

Luke 2

Jesus' dedication, childhood and family

? Was there ever a time where you got lost or you lost someone? What was that like?

Scripture Passage (NIV) Luke 2:25-35

In verse 25 the "consolation of Israel" is mentioned. This reference in Isaiah explains that the consolation they were waiting for was Jesus. Jesus is the one who will come and bring ultimate comfort and compassion to all people, including Israel.

Isaiah 49:13

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains!
For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

25 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. **26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. **27** 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, **28** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, **31** which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. **34** 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, **35** so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

? Simeon takes Jesus into his arms, the Messiah, and all that he has been waiting for, and verse 29 is the first thing he says to Jesus. How does Christ change our perspective on this world and on death?

? With the Jewish people living under the Law, what is significant about verse 34-35 and Simeon's declaration about hearts being revealed?

Scripture Passage (NIV) Luke 2:41-52

41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. **42** When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. **43** After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. **44** Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. **45** When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. **46** After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. **48** When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father

The Passover was the opening day feast of the seven-day feast of unleavened bread, a festival remembering God's provision in their deliverance from Egypt.

and I have been anxiously searching for you." **49** "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" **50** But they did not understand what he was saying to them. **51** Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. **52** And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

? Why did Jesus choose to stay behind in Jerusalem and why did He have to be in His "Father's house"? What does this say about Jesus' identity and development?

? How did Mary and Joseph lose Jesus and how did they respond? Has there ever been a time in your life where it seemed like you "lost" Jesus, and how did you respond?

? What does it mean for Jesus to grow in favor with God and man? What does this mean for us?

For Discussion and Accountability

? Even from adolescence, Jesus is deeply captivated by the things of God, which we see reflected by the three long days He spends sitting among the teachers in the temple. What is captivating your heart right now?

? As we grow older, how can we continue to grow in wisdom on a consistent basis?