LUKE 2:41-52 · 3 MAY 2026 · The Gos
Luk

Growing in *Wisdom* and Grace

12 *yrs*

A boy in the temple.
A Father in heaven.
A home in Nazareth.

LUKE 2:49 — JESUS' FIRST WORDS IN LUKE

" Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I *must be* in my *Father's house?*"

The first words of Jesus in Luke's Gospel.

READ ALOUD TOGETHER · ESV

Luke 2:41–45

The boy stays behind in Jerusalem

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the
Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according
to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning,
the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,
44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but
then they began to search for him among their relatives and
acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to
Jerusalem, searching for him.

READ ALOUD TOGETHER · ESV

After three days, they find him

Luke 2:46–50

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 And
when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said
to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I
have been searching for you in great distress." 49 And he said to them,
"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my
Father's house?" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he
spoke to them.

READ ALOUD TOGETHER · ESV

Luke 2:51–52

He went home — and grew

51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

BIG IDEA

The Son who must be in his *Father's house* went home and washed dishes.

One sermon. Three stories. Luke 2:41–52.

Three *childhood stories of Jesus*

Knew. Grew. Saved.

KNEW

1

Jesus knew *whose he was.*

LUKE 2:41-49

GREW

2

Jesus grew *where he was.*

LUKE 2:51-52

SAVED

3

Jesus saved *the home he submitted under.*

LUKE 2:46 + LUKE 24

MOVEME

1

Jesus *knew*

whose he was.

FATHER · SON · NECESSITY

LUKE 2:4

LUKE 2:41-42

" Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up *according to custom.***"**

Habit. Tradition. The way it's always done.

LUKE 2:49 — JESUS' FIRST WORDS IN LUKE

" Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I *must be* in my *Father's house?*"

The first words of Jesus in Luke's Gospel.

TWO GREEK WORDS, ONE CONTRAST

Custom *vs.* Necessity

κατὰ τὸ ἔθος

kata to ethos

"according to the custom"

Luke 2:42 — what Mary and Joseph did every year. Habit. Tradition. The way it's always done.

vs.

δεῖ

dei

"it is necessary / I must”

First time the words appears in Luke

Luke 2:49 — first time in Luke. Reappears at the cross (9:22 / 22:37 / 24:7). Divine necessity.

Religion as *routine*
Faith as a Father

At twelve, Jesus didn't have a religion. He had a Father.

Most of us spend our lives *becoming* somebody

Jesus at twelve knew
I am not becoming somebody

I already AM somebody

He doesn't stay in the temple.
He goes home. And *washes dishes.*

For eighteen years.

MOVEME

2

Jesus *grew*

where he was.

ROOTS · HIDDEN · PATIENCE

LUKE 2:5

LUKE 2:51-52

" And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was *submissive to them.* **And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus** *increased in wisdom* **and in stature and in favour with God and man. "**

PUNCH L

The best things in life are *grown* — not built.



9.58 *s*

BERLIN · 16 AUGUST

TWO · GREW

PICTURE 1 OF 3 · OLYMPIC GOLD

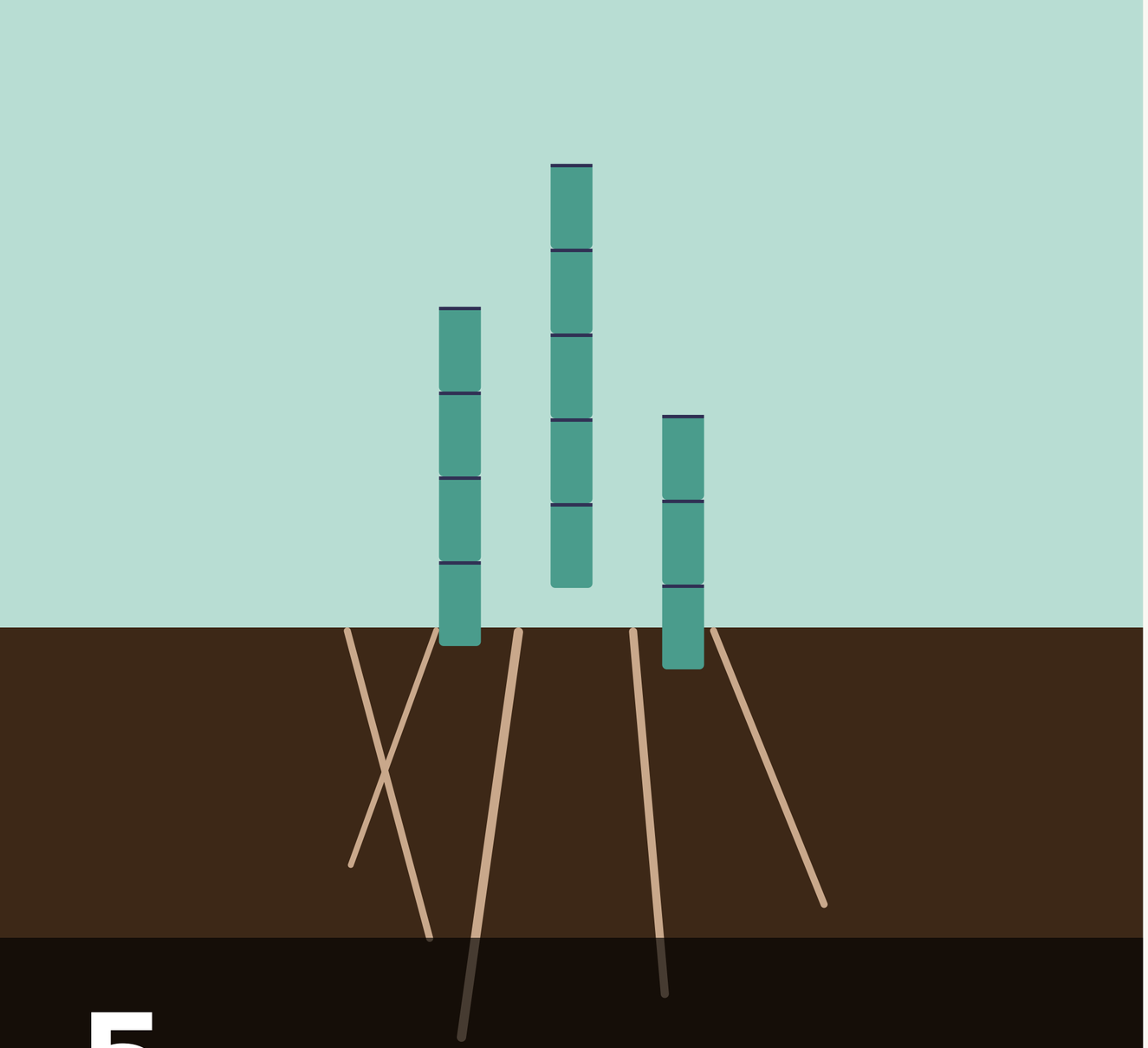
Usain *Bolt*

~4,000 *days*

of training the cameras never saw

Paid for in advance, by years no one watched.

The race you see vs. the years you don't.



TWO · GREW

PICTURE 2 OF 3 · BAMBOO

Hidden *roots*

0 *visible*

years above the soil

The network forms first.

No roots, no shoot.

Underground · then upward.



JOHN 12:24 · JESUS' OWN

TWO · GREW

PICTURE 3 OF 3 · THE SEED

Grain of *wheat*

100× *fruit*

on the other side of dying

Jesus' own picture for Jesus' own life.

Death is the door to fruit.

We want *fruit* without *roots*

Mature marriage without the long staying. Patience without slow growing. Discipleship without a cross. A saviour without dying.

Disciples **are grown not manufactured**

GALATIANS 5:22-23

" The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, *self-control.***"**

Patience itself takes patience to grow.

HEBREWS 5:8

" Although he was a son, he *learned* obedience through what he *suffered.*"

Even Jesus learned. The 18 hidden years were not bypassed.
They were training ground for Jesus.

LUKE 2:51

" And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was *submissive to them.* **"**

A *free Son* **who chooses to submit out of freedom not out of fear.**

The Son who *must be* in his Father's house went home and washed dishes.

He knew whose he was.
So he could grow where he was.

MOVEME

3

Jesus *saved*

the home he submitted under.

LOST · FOUND · HOME

LUKE 2:46 + L

After three days...

LUKE 2:46 — BOY IN THE TEMPLE

"After three days they found him … in his Father's house."

Mary searches. **They find him.**

LUKE 24:21 — AFTER THE CROSS

"It is now the third day since these things happened."

They look. **He has finally gone home.**

Same Father's house. Same divine "must." Same surprising return.

He was *lost*
so we could be found

WHAT NO ONE ELSE SEES…

The Father who *sees*.

The prayer that **no one applauded**

The night shift no one photographed

The 1am prayer in the Clayton share house

The people you **didn't give up on**

The Friday night you said no

The thirty years of quiet service

300

OUR CHURCH'S PRAYER

disciples.

Not a number on a slide. **A Father's longing** for sons and daughters.

And the soil they grow in is —

Nazareth.

We are not chasing *300* .
We are following 1.

THE TABLE

Hands that *planed wood* **are hands** *nailed* **to wood.**

> *"This is my body, given for you."*
>
> *"This is my blood, poured out for you."*

Come.

The Son who *must be* in his Father's house went home and washed dishes.

And so do we.

SENDING

Go in *peace*.
Go in *joy*.
Go to *grow*.

The *Father* has named you.
The *Father* has called you.
The *Father* has chosen you.

BENEDICTION

Amen.