

THIS IS MY YEAR

Choose some goals; then follow the Roadmap to Success!

	<u>Target Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Finish</u>
1) _____ <i>Choose something to do with the <u>Bible</u>...</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) _____ <i>Choose something to do with <u>faithfulness</u>...</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) _____ <i>Choose something to do with <u>a relationship</u>...</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Saturday, 1/2 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/3 at 9:00

Second Sunday after Christmas – 2021

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: With the help, guidance, and strength of the Almighty God, *we have made it through 2020!* Now what? Right now, **THINGS** are not much different than last year, yet **WE can be different!**

We all have choices:

- ☹ We can allow our circumstances to control us, **OR**
- ☺ We can choose to go forward in the all the best ways – *regardless of our circumstances!*

Today's Bible text focuses on a key time in Jesus' life as He transitioned **from being a boy to becoming an adult**. For us, today is a key time as we make our plans for **2021**.

1. **Jesus' Early Years (0-12):** God in human flesh was ➔ born and visited by shepherds (Luke 2:1-20); then ➔ named Jesus and circumcised when eight days old (Luke 2:21); then ➔ at

the temple when 40 days old (Luke 2:22-38); then ➡ back to Bethlehem and visited by the wise men (Matt. 2:1-12); then ➡ in Egypt for a short time to avoid Herod's murderous soldiers (Matt. 2:13-18); then, *after Herod's death*, ➡ settled in Nazareth (Matt. 2:19-23). **Now, as we get into today's sermon text**, keep in mind that this is the ONLY Bible passage containing a specific event about Jesus *between the time He was an infant and an adult!* It would be nice to know more, *but that information is NOT essential for our salvation!* **This verse summarizes the next 11 years of Jesus' life:** **40 The Child [Jesus] continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.** // Jesus had *God-fearing and believing* parents who taught Him the Scriptures and so much more! *Let us also teach all who are willing!!*

2. **Jesus at 12 Years Old:** Jesus at the age of 12 transitioned from a boy to a man.
 - a. He attended the Passover in Jerusalem: **41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.**¹ **42 And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast;**⁴³ **and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days [that is, 8 days], the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it,**⁴⁴ **but supposed Him to be in the caravan [among relatives or friends], and went a day's journey [one of at least 4 days to travel the 90 miles]; and they *began* looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.**
 - b. His parents looked for Him: **45 When they did not find Him [among the caravan], they returned to Jerusalem**

¹ Passover is joined to the feasts of Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits (Lev. 23:5-15).

looking for Him. ⁴⁶ Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions [*“...the rabbis often responded to people’s questions by posing their own questions” (TLSB); Jesus did the same by asking His own questions*]. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

- c. He was scolded by His mother: ⁴⁸ When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You [*note: that is the last reference in the Bible to Joseph, Jesus’ legal father; he must have died between Jesus being 12 and 30*].”
- d. He responded to His mother: ⁴⁹ And He said to them [*note: these are the first words of Jesus recorded in the Bible*], “**Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house** [*that is, the house of my actual Father*]?” ⁵⁰ But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. // Why? Did Jesus grow up like other boys? Did they forget about Him being Immanuel (God with us)?

3. **Jesus’ Later Years (12-30):** ⁵¹ And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them [*to obey them*]; and His mother treasured all *these* things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. // As He grew like us, let us grow to be like Him!

4. **Our 2021 Goals:** It’s good to plan the work; *then work the plan!* Therefore, let’s all identify some 2021 goals: See the insert in today’s folder (or download it here > [click](#)). Now, let’s begin to complete it!

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	<u>Target Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Finish</u>
1) (For example: NT 5 x 5; reading plan; SM) <i>Choose something to do with the <u>Bible</u>...</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) (For example: DS; BC; Giving; Serving) <i>Choose something to do with <u>faithfulness</u>...</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) (For example: talk; forgive; caring actions) <i>Choose something to do with <u>a relationship</u>...</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4) (For example: fast; eat healthy; exercise) <i>Choose something to do with <u>good health</u>...</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5) (For example: Fix something; volunteer) <i>Choose something to do with <u>making a difference</u>...</i>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Roadmap to Success

- ➔ I will Seek God's will... Read the Bible, pray, and seek the advice of a mature believer!
- ➔ I will share my goals with others... Especially share them with your support staff, *which includes the people who are closest to you!*
- ➔ I will move forward every day... Each day you may not *fully* succeed, **BUT DO SOMETHING** toward your goal!
- ➔ I will celebrate every success... Since each success is a blessing from God, *give Him thanks and have a healthy celebration!*
- ➔ I will never give up... *It's better to die trying than to live with the regret of giving up!*

"...all things are possible with God." Mark 10:27 NAU

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord, *help us this year unto Your glory!*

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