



THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO GROW

REFLECTION POINTS 3 JANUARY 2021

BIBLE READING - LUKE 2:41-52



41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' 49 He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

These are words of faith

Thanks be to God

REFLECTION POINTS

Manningham Uniting has 4 values – you aim to be, in everything you do as a congregation, Christ-like, risk taking, hospitable and relational.

There's 3 contextual points to be aware of here:
Emperor Augustus was 12 years old when he led a public oration for his grandmother's funeral
By the time Jewish boys are 12 years old, they have begun studying the Torah
To Romans, 'house' is not only the physical space but an indication of authority

The relational conversation Jesus has with the Jewish leaders and teachers: **sitting** amongst the teachers,
listening to them,
asking them questions.
spent time with them building up relationships of trust and mutual respect

How do you understand the relational nature of the Christian faith?

How can this be achieved in practical terms?

I used 2 stories to illustrate the relational nature of the Christian faith and community – the raising of the widow's son in Luke's Gospel and the raising of Tabitha in Acts. What are the other stories that speak to you?

Does this encourage you to think differently about the new year?

