**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Susan Carey, Director of Family Ministries***

**Date:   Sunday, January 15, 2017**

**Sermon Title:   My Father’s House**

**Scripture:  Deuteronomy 6:4-9** *(New International Version)*

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%206#fen-NIV-5091a)] **5** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. **6** These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. **7** Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **8** Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **9** Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

**Luke 2:41-52** *(New International Version)*

Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. 43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

49 “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) -- based on Psalm 24**

Leader: The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof,

the world and those who dwell therein;

**People: for God has founded it upon the seas,**

**and established it upon the rivers.**

Leader: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in God’s holy place?

**People: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,**

**who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.**

Leader: They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

**All: Such is the generation of those who seek the Lord, who seek the face of the God of**

**Jacob.**

**Basic Theme: *God created us to live in community by first establishing the family and then establishing the Church. We often assume that being part of community is solely for our own benefit, but God has a larger purpose, one with both kingdom impact and generational impact. As Christ-followers, we commit to building and participating in faith community both in our homes and in the local church.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): “I can worship anywhere, even from my couch…Christians are hypocrites...Kids will be kids...I didn’t go to church when I was younger and I turned out ok…I’m too busy to read my bible every day...” It’s easy to find excuses not to regularly attend a local church and to avoid faith formation at home. However, those excuses usually stem from insecurity, an insecurity that can be replaced with confidence in God’s word and with resources from the local church. Let 2017 be the year that you begin or renew a fresh relationship with God, with your church, and with your family.**

**So What?   Do your children and grandchildren witness your intimacy with God? Do you participate in and find fulfillment in the local church community? If you don’t demonstrate a life lived in discipleship of Jesus Christ, how will faith continue in your family and in your church?**