

IAMS Consultation  
Abstract on “A Boy Called Jesus”  
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Very little is recorded about the “child” Jesus. Although Matthew and Luke record the birth and infancy narratives, many scholars believe these narratives were added at a later date. There is also the question as to how Luke would have acquired the information about Jesus’ birth and childhood. This paper does not deal with source and form criticism, with the question of Jesus’ younger siblings, or with the debate over his being brought up as a child or youth in a religious community such as Qumran together with his cousin John the Baptist or as part of a similar group of youngsters gathered by a rabbi for childhood/youth training. Rather, this paper will center on three specific topics:

- What is recorded directly in Scripture and what is intimated by the references in Jesus’ ministry, speaking, and preaching.
- What is meant by Luke’s statements about Jesus: “The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him” and “He grew in favor with God and man”?
- What can we learn specifically for our 4/14 ministry from a boy called Jesus?

The focus of this paper is to see Jesus as a human being, influenced and molded by his childhood, his upbringing, his family, and his spiritual development, rather than looking at his ministry solely as an adult and overlooking the significance of his childhood.

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