

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 4, 2024

Passage: Luke 2:21–40

Memory Passage: Luke 2:29–32

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:21–40.** Summarize what Joseph and Mary did in vs. 21–24.
- (b) What OT texts does Luke quote or allude to (for help, see your marginal cross-references)?
- (c) Read Gen 17:11–12, Ex 13:2, 12–13, Lev 12:1–8, and Num 18:15–16. Explain the purpose of these OT practices.
- (d) What do Joseph and Mary’s actions in vs. 21–24 tell you about their economic status and their devotion to God, His word, and His law?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:21–40.** What do you learn about Simeon in vs. 25–26?
- (b) To what or whom does “the comfort of Israel” refer, and how does your previous study of Isaiah help you answer (see, for instance, Is 40:1–5, 49:8–13, 61:1–3, 66:7–14)?
- (c) In what way is Simeon like Elizabeth and Zechariah (vs. 27–28)?
- (d) According to vs. 29–30, to what is Simeon being released, on what basis is the release coming, and for what reason (see also vs. 25–26)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:21–40.** Simeon’s story is again heavily influenced by Isaiah. Read the following passages—and their contexts—and explain their connection to Luke 2:31–32: Is 9:2, 42:6; 49:6, 51:4, and 60:1–3.
- (b) Explain each of the three descriptions of “salvation” Simeon sees with his eyes (vs. 31–32).
- (c) Explain Joseph and Mary’s response (v. 33). What did they contemplate that made them marvel? Did they fully understand Simeon’s praise?
- (d) Why does Simeon direct vs. 34–35 to Mary?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:21–40.** Explain what Simeon means by “the rise and fall of many in Israel” (v. 34, and again, Isaiah’s constant teaching is helpful, especially concerning those who oppose God and those who obey him, as is the Scriptural teaching about Christ being a stumbling block [e.g., Is 8:14–15; Matt 21:42–44; 1 Pet 2:6–8]).

- (b) About what does Simeon prophesy with the phrase, “appointed for ... a sign to be opposed ... and a sword” that will pierce Mary’s soul (vs. 34–35)?
- (c) What “thoughts from many hearts” will be revealed? Are these positive or negative thoughts?
- (d) What is significant about Anna’s tribe?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:21–40.** Explain what you learn about Anna and how she connects with the others we’ve seen in the birth narrative (vs. 36–38).
- (b) What do you learn about Jesus from the summary statement in v. 40, and how does it compare with the statement about John (1:80), Jesus’s second summary statement (2:52), and Is 11:2?
- (c) What do you learn about obedience and its blessings from Luke 2:21–40?
- (d) Write down at least three other applications from this passage and ways you will implement these applications this week.

DATE: August 4, 2024

PASSAGE: Luke 2:21–40

My Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation