Riverside Community Church

Emmanuel: God with us
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December 29, 2024

You can't miss Jesus

Jesus Speaks with the Teachers

Luke 2:41-52 (NLT) - 41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. 42 When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. 43 After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, 44 because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. 46 Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. 47 All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere." 49 "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they didn't understand what he meant. 51 Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart. 52 Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

Jesus is ALWAYS where he needs to be

Jesus is in our hearts

Study Guide

With the Christmas season already coming to an end, and the New Year quickly approaches us, we can feel that we have somehow missed out on experiencing Jesus. The last four weeks were focussed on hope, peace, joy, and love; yet, the frantic shopping for presents, mediating family events, or even spending Christmas alone seems to challenge the presence of Christ. Like Mary and Joseph in Luke 2:48, we may have searched for Jesus, but felt we could not find him.

But the truth is this, Jesus is ALWAYS with us; he resides in our hearts--his handiwork can be seen in all of creation. Take some time to pray right now. Then, look back over your Christmas while. asking Jesus, "Can please show me where you were this Christmas?" Rest and wait for his response.

How do you invite Jesus into your Christmas season?

What would it look like for you to live fully knowing that Jesus is with you?