

October 2 Answers

- 1) Of all the stories God could have told us from Jesus' childhood, He chose to share the one about Jesus being separated from His parents. This story shows us that: (1) from an early age, Jesus recognized that He was God's **Son**, (2) Jesus had a desire to **learn** everything he could about God, and (3) Jesus was **submissive** and obedient to his parents. Even as a boy, Jesus was leaving us an **example** so we could follow in His steps. The years flew by, and finally, in the spring of 29, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of **repentance** for the forgiveness of sins. John was the messenger written of by **Isaiah**, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'" (Luke 3:4). The connection between repentance and straight paths teaches us that sin **hinders** God's work in our lives. John challenged his fellow Jews: 'You claim to be God's people, but your lives don't show any **fruit!**' When they asked him what they should do, John told them to clothe the naked, feed the poor, deal honestly with others, and love their neighbor. This is exactly what God had been calling them to do for hundreds of years (cf. Isa 58:5-6), and it reminds us to **love** our neighbor.