

## AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: LUKE 2

Scripture of Lesson: Luke's Gospel 2: 40-52

### 1. What is Passover?

a. Jewish festival in which they commemorate God's deliverance of Israel from the bondage of Egypt.

*"Let the children of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time. On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at its appointed time. According to all its rites and ceremonies you shall keep it." So Moses told the children of Israel that they should keep the Passover. And they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month, at twilight, in the Wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did. [Numbers 9: 2-5]*

b. Celebrated on the 14th day of the first month every year. But the people of Israel neglected, then forgot keeping of the Passover for many years until King Josiah's time: 2 Kings 23: 21-23

c. During a Passover festival, a lamb is butchered for a family and its roasted meat is eaten together with unleavened bread.

d. Passover symbolizes God's salvation for mankind

- Passover event meant literal salvation of a people from slavery and their election as a special chosen people of God.

- The sacrifice of Jesus Christ brings the same miracle of deliverance from sin's bondage and election as God's children for all repenting sinners.

*For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. [Hebrews 7: 26-28]*

### 2. Jesus' family's annual trip to Jerusalem

a. The family of Joseph and Mary with a number of children made this trip to Jerusalem each year.

b. It meant personal sacrifice of foregoing business and personal interests for this multi-day walking trip.

. Time: at least two weeks

. Cost: cost of journey, lodging, a lamb, and contribution to the temple

c. Why did Joseph and Mary faithfully keep the Passover in spite of the prevalent tendency of slackness?

1) They put God in the most supreme place in the family.

2) They wanted to teach their children the worship of God.

3) They did not forget the mission given to them from God through angel's visit.

*Discussion topic:*

1. *How faithful are we in attending church services and other learning events?*

2. *Do we willingly bear the cost of such experiences?*

### 3. Boy Jesus' Focus on God's business

*And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. [v. 2: 49-50]*

a. What was Jesus' expectation toward his parents about their life's mission?

He reminded them about their mission and his life's mission.

b. What did boy Jesus do at the Temple?

1) He must have observed the offering of the Passover lamb, which was a symbol of His own role.

2) This annually repeated experience must have kept alive in Jesus his mission of life.

3) He engaged in theological discussions with the "doctors" (theological teachers).

- Even as a young boy Jesus wanted to impart heavenly wisdom and knowledge to the spiritual leaders of Israel in the hope of guiding them to the truth of God.

- This tells us what theological preparation young Jesus must have been making toward his ministry.

c. What was boy Jesus' belief in his mission?

1) Boy Jesus' understanding of who his Father is.

2) His understanding of God's business

"I must be about my Father's business?"

3) What is God's business and what was Jesus' mission?

*He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. [John 1: 10-13]*

. The Messiah came to his own people to claim his kingship. But He was recognized, rejected and killed.

. The Messiah came to give people the right to become children of God, through His sacrifice as the Passover lamb.

*Discussion topic:*

1. *What is your understanding/ perception of God's business in this world? Is He the Creator who created the universe and let it run on its own course and He is focused on something else? If not, then what would He be His focus?*

2. *The Scripture is silent about the years of Jesus' life between his 12th year and the start of his ministry. There have come out a number of hypothetical scenarios of how and where he spent those years. What is your view about the nature of his life during these 18 years based on the story of this study?*