



Introduction

We're in a series of messages called *Christmas for Everyone*, looking at the original Christmas story through the eyes of four different people who experienced the arrival of Jesus in different ways. When we do this, we see that the message of Christmas is truly for everyone. In this fourth message we're looking through the eyes of Simeon and Anna.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. What's one thing you're good and waiting for, and one thing you're horrible at waiting for?
2. What's one thing God came through with in your life that you waited a while for?

Hear God's Story

1. Read Luke 2:25-40 straight through. What's going on here?
2. Reread Luke 2:29-32, then parallel that with 2 Peter 3:9. Simeon built his life on waiting for Jesus to come who would be the savior for everyone. We can learn here that it's good to model patience and wait because God's plan involves all of us. What's one way you tend to shift God's message to be just about you rather than everyone around you as well?
3. Reread Luke 2:36-38. Like Simeon, Anna spent years waiting for Jesus as did those who she went to talk to. We can learn here that we wait because God's plans can take time when taking everyone into account. How do you personally not give up when waiting on God can sometimes seem like it's taking too long?
4. What impacts you about Luke 2:25-40 the most?

Create a New Story

1. What's one area in your life that could shift to be others-focused? And, how can you actually put this to action and live this out?
2. Experiment with the spiritual discipline of active waiting. Living in a culture of instant gratification, what's a creative way you can practice this discipline this week?

Further Studies: Jesus Presented at the Temple

Read the devotional thought of our passage by Bishop Robert Barron, then move onto the questions below.

“What is the significance of the presentation of Jesus in the temple? The temple was, in practically a literal sense, the dwelling place of the Lord. In the temple, divinity and humanity embraced, and the human race was brought back in line with God.

But the sins of the nation had, according to the prophet Ezekiel, caused the glory of the Lord to depart from the temple (Ez. 10:18-19). Therefore, one of the deepest aspirations of Israel was to reestablish the temple as the place of right praise so that the glory of the Lord might return. When Joseph and Mary bring the infant Jesus into the temple, therefore, we are meant to appreciate that the prophecy of Ezekiel is being fulfilled (Ez. 43). The glory of Yahweh is returning to his favorite dwelling. And this is precisely what Simeon sees.

The old seer is a symbol of ancient Israel, watching and waiting for the coming of the Messiah. Simeon knew all of the old prophecies; he embodied the expectation of the nation; and the Holy Spirit had given him the revelation that he would not die until he had laid eyes on his Savior.

But there is more to the presentation story than the return of the Lord to his temple, for he comes to his temple precisely in human form, indeed in the form of a little baby. The Son of God, having taken to himself a human nature, is presented to the Father as a sacrifice, and thereby the human race is set right.”

DISCUSS

1. What stands out to you the most about what Bishop Barron contemplates here when reading what happened in Luke 2:25-40?
2. What does all of this tell you about the heart of God?
3. How does what we’ve discussed in this lesson draw you closer to God?

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com