

A children's bible study on Jesus' childhood – Luke 2:52:

*Jesus became wiser and grew physically. People liked him, and he pleased God. (New Century Version)*

Jesus was also once a little boy. It is easy for us to only think of Jesus as God, but Jesus as a boy? The God of the universe who created everything out of nothing, a little baby and then a boy with not much power? Well, that is how God intended it. Jesus had to go through life as we all have to do. Jesus also first had to learn to walk, after crawling like a baby. Jesus also played outside with the other children. He obviously didn't have all the toys we do today, but probably played games or went fishing or swimming etc. It is interesting to think that Jesus was also once the same age as you are right now and knows exactly what it means to be in your shoes. As astonishing as this may be, the big question is, “What would Jesus have done, should he have been in your shoes? What would Jesus have done, if he had faced the same day-to-day experiences as you do?” What would Jesus have done when he was bullied by someone bigger, or should the teacher have picked on him? What would Jesus have done when things are not going so well back at home? Mum and dad are always fighting or are divorced already.

A few things come out of this verse. The first thing is that Jesus was liked by both God and people. This was, however, not always the case. When Jesus was an adult many people hated him, but I'm sure when Jesus was a boy some other kids also didn't like him. They didn't like Jesus because he was always doing the right thing. The bible doesn't tell us anything about them, maybe because Jesus pleased God, and these children didn't and were omitted by the Holy Spirit, who inspired the bible, because they weren't important. It is always more important to please God than people, but, funny enough, when we please God we learn to want to please only those that also please God as well. Those that doesn't please God we start to feel sorry for and rather have sympathy with them than despising them. This is a lesson to learn. The one that bullies you is actually weaker than you, since her or she has to bully others to overcome the inferiority inside them. If they had a relationship with Jesus who loved them, they would not have wanted to pick on others.

Back at our verse, we read how Jesus became wiser. To become wiser is to please God. Wisdom is not knowledge per say. We can read many of books, and even the bible, and not become wiser. Wisdom is to learn the practical skills of how to live a life that pleases God. Just knowledge isn't practical enough and won't do. Wisdom is to learn what Jesus would have done should he have been

in our shoes.

The bible tells us:

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...* (Proverbs 9:10 Third Millennium Bible)

Wisdom begins with our fear for God, not reading books or the bible per say. Now be careful, this doesn't mean to be afraid of God. This is negative. The fear for God is a positive fear, just as fear for fire is positive preventing us from burning. The fear for God means God is more important than any- and everything else and therefore we should first listen to God before we listen to anyone else. This includes even ourselves.

When wisdom is the practical side of knowing, it was even for Jesus, who is God, to learn how to please God in every situation. Jesus would never have had the wisdom we need, if he hadn't come to earth and live a life as we have to do. Wisdom is a relational word, which means it is something between two personalities or people. Be honest, you know what would please your mum or dad, because you have learned the practical methods how to do it. Cleaning your room can be one, or bringing breakfast to your mum in bed on a Saturday e.g. That is wisdom. Maybe for your friends the same methods wouldn't work with their parents and therefore wisdom can't be always generalised. In praying and learning to know God through the bible, we have to batter out the methods of how to please God. When your friends want to do wrong things, just ask "What would Jesus have done?" This even applies to your own wrong desires that might pop up. If God is pleased with you, the right people will also be pleased with you.

Questions:

1. What is the most difficult situation you are facing right now?
2. Do you think God is pleased with the way you are handling it?
3. If not, who can you ask to help you to show the way how Jesus would have handled it?