



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 5: Matured

Suggested Week of Use: January 3, 2021

Core Passage: Luke 2:41-52

News Story Summary

Time magazine announced in early December of 2020 its first-ever Kid of the Year. Gitanjali Rao, age 15, from Lone Tree, Colorado, was selected from a field of more than 5,000 applicants whose ages range from 8-16. The candidates represented a wide range of positive work, from guiding discussions about racial injustice to growing food for the needy and making toys that all kids can enjoy, regardless of their abilities.

Gitanjali was first recognized in 2017 for creating a device for testing lead in water. Her latest work is a Web tool called Kindly, that detects possible early signs of cyberbullying. She has also partnered with rural schools and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs to encourage her peers to solve problems they are passionate about.

For more information on this story, search “Time magazine kid of the year”

Focus Attention

To replace the Focus Attention ideas, direct the group to share accomplishments from their teenage years as they gather. Record responses on a board or sheet of paper. After most have arrived, read the story about Gitanjali Rao. Encourage the group to share their response on her award. Say: *Why might we as adults fail to recognize the contributions of young people in our society? Why might we be surprised when we hear stories about teenagers who excel?* Then point out that this lesson will focus on Jesus as a twelve-year-old and the impression He made on others and on His parents.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Review idea under Summarize and Challenge, recall the story of Gitanjali Rao. Explain that she was chosen from 5,000 applicants from age 8 to 16, each with a different passion that set them apart from their peers. Lead the group to propose characteristics that set Jesus apart from His peers based solely on today’s passage. Point them to the three summary statements under Apply the Text to support the discussion. Complete the step as written, inviting the group to identify the passages that support each summary statement.