

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	06 December, 2026.....	1Samuel 01-02	Prayer
2)	13 Dec	1Samuel 03-04	Calling
3)	20 Dec.....	Luke 02.....	(Christmas) Savior
4)	27 Dec.....	1Samuel 05-07	Supremacy
5)	03 January 2027	1Samuel 08-14	King Demanded
6)	10 Jan.....	1Samuel 15.....	Obedience
7)	17 Jan.....	Psalms 139.....	Value of Life
8)	24 Jan.....	1Samuel 16.....	Anointed
9)	31 Jan.....	1Samuel 17.....	Victory
10)	07 Feb.....	1Samuel 18-21	Friendship
11)	14 Feb.....	1Samuel 22-24	Respect
12)	21 Feb.....	1Samuel 25.....	Discernment
13)	28 Feb.....	1Samuel 26-31	Guidance

INTRODUCTION

- These 52 verses take us from Jesus' birth to 12 years of age.
- How much would we whine and complain if our kids were born under such 3rd-world conditions?

Passage	Comments
Luke 2:1-7	The Birth of Jesus • Was Jesus born in an open stable, a cave, or the basement of a relative's house? ♦ v7. "No room in the 'inn' – the 'inn' word here is actually misinterpreted. A better translation is "there was no room in the 'guest room'" – see Luke 22:11 & Mat 14:14 where this word [grk. kataluma] is used to describe the "guest room" where Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover. ♦ Besides, Bethlehem was too small to have a hotel. ♦ Luke actually uses the term for an inn in Luke 10:34 where he tells the story of the Good Samaritan taking a wounded man to an "inn" [grk. pandochion] ♦ Mary likely gave birth to Jesus in the opened lower level of a crowded in-law's house, where animals might have been brought in for the night. She then wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger (an animal feeding trough used as a crib). ♦ Why such a humble beginning for the King of Kings?
Were animals kept in the house?	• It was customary to bring animals into the lower level of a house to protect them from weather and thieves. • Judges 11:30-40. The account of Jephthah records he vowed to sacrifice the first thing which came out of his house upon his return from fighting the Ammonites. • Apparently, he expected an animal to come out of his house. Instead, his only daughter came out, and she remained a virgin all her days.
2:8-20	The Shepherds and Angels • v13. Why did the Angels appear to the lowest class of people working in the dreary darkness and not to the wealthier, political or religious class residing in the city? • Shepherds were usually kids, slaves, or immigrants who couldn't get a better paying job anywhere else. • Since the angels told the shepherds the Messiah would be found lying in a feeding trough it probably didn't take them long to find Him.
2:21-24	The Circumcision and Presentation of Jesus • After 7 days, Jesus was circumcised; and after 40 days, Mary & Joseph went to Jerusalem and presented a pair of turtledoves as a sacrificeLev 12:1-4 • They were not rich enough to bring a lamb, which means the wise men who had offerings of gold, frankincense, and myrrh have not paid them a visit yet.

Passage	Comments
2:25-35	Simeon's Prophetic Praise • God rewarded him with the ability to prophecy – to receive unique messages from God and to share them. • The special revelations about their son was alarming.
2:36-38	Prophetess Anna's Testimony • Apparently after becoming a young widow, she opted to devote her remaining years to full time service - fasting, praying, worshipping (and probably cleaning too). • Like Simeon, God rewarded her with ability to prophecy
2:39-40	The Family's Return to Nazareth • v40. "And the child grew, and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God" • Can any child do this? ABSOLUTELY, if they are first willing to turn TV off, study God's words and live by it.
2:41-50	Jesus, 12 years old, Baffles the Religious Elite • Was this miraculous? Or did Jesus apply himself to study and application while at home? • In all probability, Jesus did what every mentally-abled kid has the ability to do – no miracles were needed.
Apocrypha stories of Jesus as a youth	Apocrypha books are of dubious nature and sources • Jesus brings life to a dried fish; breathes life into birds fashioned from clay; curses a boy who falls dead, His parents become blind; and He resurrects a friend
2:51-52	Jesus Grew in Favor with God and with People • v51. Jesus, the Creator – who knew more than His earthly mom & dad, subjected Himself to them. • Being God, Jesus knows everything, BUT He never experienced pain, loss, or temptation like a human. • He had to become human to learn those things.. WHY? • He "learned obedience from his sufferings" Heb 5:8 • v52. There is no reason for each of us not to grow in favor with God and people on a continuing basis. • If we have behavior issues, now's the time to fix them. • It's never too late to start living by God's principles.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- We may not have been the perfect kid that Jesus was, and we may not be the perfect adults who love God with all our ability, but we have no excuse not to move forward for Christ and to grow in favor with God and with our neighbors, family, and co-workers.

NEXT WEEK: 1Samuel 5-7. In this passage, we will see the ARK captured by the Philistines, then it is returned after some misfortunes, & the Philistines are eventually defeated as Samuel makes a sacrifice to the Lord, and the Lord responds favorably with bad weather. How do we secure the Lord's favor today to defeat our enemies, break addictions, and restore health, wealth, and relationships?

