

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 30, 2007

Passage: Luke 2:21-39

Memory Passage: Acts 4:12

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:21-24.** After the birth of Jesus, what did Joseph and Mary do? Why did they do this (Leviticus 12:1-4)?
- (b) How many times does the word “law” appear in this passage? Why was this important (Galatians 4:4-5; Matthew 5:17; Romans 5:19)?
- (c) What does their offering indicate about them (Leviticus 12:6-8)? What does 2 Corinthians 8:9 remind us about the birth of Jesus?
- (d) What does Luke 2:41 and 4:16 indicate about the religious commitment of Mary and Joseph?
- (e) What does Luke 2:39-40 add to this understanding?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 2:21-24 and Galatians 4:4-5. Why was it important that Jesus be born under the law and live under the law? Could he have been our redeemer if he had not lived perfectly under the law? Read Psalm 19:7-10 and thank God for giving His law.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:25-27.** What does Luke tell us about the character of Simeon?
- (b) What was he waiting for? What does this indicate? Compare this with Luke 2:38 and Mark 15:43. What should be our focus also according to Titus 2:11-14?
- (c) Since he was connected with the temple, what might he have known (Luke 1:59-66)? How would this have affected his expectations?
- (d) What special revelation did Simeon receive? What does Psalm 2 tell us about who this is?
- (e) What about the timing of Simeon’s arrival indicates God’s sovereign control in this passage?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 2:25-27 and Titus 2:11-14. Talk about what it must have been like to be waiting for the coming of the Messiah. How was it similar to waiting for Jesus to return today? How should we live while waiting for the Lord to return? Pray that you would have a heart that looks forward to the coming of Jesus.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:27-32.** What is Simeon’s immediate response when he sees the baby Jesus?
- (b) What is Simeon’s attitude toward death? How can we have a similar attitude (Philippians 1:21-23)?
- (c) What provides the greatest satisfaction for Simeon? Read Psalm 16:9-11. What did David indicate would be his greatest joy? What should be your greatest joy?
- (d) In verse 32, what two things does Simeon prophesy that Jesus would be? What is significant about each of these?
- (e) Where else have these two things been predicted (Luke 2:77-79)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 2:27-32 and Philippians 1:21-23. Why was Simeon so delighted when he saw Jesus for the first time? How would he know that this was the promised Messiah? Why was he now ready to die? Talk about what is most important in our lives. Pray that knowing Jesus better would be the greatest desire for you this coming year.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:33-35.** What was the response of Mary and Joseph? Why do you think they were surprised?
- (b) What surprising prophecy does he give to Mary? What event is Simeon referring to (John 19:25-27)?
- (c) What will the coming of Jesus mean for many? How did Jesus express this in his ministry (Luke 12:49-53)?
- (d) What other prophecy does this refer to (Luke 20:17-19)? Examine this prophecy in its Old Testament context (Psalm 118:21-24). What else does this tell about the coming of Christ?
- (e) What is the significance of “that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed?” How does the coming of Jesus bring this about?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 2:33-35 and Psalm 118:21-24. What were some of the responses to the coming of Jesus? What were some of the negative ones? How did his coming result in the “rising and fall” of many? Pray for someone that needs to know about the salvation that Jesus brought.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 2:36-38.** What additional person do Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus encounter in the temple?
- (b) What was she looking forward to (1 Peter 1:18-19)? Was she alone in her expectation?
- (c) What does this passage indicate about the faith of Old Testament saints? How were they saved? Did others in the Old Testament have the same type of faith? Consider a few examples (Genesis 49:10; Isaiah 53:4-6).
- (d) What two things does Anna do in response to her encounter with Jesus (vs. 38)? What should be our response?
- (e) Have you ever studied about Simeon and Anna before? Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-29. What does this tell us about the people God chooses and uses? How does this passage apply to the two we have studied today? What encouragement is their faith to you today?
- (f) *Family:* Luke 2:36-38 and 1 Corinthians 1:27-29. Discuss how God delights in using insignificant persons for His glory. Talk about some of the “insignificant” persons connected with the birth of Jesus. Why do you think He does this? Will you live for God even if no one else notices? Pray that you will be faithful to Him this year in all things, even if no one notices.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 2:21-39. Why was it important for Jesus to be born under the law and to keep the law in every way? How is his faithful obedience part of the salvation that he provided? What should be your expectation about Jesus’ return? How can you live this year to better glorify the Lord in all you do? Pray for tomorrow’s services that the salvation of the Lord might be clear to all who hear.

DATE: December 30, 2007

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The Song of Simeon

"for my eyes have seen your salvation!"