNDAY REFRESHER

Most churches have worked hard to create ministry environments that are meaningful for every age and stage of life. Children have children's ministry, teenagers have youth group, and adults have the main worship service. There are good reasons for some of these distinctions, but in our effort to provide age-specific ministry, we may have unintentionally separated young people from the broader life of the church. We have created an adult table and a kids' table, and those tables rarely come together.

Luke 2 gives us the only biblical account of Jesus as a young person. When His parents found Him in the temple, Jesus was sitting among the teachers, listening, asking questions, and offering answers of His own. He was not pushed aside because of His age. He was welcomed into the conversation. Young people today need that same kind of community. They need trusted, Jesus-centered adults who will listen to them, serve alongside them, and show up consistently in their lives. When we invite young people to the table, we do not simply help them grow. We give them the opportunity to challenge, encourage, and shape us as well.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- *What did God say to you through this passage and teaching?*
- *Did God reveal anything new to you?*
- *How is this relevant in your journey to make disciples who Love God and Love people?*



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QUESTIONS

- *Where have you seen age-specific ministry become separation between generations?*
- *Who is one young person you can intentionally listen to and encourage?*
- *How can you invite young people to meaningfully serve alongside adults?*

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Luke 2:41–47

CONCLUSION

Young people are hungry for Jesus, but many remain hesitant about the church. They have seen hypocrisy, failure, and broken trust, and better programs alone will not overcome those experiences. What they need most are adults who genuinely follow Jesus and are willing to journey with them through life and faith. They need adults who will listen without immediately lecturing, serve with them instead of simply assigning them tasks, and show up even when it is inconvenient.

The invitation is not merely to make more room for young people somewhere else in the church. It is to pull up another chair and welcome them to the same table. The church is strongest when generations worship together, serve together, learn from one another, and recognize that everyone has something valuable to contribute. When we extend the table to all generations, young people are strengthened, adults are changed, and the entire church becomes a clearer picture of the family of God.

Knowing that life transformation happens best through intentional, meaningful relationships, don't let this week's sermon remain as mere information. In the next few days, look for ways to teach, challenge, encourage and/or pray about what you're discovering!

