



BETWEEN THE MANGER AND THE CROSS

The Whereness of Jesus

For the week of January 11th, 2026

Life

When life feels busy or crowded, what are some things that tend to get lost or overlooked first?

When you hear the word “anxious,” what kinds of situations usually come to mind for you?

Theology

Luke uses the word “*odunáō*” to describe how Mary and Joseph felt while searching for Jesus. How does knowing that Mary and Joseph experienced torment shape the way you view them as people (and parents) of faith? How does it shape the way we view Jesus as a child/teen?

While Mary and Joseph were feeling intense torment, the audience of Jesus at the temple were feeling amazement. What is the purpose of that? What important lessons or insight can we glean from this aspect of Luke 2:41-52?

Jesus’ first recorded words in Luke come in the form of a question: **“Why were you searching for me?”** What do you think Jesus is inviting Mary and Joseph (and us) to consider through that question?

The sermon emphasized that Jesus was not lost, but present where the Father was at work. How does that reframe the way we interpret seasons of perceived absence?

In Practice

The sermon suggested that torment often comes when we search for Jesus where we expect Him to be, rather than where Jesus is at work. What might it mean to be present where Jesus is, instead of expecting Him to follow us? What changes in rhythm to your life do you need to consider as you seek to be present with Christ?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS