

What does this teach you about the loving heart of God?

Pray that God will help you, too, go all the way into “mangers”, low and dirty and poor places in our world, to show the love of Christ. Please pray for the concerts this weekend. Think of friends to invite!

Saturday

Read Luke 2:8–20. Just give thanks for what you’ve read! Please pray for the concerts this weekend — that the message of the angels will go out, loud and clear!

Christmas Blessings

PART 3

Do You See What I See?

DECEMBER 8 & 9, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

The baby dedication of Jesus

When **the time of their purification** according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), 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.**” *Luke 2:22–24*

A mysterious old man

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 upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that **he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ**. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying... *Luke 2:25–28*

Three Truths about Jesus from Simeon’s Song

1. Jesus is _____

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now **dismiss** your servant in **peace**.
For **my eyes have seen your salvation**,
which you have prepared in the sight of all people...” *Luke 2:29–31*

2. Jesus is _____

“...**a light for revelation to the Gentiles** and for glory to your people **Israel**.”
Luke 2:32

3. Jesus is _____

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**, so that **the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed**. And **a sword will pierce your own soul too.**” *Luke 2:34–35*



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What's my response to Jesus?

There was also a prophetess, **Anna**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was **a widow until she was eighty-four**. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 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. *Luke 2:36–38*

Notes on waiting well from Simeon & Anna

- Keep _____
- Keep _____
- Keep _____

A Christmas Question:

What do I see _____?

Daily Meditations

Monday

Read Luke 2:22–24. What do you learn about Mary and Joseph from these verses?

The offering of pigeons instead of the standard lamb was a concession to the limited means of the very poor. Why do you think it was important to God that Jesus be born to a poor family? Why is this important to remember? How can this encourage you today?

Thank God that He can sympathize with your every struggle, even financial struggles — because He's been there, quite literally, in Jesus Christ! Tell Him your concerns.

Tuesday

Read Luke 2:25–32. What does Simeon's song teach you about Jesus?

Why would it have been unusual for Simeon to say that the Messiah was to be a light for the Gentiles?

How is it encouraging to you that Jesus came for all humanity? Why is this important to remember?

Thank God that Jesus is the light for all people, in all nations. Pray for people in three foreign countries. Pray for believers there who experience stress. Pray for

missionaries there. Pray for those seeking Christ and in need of Him there. If Simeon could see these things when looking at the six-week old baby Jesus, ask God to help you think of these verses whenever you see images of baby Jesus this season.

Wednesday

Read Luke 2:33–35. Here Simeon says some things that must have been disturbing to Mary. Just because Jesus is the Messiah does not mean all people will love him! What specific predictions does Simeon make about Jesus in these verses?

How did Jesus fulfill these verses in his own lifetime?

How are these verses still true of Jesus?

How do reactions to Jesus “reveal the thoughts of hearts”?

Ask God to help you stand firm in your commitment to Christ even though some will speak against Him, as Simeon prophesied. Please pray for our Christmas concert rehearsals tonight! Thanks!

Thursday

Read Luke 2:36–40. What do you like about Anna's story? I am inspired by the fact that — though she was a widow for so many years after her husband died — instead of isolating, Anna stays with God and His people, worshipping there in the Temple every day! How do you suppose this helped her in her grief?

Then how does she respond to the baby Jesus?

In what ways can you “give thanks” and “speak about the Child” today?

Ask God to help you give thanks all day today. Think of five things you're grateful for right now. Think of some people you'd like to invite to the concert this weekend — that's one day to “speak about the Child” to others.

Friday

Read Luke 2:1–7. At every level, this scene describes the depths God went to so He could save us and sympathize with us. He came all the way to a manger, a feeding trough for animals. Why would this be such an important detail for the Bible to mention?

Why do you suppose Jesus wasn't born in a palace?



“This child is destined... to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.”
Luke 2:34

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