

# MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## WORTH THE WAIT

Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs and his wife, Kim, brought a story from the book of Luke that is often skipped over. We take the story of Jesus' birth up to his being born and worshiped, but often start packing up and storing away Christmas and the Spirit of Christmas, right after that. But the story continued in an immediate, and important, way. Mary and Joseph were now parents to a newborn, and they were good, obedient, faithful Jews. Following Jewish law, when Jesus was eight days old they had him circumcised and took him to the temple to dedicate him there. While at the temple, they had two encounters that blessed them—and reminded them exactly who they were raising as their son. First, Simeon, who had been promised he would see the Savior of the world before he died, recognized Jesus and the fulfillment of this promise. Next, Anna, a widow, who had spent most of her life fasting and praying in the temple, saw Jesus, and knew at once he was the redeemer of Israel. Simeon and Anna were very different people, but they had something in common that we can all share—they believed the promises of God and waited expectantly, and patiently, for them to be fulfilled. This kind of faith is rewarded. The way they lived their lives, alert and obedient to God, allowed for them to realize the answer to their many prayers, and to see the personification of their faith.

## SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:21-39

*<sup>21</sup>On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.*

*<sup>22</sup>When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."*

*<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:*

*<sup>29</sup>"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup>For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."*

*<sup>33</sup>The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."*

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup>Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What stood out to you from Marty & Kim's message?
2. Read Luke 2:21-24, 39. How were Joseph and Mary faithful to the Jewish Law?
3. Read Luke 2:21-35. Who did Simeon recognize the baby to be? Look closely at all of the descriptions and predictions.
4. From your general Bible knowledge, how were those descriptions and predictions fulfilled in Jesus?
5. Read Luke 2:36-38. What do you think kept Anna at the temple? How did she recognize and respond to Jesus?
6. What did Mary, Joseph, Simeon, and Anna all have in common? What about their lives, their faith, would you like to emulate?
7. How can we pray for you?

## **PRAYER**

Pray to our faithful God. Remember the times he has been faithful to you. Praise him for how he keeps his promises. Tell him what promises you are holding onto right now, and commit to patiently and earnestly waiting on him. Ask him for wisdom to take the next right step, to be where he wants you when he answers your prayers.