

By William Watson  
Age 13

## Sermon

Everybody, no matter how old, has been young once, and everybody who is young grows up. Your life can change a lot from when you are young to when you've grown up. In the case of the first reading, Samuel's life changed a lot after he first heard God. As the reading says, hearing God was rare in those days, and now that Samuel had heard from God, his life was suddenly on the path of a prophet.

Life is like a twisting path, with not that many road signs as to which path to take. God can help guide you along this path, keep you from straying on to the dangerous sidestreets and alleys. Sometimes, though, we wander and get lost.

In the story of Jesus in the temple, Jesus's parents lose him in Jerusalem. They are really quite anxious and try to search for him. It takes them 3 whole days to find him in the temple. As for why they never searched in the temple earlier, maybe he just hadn't been interested in

God before then and this was the first time he had shown any interest in God. in any case, sometimes people become lost and don't realize it until it is too late. A few years ago, when I was the same age as Jesus was when he was in the temple, a friend and I were ditched on the toboggan hill. we didn't realise we'd been ditched until a few minutes after they left and didn't come back. We still thought we knew the way to my friend's house and as we had borrowed some sleds we thought we should return them. After a lot of walking we realized we were lost and couldn't find the way back. We managed to reach a friend's house and had tried to call my mum, but she didn't pick up because she was in the car looking for me. I had tried to call my mum at the hill on a stranger's phone, but I couldn't reach her and later found out this message had prompted her to go searching for me at the hill. I eventually got a drive to my friends house, returned the sleds and went home, but that situation left me more careful about getting lost. When I was found, it was such a relief. I felt safe and loved. Even Jesus might have felt a

little lost when his parents left him and he probably at least wondered where they'd went.

Growing up is just like going along a winding path where it is all too easy to get lost, but God always knows the way if you can find his road signs and learn how to read them.