

Case Studies

The students are the subjects of this case study. In it they think about their present life goals and compare them with those of Jesus when he was 12 years old. Prepare two separate question pages:

First page: **YOUR FUTURE** (12 personal questions).

Second page: **JESUS' FUTURE** (12 corresponding questions).

- Start by handing out the first page: **YOUR FUTURE**. Give your students a few minutes to answer the personal questions on it. Then talk about their answers.
(Don't tell them about the second page until you are ready to hand it out.)
- Read Luke 2:40-52. What did Jesus know about his life goals by the time he was 12 years old?
- Now hand out the second page: **JESUS' FUTURE**. Give them a few more minutes to answer the same basic questions about Jesus. Again talk about their answers.
- Finally, talk about the ways in which their life goals are the same as those of Jesus and the ways they are different. What do they take away from this comparison?

Your Future, Jesus' Future A Case Study in Life Goals

YOUR FUTURE

It is 18 years from now. The year is _____. You are ____ years old. The Lord has not returned yet. You are in the prime of life and enjoy excellent health. Please answer the following questions about yourself.

1 – What is your occupation?

OFFICE
SCHOOL

STORE
MEDICAL

OTHER (specify): _____

2 – What is your marital status?

SINGLE

MARRIED

OTHER: _____

3 – Who are your closest friends?

NEIGHBORS

PEOPLE AT WORK

CHURCH MEMBERS

OTHERS (specify): _____

4 – What status do your friends have in the community?

ACTIVE & RESPECTED
PRACTICALLY UNKNOWN
OTHER (specify): _____

INACTIVE & ACCEPTED
DISLIKED

5 – With whom do you spend most of your time?

FAMILY
PEOPLE AT WORK
OTHERS (specify): _____

NEIGHBORS
CHURCH MEMBERS

6 – What status do these people (Question 5) have in the community?

ACTIVE & RESPECTED
PRACTICALLY UNKNOWN
OTHER (specify): _____

INACTIVE & ACCEPTED
DISLIKED

7 – What do you like doing most?

JOB
HOBBIES
FAMILY ACTIVITIES (specify): _____
OTHER (specify): _____

8 – Who do you have the hardest time getting along with?

FAMILY MEMBERS
NEIGHBORS
FELLOW EMPLOYEES
CHURCH MEMBERS
OTHER (specify): _____

9 – Why do you have difficulty getting along with them?

Specify: _____

10 – What are your prospects for a long and prosperous life?

VERY GOOD
OTHER: _____

CAN'T TELL

11 – What is the likelihood that the above things will come true (assuming that God continues to bless you with good health for another 18 years)?

VERY LIKELY

SOMEWHAT LIKELY

UNLIKELY

COMMENT (if desired): _____

12 – What are you doing right now to prepare yourself for your future?

MUCH (specify): _____

A LITTLE (specify): _____

DON'T KNOW

JESUS' FUTURE

Now imagine that you are Jesus at the age of 12. In 18 years you will begin your public ministry, and you already know it. Please answer the same questions as if you were Jesus thinking about what he will be doing when he is 30 years old.

1 – What is your daily occupation?

OFFICE

SCHOOL

OTHER (specify): _____

STORE

MEDICAL

2 – What is your marital status?

SINGLE

MARRIED

OTHER: _____

3 – Who are your friends?

NEIGHBORS

PEOPLE AT WORK

CHURCH MEMBERS

OTHERS (specify): _____

4 – What status do your friends have in the community?

ACTIVE & RESPECTED

PRACTICALLY UNKNOWN

OTHER (specify): _____

INACTIVE & ACCEPTED

DISLIKED

5 – With whom do you spend most of your time?

FAMILY

PEOPLE AT WORK

OTHER (specify): _____

NEIGHBORS

CHURCH MEMBERS

6 – What status do these people (Question 5) have in the community?

ACTIVE & RESPECTED

INACTIVE & ACCEPTED

PRACTICALLY UNKNOWN DISLIKED

OTHER (specify): _____

7 – What do you like doing most?

JOB

HOBBIES

FAMILY ACTIVITIES (specify): _____

OTHER (specify): _____

8 – Who do you have the hardest time getting along with?

FAMILY MEMBERS

NEIGHBORS

FELLOW EMPLOYEES

CHURCH MEMBERS

OTHER (specify): _____

9 – Why do you have difficulty getting along with them?

Specify: _____

10 – What are your prospects for a long and prosperous life?

VERY GOOD

CAN'T TELL

OTHER: _____

11 – What is the likelihood that the above things will come true?

VERY LIKELY

SOMEWHAT LIKELY

UNLIKELY

COMMENT (if desired): _____

12 – What are you doing now (at age 12) to prepare yourself for your future?

MUCH (specify): _____

A LITTLE (specify): _____

NOTHING RIGHT NOW