

## **Seek First: Following Jesus Without Dishonouring Your Parents** **February 22, 2026**

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

<sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:41-52)

Ethnic culture ties to a specific group sharing common ancestry, language and religion and customs.

National culture is based on citizenship, legal, and political ties to a specific country.

Generational culture is the shared values, behaviours, and perspectives of an age group shaped by the unique social, economic, and technological events experienced during their formative years.

### **1) Jesus prioritizes the Kingdom of God (v.49)**

*"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"*

- Matthew 10:37: Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

### **2) Godly parents can misunderstand God's calling (v.50)**

*"But they did not understand what he was saying to them."*

### **3) Jesus models both priority and honour (v.51-52)**

*Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.*

To honour someone means to hold them with high respect or great esteem. Control is using power to influence or direct people's behaviour or the course of events.

- John 19:26-27 - When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Every culture has blind spots, but the Gospel corrects them.

### Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever felt tension between what you/your child believe God wants and what your family/you expect?
2. How can family honour become misplaced if it replaces obedience to God?
3. If you are a child: what does it practically look like to honor your parents even when you choose a different path?
4. If you are a parent: how can you hold your child close while also releasing them to God's calling?

## Welcome to HOME Church

**Thank you for attending HOME Church.** If you are looking for a church to call HOME, feel free to connect with us. Details are on our website at [www.ourhomechurch.ca](http://www.ourhomechurch.ca). OR the welcome card in the seat in front of you.

Upcoming News + Notes:

**Night to Shine volunteer appreciation & debrief** on Sunday, March 1 after the second service. Sign-up with Pastor Vincent today!

**Cantonese Bible Study** with Pastor Pat after the first service. Please meet in the Blue House Conference Lounge (basement). The study starts at 11 am.

**Mid-week Cantonese Evergreen Gathering on February 26<sup>th</sup>.** Please talk to Pastor Paul or Mayson for details. Lunch will be provided.

**Bible Tour: Footsteps of the Ancient Followers of Jesus in Italy.** October 6-16, 2026, with Pastor Andy + Annick. Details on the church app.

**Giving Options at HOME Church.** Our preferred way of giving is through e-transfer debit. You can set this up with your banking platform by giving at [give@ourhomechurch.ca](mailto:give@ourhomechurch.ca). Please make cheques out to "HOME Church". All details are on our website. **Thank you** for your continued generosity and support of HOME Church's mission and vision.

Please stay connected to the latest news + notes on our website.  
Thank you for your support during the church renovations.