



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 1 January 2023

1. What struck you most from the teaching on Sunday?

Please read **Luke 1.46-55**; and **Matthew 2.13-18**

2. Following their first involuntary relocation from Nazareth to Bethlehem, how do you think this new instruction of the Lord, "Get up, take the child and escape to Egypt.", would have been received by Mary and Joseph?
How might it have challenged the kind of faith that Mary expressed in Luke 1.46-55?

Jesus' family are now refugees in Egypt, fleeing a very localized and particular persecution, (likely not well reported or understood in Egypt). Strangers in a strange land and now dependent to some extent on their acceptance by Egyptians.

3. How might this experience (allied with His divine character) have influenced and shaped Jesus' ministry in his later years?
4. With reference to the video we watched in the service – how does it help us to know that Jesus 'gets us', and especially gets those who share experiences like this with him?
5. Please read **Matthew 11.28-30**. For all of us who feel like aliens and strangers in this world – even in our own country – we are so grateful for the compassionate and welcoming heart of Jesus. How might we choose to (and grow more to) reflect the compassionate character of Jesus towards strangers in 2023?

Please read **Matthew 2.19-23**

6. Why would Joseph and Mary have assumed that the instruction to take the child back to Israel would have meant back to Bethlehem?

Instead, they return to Nazareth in Galilee – where Jesus lived and grew up as a child (from about the age of 4 until 30 years of age. Nazareth was an unfashionable, derided town – even amongst the country folk of Galilee (and far less amongst the 'proper Israelites' of Judea).

7. With reference to **Luke 5.30-31**, how would Jesus' experience of growing up a Nazarene (allied with his divine character) have shaped and influenced his ministry in his later years?
8. How does it help us to know that he gets ordinary people (Please read **Hebrews 4.14-16**)?

Please read **Luke 2.41-52**

Jesus is hungry to know more and to grow more in the Word of God and the Ways of God. So, it followed that He'd want to spend time in His Father's House – with God's people and teachers. Jesus gave himself completely to the human process of growth – At 12 he's already tuned into how he can grow and develop as a servant of God.

Growth in godly wisdom and stature happens by Intention - not Incidentally or accidentally.

Like Jesus, we'll grow in godly wisdom and stature as we invest in our learning and growth surrounded by godly people.

9. How will you intentionally invest in your spiritual growth as a New Year Resolution in 2023?