

Session 03

A Long WAIT

CENTRAL TRUTH | We are called to praise Jesus, the Savior.

The Christmas season is packed with all kinds of traditions that we look forward to: spending time with family and friends, ugly sweater contests, Christmas parties, giving and receiving gifts, delicious food, and much more. In this week's passage, we'll see Joseph and Mary participate in a Jewish tradition that involved presenting the baby Jesus to the Lord at the temple. There, the family will encounter two Spirit-filled individuals who worship and celebrate the infant Messiah. Like them, we are called to praise Jesus, the Savior—His arrival is at the heart of Christmas!

REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

What questions do I have about myself?

What questions do I have about the world and those around me?



LUKE 2:25-32

²⁵ There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel's consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform

for him what was customary under the law,

²⁸ Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said, ²⁹ Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation. ³¹ You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples — ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel.

LUKE 2:33-35

³³ His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and told his mother Mary, "Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall

and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed — ³⁵ and a sword will pierce your own soul — that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

LUKE 2:36-38

³⁶ There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and was a widow for eighty-four years. She

did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers. ³⁸ At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Day01

ISAIAH 40:1-5



Refer to page 5 for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

📍 READ & RESPOND

In Isaiah 40, God is bringing comfort and hope to the exiled Israelites. They haven't earned His forgiveness—God is graciously declaring that their time of discipline is complete. The imagery of road-building suggests that God will remove all obstacles that hinder His presence and His plan for the coming Savior. God's deep love and willingness to comfort His people here ultimately points to the One who will restore all things through His death and resurrection.

↑ What does this passage teach us about God's plan?

→ How can we “prepare the way” for Jesus in our lives? How do we sometimes create obstacles?

↺ How does this passage inspire you to pray for your own challenges and for others to see God's glory in their lives as well?

📍 MEMORIZE

Copy **Luke 2:30-32** onto three to five note cards and tape them in places you see every day, like the bathroom mirror, your closet, or the back of your phone. Every time you see one of these card, read it to yourself.

📍 PRAY

Lord, Your plan is perfect and always makes a way. When I can't see it, give me hope and remind me that You are in control.

Day02

LUKE 2:25-32

📍 READ & RESPOND

Simeon was “righteous and devout,” and he was waiting for “Israel’s consolation”—the Messiah, Jesus! The Holy Spirit was with him and had even told him he wouldn’t die until he saw the Messiah. Simeon had been patient and trusted God’s promise. Then, one day, Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple for dedication. The Holy Spirit guided Simeon right to them! Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God with incredible joy. Jesus was coming to bring God’s truth and salvation to everyone in the world, no matter their background.

🕒 What does this passage tell us about who God’s salvation is for?

➔ How can Simeon’s story encourage us to be patient and keep trusting God, even when we’re waiting for something big in our lives?

⬅ What do you think it means to “look forward to Israel’s consolation”? What are some things you are currently waiting for?

📍 MEMORIZE

Create a graphic of **Luke 2:30-32** using a photo editor app. Set this graphic as your background or lock screen this week.

📍 PRAY

Jesus, You are the hope that gets me from one day to the next. I know I can trust in You because of God’s faithfulness. In my waiting, give me patience and endurance.

Day 03

LUKE 2:33-35

📍 READ & RESPOND

Simeon then turned to Mary and spoke a tough prophecy: Jesus wouldn't be easily accepted. Some people would reject Him, leading to their "falling" spiritually. Others would believe in Him, leading to their "rising" into new life and salvation. Jesus forces a decision; you can't be neutral about Him. Jesus would also be a "sign"—a clear signal of God's presence and plan—but He would face intense opposition. Finally, Simeon tells Mary that she would face deep sorrow: She would witness the rejection, suffering, and ultimately the crucifixion of her own son. Following Jesus isn't always easy or comfortable. It involves making choices and often facing opposition. But it also reveals what's truly in our hearts.

↑ What examples from Jesus's life show that He was a "sign that will be opposed"?

← Why do you think Simeon told Mary about the "sword" that would pierce her soul? How might knowing this have prepared her?

→ How does this passage challenge your understanding of what it means to follow Jesus?

📍 MEMORIZE

Create a "mind map." Write **Luke 2:30-32** in the center of a piece of paper, and around it, write at least five write key words, concepts, or images related to the verses.

📍 PRAY

Gracious God, thank You for sending Jesus to be my Savior. I pray for the courage to always choose You, even when it's difficult or I face opposition.

Day**04**

LUKE 2:36-38

📍 READ & RESPOND

Anna was a devoted follower of God. She was old and had been widowed most of her life, and she never left the temple, worshiping day and night through fasting and prayer. She lived a life centered on God, spending her days seeking His presence, listening, and pouring out her heart to Him. It wasn't about flashy moments, but consistent, quiet faithfulness. Because of this persistent devotion, when Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple, Anna was spiritually alert enough to recognize Him. Her long life of faithfulness culminated in this incredible moment of meeting Jesus and sharing the good news.

🔄 How did Anna's devotion prepare her to recognize Jesus?

↑ What does this passage reveal about God's character and His interaction with His followers?

→ What is one step you can take this week to deepen your own devotion to God or share about Jesus with someone in your life?

📍 MEMORIZE

Use a notes app on your phone and create a quick reference note for **Luke 2:30-32**. Set yourself a reminder to look at it a couple of times each day.

📍 PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of Anna, who lived a life devoted to You. Help us to cultivate a heart that seeks You constantly, through prayer, worship, and studying Your Word.

Day 05

JOHN 1:10-13

📍 READ & RESPOND

When Jesus came to the world, many people didn't recognize Him, especially the religious leadership. They studied the ancient Scriptures and prophecies and should have known what to look for, but they still didn't recognize Him. Some did—their hearts were opened and prepared for Him. But many others rejected Him; they missed Him. They had been waiting for Him for centuries, and basically said, “No thanks.” But here's the good news for the rest of us: We still have an open invitation to be adopted into His family, not because we earned it—but because of Jesus Himself. We must simply believe in Him.

← Why do you think the Jewish leaders didn't recognize who Jesus was?

↔ God invites us all to be adopted into His family. How does this change your perspective of other believers and how to treat them?

→ What is one practical way you can intentionally “see” Jesus or live out your belonging to God's family this week?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write **Luke 2:30-32** five times on a piece of paper. Use a different color pen or marker for all of the nouns (the people, places, and things).

📍 PRAY

Gracious Father, thank You for sending Your Son so that I could become Your child—not because of what I do, but because of Your grace when I believed in Jesus. Help me to live out this new identity every day.