1. **Luke 2:41-42**

* Where did Mary and Joseph travel to and why did they travel there?
* How old was Jesus when he attended the festival with them?
* **1 Samuel 3:1-21**
* **Flavius Josephus** (37 AD – 100 AD) *Antiquities Book 5.10.4*

“Now when Samuel was **twelve years old**, he began to prophesy: and once when he was asleep, God called to him by his name; and he supposing he had been called by the high priest, came to him, but when the high priest said he did not call him, God did so three times. Eli was then so far illuminated that he said to him, ‘Indeed, Samuel, I was silent now as well as before, it is God that calls you; do you therefore signify it to Him, and say, I am here ready.’”

* What happened to **Samuel** at “twelve years old”, according to the **First Book of Samuel** and the writings of the **Jewish** priest and scholar **Flavius Josephus**?
* **2 Kings 22:1-2**
* **Flavius Josephus** (37 AD – 100 AD) *Antiquities Book 10.4.1*

“But the multitude punished those that killed Amon, and buried him with his father, and gave the kingdom to his son Josiah, who was eight years old. His mother of the city of Bozkath, and her name was Jedidah. He was of a most excellent disposition, and naturally virtuous, and followed the actions of King David, as a pattern and a rule to him in the whole conduct of his life. And when he was **twelve years old**, he gave demonstrations of his religious and righteous behavior; for he brought the people to a sober way of living and exhorted them to leave off the opinion they had of their idols, because they were not gods, but to worship their own God. And by repeating on the actions of his progenitors, he prudently corrected what they did wrong, like a very elderly man, and like one abundantly able to understand what was fit to be done, and what he found they had well done, he observed all the country over, and imitated the same.”

* What happened to **Josiah**, the King of Judah, at “twelve years old”, according to the **Second Book of Kings** and the writings of **Flavius Josephus**?
* When did the tradition of Bar Mitzvah originate (Google it)?
* What does “Bar Mitzvah” mean?
* Although the tradition of Bar Mitzvah came into being **long after Jesus Christ**, how does the idea of what it represents relate to Jesus’ situation in the **Gospel**?
* Reflect on **1 Samuel 3:19-21, 2 Kings 22:2,** and the **Gospel** and share a thought or two that comes to mind.

1. **Luke 2:43-52**

* What happened to Jesus in this passage?
* How many days had passed before Mary and Joseph “found” their missing son?
* Considering the amount of time Jesus was missing for, what other significant event in his life references that same amount of time, and do they have a connection?
* How did the people respond upon listening to Jesus’ questioning and responses to the “teachers” in the “temple”?
* Considering Mary’s responses upon finding Jesus, what does this say to us?
* Read the **footnote** for **Luke 2:49**, what does Jesus’ response to his mother mean?
* Considering we are members of his body, what does this response mean to us?
* **St. Bede** (672 AD – 735 AD) *Homilies on The Gospels Section 1.19*

“Therefore, when he was sitting in the temple, the Lord said, ‘I must be about my Father’s business,’ and this is a declaration of his power and glory which are coeternal with God the Father’s.”

“And his mother kept all these words, bearing them in her heart. The virgin mother very carefully retained in her heart everything which she found out about the Lord, whether from his saying or his deeds, and she solicitously commended it all to memory so that, when the time arrived for preaching [about] the Lord and writing about this incarnation, she would be able to sufficiently explain everything as it had taken place to those who were seeking to know. Let us too, my brothers, imitate the Lord’s holy mother; and by keeping all of our Lord and Savior’s words and deeds in a steadfast heart, let us also, by meditating on them day and night, drive away the troublesome assaults of empty and harmful thoughts.”