

Grace Downtown CG Discussion Guide

February 11-14, 2019

Series: He became like us

Luke 2:41-52 and Hebrews 5:7-10



Announcements:

Diane Langberg: Dr. Diane Langberg is globally recognized for her work with trauma victims. She will teach on Abuse and Healing in the Church. Registration is \$20 per person and will be open through Feb 12 or until sold out. You must register in advance online; there will be no walk-up registration option. **Fri Feb 15 & Sat Feb 16** at Grace Mosaic.

Marriage Event: Join the Grace Downtown Marriage Care Team for an event about “how to change your spouse.” Sat March 2, 9:00-12:30 pm. Chinese Community Church. Childcare available. Cost \$35. More info and sign up on website.

Week of Prayer: Grace Downtown will dedicate the week of March 11 to prayer. Details to come. If you are willing to host a time of prayer in your home one morning or evening, please contact kara@gracedc.net. **Mar 11-17.**

Nominations Follow up: Thank you for submitting leadership nominations. Please pray for our candidates throughout the training process. Candidates will be kept confidential until they are announced in May.

Introduction:

We are continuing our series of focusing on the humanity of Jesus. We fully embrace the deity of Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity, and we also acknowledge that he was fully human. Tonight we want to reflect some on how it is that Jesus, over the course of his 33 year lifetime, “grew” in wisdom and faith.

Read and Discuss:

Read Luke 2:41-52 and Hebrews 5:7-10 aloud together.

1. Try to imagine how Jesus’ parents were feeling during the four days that they couldn’t find him (vv. 44-48). How might most parents feel? And how would Mary and Joseph also feel in light of knowing that Jesus was destined to have a special mission in life (see Lu. 2:16-19, 25-38, especially vv. 19 and 33)?
2. What is Jesus doing, thinking and feeling (vv. 46-49)? How do you picture Jesus’ tone in v. 48? Is he rebuking his parents? Doesn’t he realize they would rightfully be anxious concerning him?
3. Read v. 52 aloud. Do we see any “growing in wisdom” in this 12-year-old boy Jesus in this 4-day incident recorded in vv. 41-52? We know what it’s like for a

12-year-old to “grow in stature.” In what sense was Jesus the boy growing in wisdom, too, over time? How can God “grow” in wisdom?!

Read Hebrews 5:7-10 aloud together.

1. List everything you see here about Jesus’ humanity.
2. Notice the verbs-of-process: “LEARNED obedience from what he suffered”; “once made perfect”; “BECAME the source of eternal salvation.” What do these teach us about Jesus’ growth over time in his humanity?
3. If Jesus was fully God, how do we understand his “learning obedience through suffering”?

Application:

1. Does it encourage you or make you a bit uneasy to consider Jesus as needing to “grow” in wisdom and faith over time?
2. In thinking of Jesus “growing” in his humanity, does it take away your appreciation of his divinity? Why or why not?

Prayer:

The Grace Downtown Prayer Team creates opportunities for our community to learn more about prayer together for our church family, our city, and our world. Throughout the coming week, the Prayer Team is asking our church community to...

...for our church’s Community Groups (CGs). Give thanks that God loves community and that he has provided these CGs to foster community and genuine relationship. Ask that God would use our CGs as vessels of his love in Washington, DC. Lift up our CG and church leaders who facilitate this ministry and ask that they would be strengthened and encouraged.

...for the ministry teams of our church. Praise God that he is pleased when we use our abilities to exalt him through service. Give thanks for the opportunities we have to serve one another through the ministry teams. Pray that God would motivate people to join these teams and use them for his glory.

...for families and individuals still dealing with the impacts of the government shutdown. Pray that God would use our church to care for anyone who is struggling to overcome financial hardships.