

Lessons for Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026

Psalms 119:97–104 ~ *Meditation on God's law gives wisdom and understanding.*

1 Kings 3:4–15 ~ *Solomon prayed for wisdom to govern God's people.*

Ephesians 1:3–14 ~ *God chose us in Christ to share in His spiritual blessings.*

Luke 2:40–52 ~ *As a boy, Jesus lingered in the Temple to do His Father's work.*

GATHERING THE TEXTS: Wisdom and Understanding

Two of the gifts of the Spirit mentioned by Isaiah (11:2) in connection with the Messiah, are wisdom and understanding. The young King Solomon recognized that he needed wisdom from God in order to govern God's people. St. Paul explains that to be chosen by God and adopted into His family through Jesus, means to receive redemption through Christ's blood along with all wisdom and understanding. Just as Jesus grew in wisdom and understanding as a young boy, so we as God's children continue to grow spiritually and in the understanding of God's will and ways.

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: Dear Lord Jesus, as a little boy you grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. Help me continue to grow in spiritual understanding all my life so that I may reflect your great love through me to others. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: Riches and honor and even long life are gifts from God to be used for God's glory and to bless His people with justice and peace.

OFFERING PRAYER:

Father, in this Christmas season as we marvel at Your love,
Let us always know the reason You have blessed us from above
Is that we may be Your servants, bringing justice, hope, and peace
So the ones that You have chosen, may in Christ find their release. Amen.

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: We see everything from our perspective, like children searching under the tree for their gifts and eager to open them first. We are troubled by inconveniences caused even by those who are dear to us. We turn wealth and long life into ends in themselves thinking they bring honor to us, rather than using them as means to honor the One who gives them by serving His people. And yet, God has chosen us in Christ Jesus, and brought us into His house to know and do His will! May we continue to grow in His grace

Questions to Consider: How important is it to get a manual with a new Christmas gift?

- What made Solomon pray for wisdom?
- How can we use the wisdom that comes from Christ to bring unity to all things?
- Why did Jesus remain at the temple? How was that "doing his Father's will?"
- What do you suppose Mary thought about as treasured this in her heart?

Bonus on next page: A poem illustrating Jesus' understanding of his Father's work.

The Mind of Christ

He knew He didn't have to grasp the hand
that once had formed a lump of reddish clay,
and held it mouth to mouth to make it stand,
and birthed a life, and sparked the light of day.
He took the shape of dust instead. He cried --
and gulped moist air that smelled like stable hay.
He gripped his mother's finger as she tried
to wipe the birth blood from His face away.
He set his mind to serve, and serving, died;
and faithful even on the cross, He gave
His spirit up to God the Father's side;
in dying, conquered death and burst the grave!
Now every knee on earth shall be bent low
And every tongue confess that Christ is Lord!

*– Gilbert A Franke
November 2002*