

Growing

At this time of year, nature shows herself in all her glory, with many plants and trees gaining their leaves, blossom and buds. Many new animals can be seen in the fields with lambs and calves arriving to name but a few. Some people may find that over the last few months, the clothes that they put away last summer, seemed to have shrunk in the cupboards (not that they have got any bigger). Children of course, go through growing spurts and then stay at around the same height for a while.

As Christians, we all aim to grow in our knowledge and love of God, as well as trying to increase our knowledge of the bible. To do this, we attend church services, attend discussion groups, read the bible daily with notes to help us understand the passage in greater detail. We also ask other people about the passage, who will hopefully guide our thoughts.

I have found that the more I read the bible, look at study guides and guidance notes, the more I find I don't know. These times do help me to understand the passage I have been looking at in more detail.

In the bible, Jesus at the age of 12, spent time with the teachers of the church, listening to them, asking them questions. All the teachers that heard him, were amazed at the level of understanding that Jesus had. In Jesus' time at the age of 12 a boy was considered a man and therefore had been taken by his parents to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover (the time when the Jews remember their escape from Egypt and slavery). Whilst Jesus was considered a very wise young man by the teachers, he had forgotten to let his parents know where he was. Mary and Joseph (Jesus' parents) eventually found him in the temple three days later.

After Jesus was reprimanded for his actions, we are told that Jesus returned home with his parents to Nazareth. While he continued his family life, he 'grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and mankind'. This account of Jesus life is in the bible, gospel of Luke, chapter 2 and verses 41 to 52.

Jesus set us an example to grow in wisdom (of life and of God), in stature (looking after bodies to help them grow stronger and remain healthy) and in favour with God and all people. This last section means to treat everyone fairly.

If you would like to know more about God and how you can grow closer to him, you are welcome to join us at Stanground Baptist Church. Please see our website for details of events and services.

www.stangroundbaptistchurch.org.uk

