

**My Father's House**  
Group Study Guide  
*Gospel of Luke Series*

**Main text:** Luke 2:41–52

**Supporting texts:** Malachi 2:10; Deuteronomy 1:31; Psalm 103:13; Proverbs 3:12; Isaiah 64:8; Matthew 11:27; Matthew 7:9–11; Matthew 6:9–10; Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Luke 15:20

This weekend, Pastor Jonathan read the story of boy Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem and focused on the awkward tension between his angry parents and Jesus and how Jesus responded to his mother by saying he had to be “in my Father’s house.” This phrase is hugely significant and telegraphs what would become a major emphasis in Jesus’ ministry: showing how God is his Father and our Father.

**Questions:**

- In this story of boy Jesus in Luke 2:41–52, we see a family situation filled with tension, awkwardness, and stress. Pastor Jonathan made a comment that this is normal in all families and we are shaped in powerful ways by our families growing up. If you go talk to a therapist, one of the first things they’ll say is: “tell me about your family of origin.” Share something about your family of origin.
- Jesus responds to his mother by saying, “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” God is rarely named as or prayed to as Father in the Hebrew Scriptures. Images such as Yahweh as judge, or Yahweh as warrior, or Yahweh as king, are far more prevalent in the Hebrew Scriptures. Why do you think Jesus is using this language as a young boy?
- This phrase “my Father” is never used by anyone else in the New Testament to speak about God. When Jesus speaks about God being the Father of his disciples, he says “your Father” (see Matthew 7:9–11). What could it mean that only Jesus says “my father”?
- In Mark 14:36, Jesus prays to “Abba, Father,” and we are invited to do the same. See Romans 8:15. This is a term of intimacy and familiarity. Are you able to relate to God as your Abba Father or is this a difficult thing for you?