

Small Group Leader notes, December 24

This Weeks Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Personal Daily Reading Schedule:

Day 1 - Luke 2:21-40

Day 2 - Matthew 2:1-23

Day 3 - Luke 2:41-52

Day 4 - Luke 3:1-22

Day 5 - Matthew 3:1-17

Small Group Study: Luke 2:21-32

Jesus Presented in the Temple

²¹On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. ²²When 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 ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord", ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons.")

²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷Moved 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ^{32a}light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

1. What do you learn about Mary and Joseph in these verses?

They followed the Law of the Lord by presenting Jesus to be consecrated to the Lord. And they offered a sacrifice to the Lord. This tells me they were obedient to God's law and God-fearing parents that trusted in God.

2. What do you learn about Simeon in these verses?

He was a man of God. He was waiting for the Messiah. He will not die until the Lords coming. The Lord was speaking to him by the Holy Spirit. He was a prophet of the Lord. He trusted in God. He desires to be at rest and at peace with the Lord.

3. What do you learn about Jesus in these verses?

He is the salvation God prepared for His people. And He brings God's glory and salvation not just to Jews but to Gentiles as well.

4. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from these verses?

The Holy Spirit is present and active in the heart of Simeon revealing Jesus as the Christ just as He did to Zechariah in Luke 1:67-79.

5. What do you learn about God, the Father in these verses?

God the Father is fulfilling His promise of salvation and He sends that truth through the Holy Spirit to Simeon and brings forth peace that comes from Christ alone.

In this part of the Christmas story, we see a man of God named Simeon being filled by the Holy Spirit and led into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. He praises God and acknowledges Jesus as the Christ and Savior. He is open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and allows God to reveal truth into His heart and he receives peace.